



SewHope

Health ■ Opportunity ■ Education



2017 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

On this 10th anniversary of the inception of SewHope, I think about a quote I recently came upon written by the famous theologian, Thomas Merton.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end... But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing... And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it... Therefore I will trust you always..."

Yes, 10 years ago we were a fledgling organization with the small goal of supporting and assisting the work of other missionaries in Petén, Guatemala. While we surely were not clear about "where we were going," we definitely heard God's call to help make it a bit better world. What we lacked in expertise in global development, we made up for in energy, passion and sincere faith and trust that God would "lead us by the right road."

And so He did. If we had tried to imagine great dreams, we could have never visualized what we have become...a large, community-based Health, Educational and Agricultural Learning Center on four acres of land with a beautiful hostel where teams and long-term volunteers can be housed. In these pages, you will see the genuine difference that your kindness and donations have made.

In these last 10 years, I have learned so much about the terrible modern history of Guatemala and about all the ways the country has been exploited thus driving these people to such desperate poverty. Coming to know and love the Guatemalan people as I now do, I am so proud to work with all of you in trying to alleviate some of the hurts of the past.

Few non-profit organizations have grown so much and had as much impact in ten years. So may we take this opportunity to thank you for joining with us in doing a bit to restore the global unity which has too often been broken, to help reconcile a divided world and to heal a hurting humanity in ways big and small.

On our last trip, I asked Ismael Martinez, our Project Director in Guatemala, what he wanted to say about his work. With his usual incredible humility, he said *"I want to thank God for His patience because I'm not perfect in anything... I can only work for God. Sometimes I fail but always I try. Most of all, I am so proud that everything that SewHope does is for God."* I know that all of our staff would say the same and it is that love and humility that makes SewHope what it is today. Thank you!



Anne Ruch, MD
Founder & Board Chair

Staff



Ismael Martinez
*In-Country
Director*



Orfe Guerra
*Director of Social
Projects*



Mayra Martinez
Clinic Director



Seiner Lopez
Education Director

Introducing... our first U.S.-based staffer!



Rachel Easley
Executive Director

Rachel Easley joined us in November 2017 to help with the growing administrative duties that come with a flourishing non-profit. Rachel holds a bachelor's degree in International Development from Michigan State University and has worked for several non-profits, in contexts ranging from rural Chad (Africa) to downtown Toledo, Ohio. She currently lives in Toledo with her husband, Nick.

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Orfelinda Guerra
Luckey Hernandez, MD
Ismael Martinez



Celebrating

DECEMBER 2007

After working in Guatemala for several years under the umbrella of other nonprofit and church groups, SewHope incorporates as its own 501(c)3.

JUNE 2009

Through a partnership with Kids Against Hunger, SewHope begins distribution of fortified meal packets to counter malnutrition.



2008-2011

SewHope focuses on the community of Pueblo Nuevo through medical missions, public health projects, and assisting with the local school.



JULY 2009

SewHope hires Ismael Martinez as its first employee. Today, Ismael continues to work for us as the in-country director.

SUMMER 2011

Lead by employee Orfe Guerra, SewHope begins offering a supplemental after-school education program.



10 Years!



AUG. 2012 - DEC. 2013

Sr. Pam Buganski works in Guatemala as our first American employee. She is joined in January 2013 by Peter Meinecke.

APRIL 2014

SewHope gains "Asociación Civil" (nonprofit) status in Guatemala.



DECEMBER 2015

Additional land is purchased (adjacent to current property) for expansion of agricultural projects. A women's co-op begins farming the land.

DECEMBER 2011

SewHope moves its main operations to Santa Ana, a more centralized location for the communities of the Petén.

APRIL 2013

After working in rented space for several years, SewHope purchases property. Clinic construction begins in November 2014.



NOVEMBER 2015

Construction finishes, and the first patients are seen at SewHope's new clinic in Santa Ana. SewHope's afterschool program also moves to the new clinic.

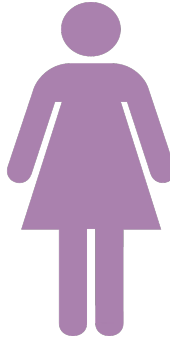
NOVEMBER 2016

Construction begins on a hostel next to the clinic for mission teams and long-term volunteers.



2017

883
cervical cancer
screenings



455
general medicine
patients seen

74 pre-cancerous
abnormalities
treated



88 students in our after-
school program

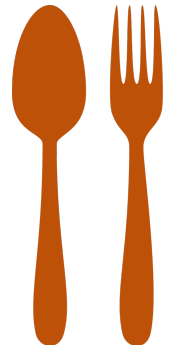
>27,000

books read or listened to via
our online learning platform



10 safe, efficient stoves
installed in local homes

100,000
nutrient-fortified meals delivered
for students and families in need



by the numbers



12 women in our agricultural co-op

>30,000

sq. feet of vegetable gardens grown & harvested



400

chickens raised in our poultry project



4 full-time employees in Guatemala

5 part-time

time



5

mission trips

1 full-time employee in U.S.



21 trip participants



1 fully functional kitchen

1 common room for eating and hanging out

3 sleeping areas (2 bedroom suites + 1 dorm)

4 spots for hammocks on the front porch



2017



The new hostel



Students play after school



Children gather for a meal



Study time!



Trip participants pose with students in May 2017

in pictures



Elder tends a young chicken



Women show off their crops



Mayra graduates with an advanced nursing degree



A house call with Daniel



Mayra sorts pap slides



Ismael supervises a baking project

2017 Financial Report

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Net Assets, Beginning of 2017: | \$278,240 |
| Net Assets, Ending of 2017: | \$362,260 |

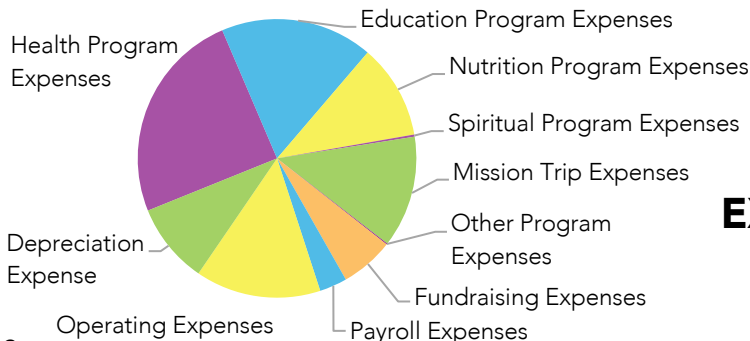
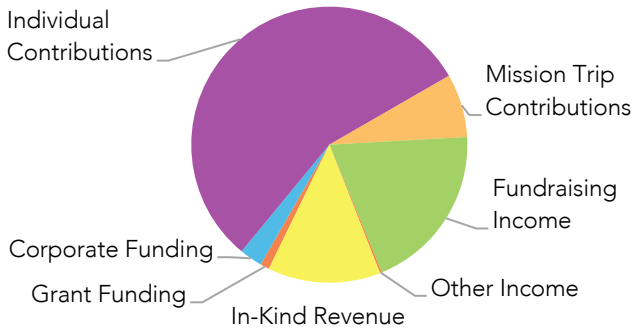
2017 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Grant Funding | \$2,500 |
| Corporate Funding | \$6,299 |
| Individual Contributions | \$130,993 |
| Trip Contributions | \$17,477 |
| Fundraising Income | \$46,271 |
| Other Income | \$506 |
| In-Kind Revenue | \$31,069 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$235,115 |

2017 Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Health Program Expenses | \$37,258 |
| Education Program Expenses | \$26,722 |
| Nutrition Program Expenses | \$16,598 |
| Spiritual Program Expenses | \$376 |
| Mission Trip Expenses | \$19,583 |
| Other Program Expenses | \$175 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$9,347 |
| Payroll Expenses | \$4,830 |
| Operating Expenses | \$21,986 |
| Depreciation Expense | \$14,111 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$150,986 |

2017 TOTAL REVENUE

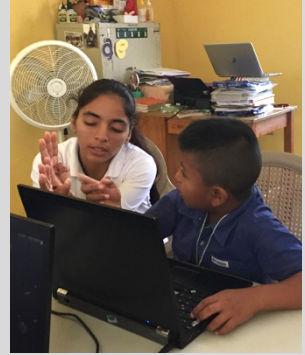


2017 TOTAL EXPENSES

Stories of Impact

"I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to begin using the online programs. I have learned a lot—now I can do sums. I'm new to the SewHope program and have advanced a lot. May God bless you muchly! I always pray for all of you, and send a big hug for all you have done to help us."

- A student in the after-school program



Gloria first came to our clinic at age 25. She had no symptoms, no problems... just heard that she should get screened. To her surprise, she learned that she had "Carcinoma In Situ" of the cervix. Because she came before the cancer had invaded the surrounding organs, we were easily able to remove part of her cervix at our clinic and "cure" her. With every visit each year, we get to share hugs and give thanks to all the people that make this effort possible.

"Thanks to God and to you for providing for us this project. We are growing and harvesting heirba mora [a Central American leafy vegetable], and we are learning a lot!"

- A woman from the agricultural co-op



Thank you for

\$25,000 and above

Santa Catarina Foundation
Randy & Anne Ruch

\$10,000 to \$24,999

John & Georgia DeKeyser
Timothy & Ann Heckler

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Foundation

\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Rita Visser

Ethel Walden

David & Kathleen Waldock

Dale & Victoria Wiltse

Sheila Wineman-Krieger

Phillip & Lisa Wurster

Gerald Yeager

**“And the King will say to them:
Whatever you did to the least of
these, you did it to me.”**

Matthew 25:40

Thank you!

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Liz Villareal-Rowe
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Wildwood Athletic Club

Trip Participants

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Aubrey Fetcenko
Jessica Fowle
Elaine Gasidlo
Meridith Heckler
Tim Kuhn
Jennifer Leis
Alex Matus
Coral Matus, MD
Ed Matus
Lyndsey Matus
Kim Myers
Alex Nester
Marissa Rosetti
Anne Ruch, MD
Gretchen Shirar
Chetti Smith
Andrew Stratton
Keith Sweitzer
Corrine Tipping
Kristin York



Upcoming Events

- **August 8, 2018 – Miles for Mission Raffle Run**

Join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 8 at Side Cut Park in Maumee, Ohio for a fun running/orienteering/raffle event! All proceeds benefit SewHope. Learn more at www.SewHope.org.

- **September 16, 2018 – Oak Openings Stampede**

Enjoy a 50K, 25K, or 5K trail race through Oak Openings Metropark in Whitehouse, Ohio. All proceeds benefit SewHope. Learn more at www.OakOpeningsStampede.com.

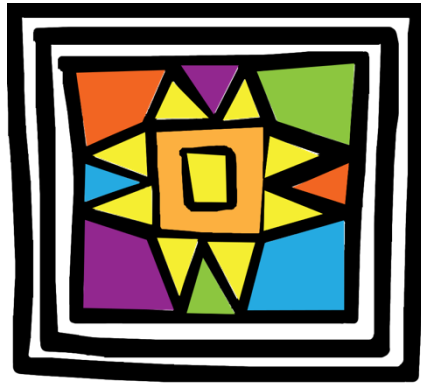
- **March 1, 2019 – LEAP**

Mark your calendars for next year's annual LEAP event! Dinner, music, silent auction, raffle... all for a great cause. Watch your mailboxes this winter for more details.

Get Involved!

Your support allows us to provide education, health care, agriculture programs, and spiritual support to the marginalized people of northern Guatemala. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate:** Give online at www.SewHope.org, or send a check to SewHope, P.O. Box 12522, Toledo, OH 43606.
- **Sponsor a child:** For \$500/year, you can support a child in our education program. Learn more at www.SewHope.org.
- **Volunteer in Toledo:** We're always looking for helpers at events and with administrative tasks! Email racheleasley@sewhope.org with your interest.
- **Join us on a trip:** We occasionally bring U.S. mission groups to Guatemala for medical missions or to help with special projects. Email info@sewhope.org with your interest.
- **Pray for us:** Email racheleasley@sewhope.org and ask to be added to our weekly prayer email!
- **Request a speaker:** Email racheleasley@sewhope.org or call (219) 716-0001 to request a speaker for your group or event!



SewHope

Health ■ Opportunity ■ Education

Our Mission: SewHope partners with the poor, marginalized, and exploited in Guatemala to help end the injustices of poverty and bring about sustainable communities.

SewHope, Inc.
P.O. Box 12522
Toledo, OH 43606

www.SewHope.org