



2018 Annual Report

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Mission & Vision

The world we want to see

All youth in Chiapas finish school with the tools they need to succeed in the world, improving life for themselves, their families and their communities.

We aim to unlock access to economic opportunity for marginalized youth in Chiapas through evidence-based educational policies and programs.

Students reached

15,157

students received
scholarships

437

were provided with the tools to
become entrepreneurs

180

were given newly-built, clean
and safe classrooms



REACH

Reaching for the stars

Since 2013, REACH (short for High School Within REACH) is our solution for increasing access to high school education in Chiapas. With this program we deliver scholarships to ninth graders who are in the transition into high school. To tackle the economic barriers impeding them to continue studying, in 2018 we hand-delivered 15,157 scholarships to students so they can enroll in the high school of their choice. This is the fifth edition of this program, and with the largest number of scholarships to students around the state to date.

Supporting youth at this stage is crucial. Only 4 out of 10 young students continue studying after middle school. Attending high school is a game-changer opportunity, particularly for girls like Loxa, who is the first female in her family that makes it into high school.

“My name is Loxa. My mom doesn't speak Spanish, we speak tzotzil at home. In my family we all work in the corn fields, and I take care of our 12 sheep, they are very important to us, because we make our clothes with their wool. I like walking my animals but I also want to continue to high school. This year I received my Escalera credit card, it has a scholarship to go to high school! I am keeping it very safe in my house now.”

- Loxa



Emprende

Learning more everyday

Working with middle school students in Chiapas and watching them develop into community leaders inspires us. We want to make sure they are outfitted with the tools they need to succeed beyond high school. That is why we have been working with local government and teachers to develop an entrepreneurship curriculum that is adapted to their context.

In 2018 we worked with 437 students and trained 20 teachers. These students are not just learning to create businesses in their communities, but are also developing the socio-emotional skills, such as grit, resilience, and self-awareness, that are proven to help entrepreneurs succeed.



Pajalton Bajo School Build

Returning 10 years later

Ten years ago, Escalera built a middle school in the Pajalton Bajo community, for the dozens of students who were studying in shacks and under makeshift tarps. After ten years that followed, the village needed a high school for all its middle school graduates, one of them being Loxa!

In December 2018 a group from Security National built two high school classrooms for the 260 students who are now studying high school in this community. Thanks to this group of volunteers, girls like Loxa can now study and thrive in safe and clean spaces.

Pajalton Bajo is located in the heart of Chamula, a region in Mexico with rich and beautiful traditions but limited gender equality. In school, girls are supposed to stay quiet and keep to the sidelines but Maria, the local teacher, has taken on the difficult task of changing this. She, just like us, firmly believes that quality education is a human right, and a powerful tool to make a better place for all, in which no one is left behind.



Maria's Story

Teaching us all



For the past ten years, I've commuted an hour and a half to get to school in Pajalton Bajo. Teaching in a rural, indigenous community was not what I planned but after meeting the students, I felt a deep connection with them and realized I could have a meaningful impact on the community.

Little by little, I've seen how girls and boys have started working together and the girls' confidence has grown both in the classroom and outside. Though these are small changes, I hope that in the long run my students' experiences in the classroom will lead to generational changes that will create a more egalitarian society.



- Maria



Impact & Evaluation

Our best can be better

To provide students with the educational programs that best fit their needs, we rigorously evaluate our activities and measure our programs' impact. Emprende has been launched as a pilot study that examines the impact of our entrepreneurial training on the earnings, employment, and socioemotional skills of high school students. The pilot's results, which include feedback from teachers and students as well as statistical survey analysis, will guide changes to the program in subsequent school years. We implement what works and upgrade what needs improvement.

Similar to previous years, the impact of the REACH program is measured through a randomized control trial design and qualitative analysis (such as feedback from students and teachers). Using multiple evaluation methods complement each other and deepen our understanding of the numbers and what is happening behind the numbers.



Our Supporters

Thank you all

We want to give a special thank you to all individuals, foundations, and businesses without whom our work would not be possible. They are helping students build brighter futures in Mexico.



Financials

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2018	2017
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	320,830	491,337
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES RECEIVABLE	78,941	
INVESTMENTS	1,675,853	1,335,305
TOTAL ASSETS	2,075,624	1,826,642

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	23,326	14,471
DEFERRED GRANT REVENUE		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	23,326	14,471
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	165,827	405,862
BOARD-DESIGNATED ENDOWMENT	1,886,471	1,376,311
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		30,000
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,052,298	1,812,173
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2,075,624	1,826,642

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	unrestricted	temp. restricted	2018	2017
INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES	953,250		953,250	428,002
FOUNDATIONS	111,066		111,066	45,000
GOVERNMENT GRANTS		103,446	103,446	178,780
INTEREST & INVESTMENTS	(196,863)		(196,863)	170,135
FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION	(17,990)		(17,990)	(12,369)
DONATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	53,088		53,088	57,981
NET ASSETS RELEASED DUE TO SATISFACTION OF RESTRICTIONS	133,446	(133,446)		
TOTAL ASSETS	1,035,997	(30,000)	1,005,997	867,529

EXPENSES	unrestricted	temp. restricted	2018	2017
PROGRAM SERVICES*	578,735		578,735	842,866
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL*	152,647		152,647	74,808
DEVELOPMENT *	34,488		34,488	61,150
TOTAL EXPENSES	765,870		765,870	978,824
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	270,127	(30,000)	240,127	(111,295)

*EXPENSES INCLUDE DONATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND OTHER IN-KIND GIFTS

Thank you.

We could not create brighter futures in
Mexico without your support.
Thank you for making a difference.



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