





needy communities throughout Guatemala.



Nancy Press, Ph.D.





Richard T. Carroll, Ph.D. Treasurer and Co-founder

# **Message from the Founders**

Dear Friends.

Many educational organizations focus on students who rise to the top, on empowering "the best and the brightest." Our Reading for Life literacy program is different. It's about helping every child become the best and brightest he or she can be. Our work democratizes education

In 2010, Child Aid helped more than 7,200 impoverished children learn to read.

so that all children, even the poorest children from the poorest villages, have the opportunity to learn to read. For this reason we work within public schools and community libraries in rural Guatemala, where literacy rates are some of the lowest in the Americas.

With more than 17 years of educational work under our belts, Child Aid has created one of Latin America's most effective literacy programs.

Last year, we brought 82,000 Spanish-language children's books to Guatemala. We provided group and individual literacy training to 350 teachers and librarians in rural towns and villages. We helped create or continue reading programs for over 7,200 children.

Most of the kids who participate in our program are indigenous Mayans. They are children from families who have lived in extreme poverty for generations, whose parents and grandparents endured one of Latin America's longest and deadliest civil wars, a 36-year period of violence. With your support, thousands of children in our partner communities today can turn to books to lift themselves from poverty.

We hope the following pages give you a sense of our work in Guatemala, specifically what we accomplished in 2010. We would like to show you how important your contributions are and how far your support goes in making education available to some of the world's poorest children. Thank you very much for making our work possible.

Our warmest regards,

Board President and Co-founder

# **Reading for Life**

hild Aid's core literacy program is called *Reading for Life*. Through it, we give thousands of poor children in Guatemala the motivation, structure and resources to learn to read. We partner with rural communities to establish libraries,

**Education provides** one of the surest paths out of poverty.

shaping them into local reading centers while training librarians to become catalysts for literacy in their communities. Each year, we deliver tens of thousands of books and provide teachers in neglected schools with training, materials and mentorship to become more effective educators. Reading for Life

is a community-based program, predicated on local partnerships and long-term commitment.

## Why Guatemala

• Guatemala has the lowest literacy rate in all of Latin America.

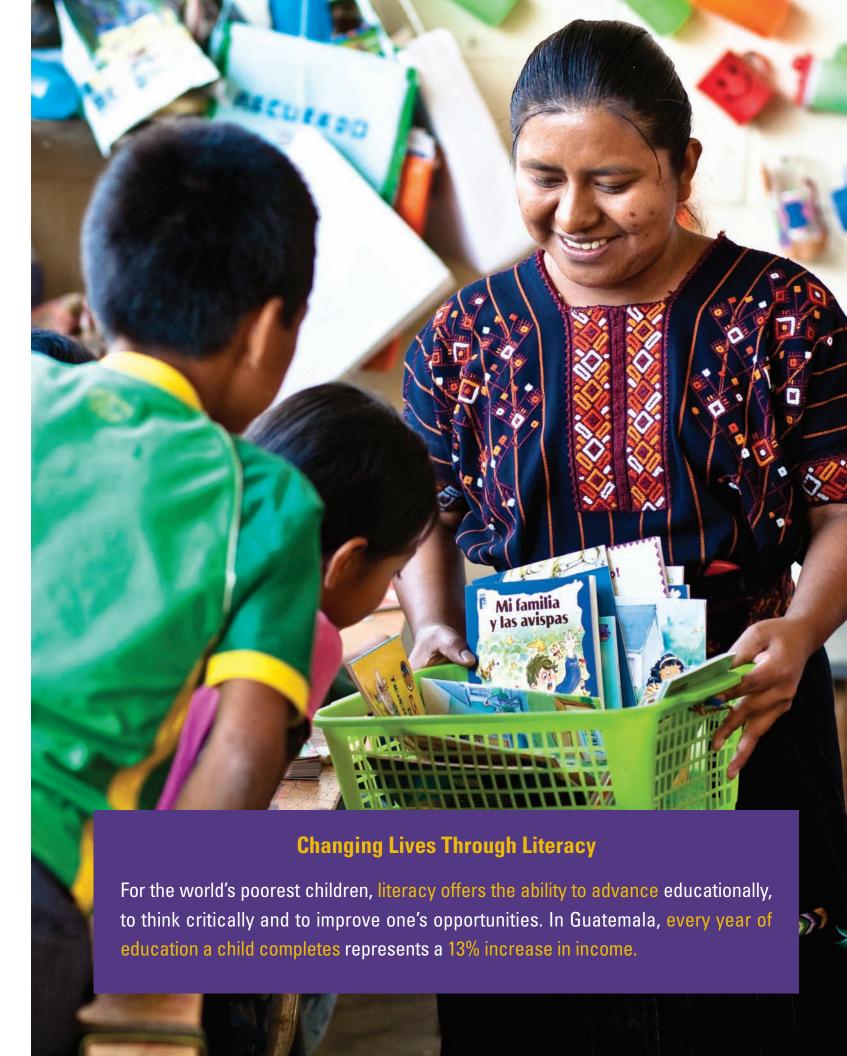
- Most indigenous Mayan children never make it past third grade.
- An estimated 75% of indigenous women in Guatemala cannot read or write.

Guatemala is one of the most beautiful countries in Central America. It is mountainous, heavily forested and dotted with Mayan ruins, lakes and volcanoes. Despite the fact that most of the country's people live in poverty, visitors generally find Guatemalans to be both welcoming and generous. Indigenous children, who often labor alongside their parents to help make ends meet, share the same curiosity and hunger to learn that children everywhere have.

Unless educational resources are brought to their communities, most of these children will not complete primary school. Like their parents and grandparents before them, they may never



develop the reading skills necessary to advance educationally and improve their lives. This country – beautiful beyond words – is also home to the lowest literacy rate in Latin America and some of the worst poverty in the Americas. With your help, we are working to change this.





# **Training Rural Teachers**

M any public school teachers in Guatemala lack the practical skills and experience needed to teach and promote reading effectively. At the primary school level, most teachers enter the profession with only a high school diploma.

Child Aid gives rural teachers the tools to fight illiteracy in their classrooms.

They get little professional support and no specific training related to reading instruction. This contributes to low performance and staggeringly high dropout rates, even in the primary-school years. When parents see no real progress from their children's schooling, many make the difficult decision to withdraw them from classes and put them to work. At Child Aid, we aim for a different result.

We have learned that it takes more than books and buildings to improve educational opportunity. Unlike other organizations in Guatemala, Child Aid provides ongoing literacy training and classroom follow-up sessions for hundreds of rural public school teachers. In 2010, we worked in 23 schools to train, support and mentor nearly 300 teachers. We're also working to ensure that every teacher has the books and teaching materials they need. We are helping educators to turn the tide of illiteracy in their communities, impacting thousands of children each year.

#### In 2010, Child Aid:

- Partnered with 23 schools in rural indigenous communities.
- Trained 282 teachers to promote and teach reading more effectively.
- Engaged 6,452 children in school-based literacy activities.
- Conducted over 1,000 one-on-one classroom training sessions with teachers.



Teachers participating in a Child Aid literacy training session in the town of Chimaltenango.

# **Transforming Community Libraries**

t is rare for poor children in Guatemala to have access to books, particularly I those that are relevant, age-appropriate and inspiring to new readers. Libraries

are few, schools are grossly underfunded and most families lack money to purchase books on their own.

**Child Aid trains** librarians to be catalysts for literacy in their communities.

In 2010, Child Aid:

• Trained 44 librarians

representing 32 rural libraries.

 Sponsored summer reading activities in 21 indigenous communities.

• Supplied 51 libraries with thousands of quality children's

books.

Working with committed local partners, Child Aid has established or improved 35 community libraries in small towns and rural villages throughout the Guatemalan Highlands. We now work in these and other libraries to help ensure they

are well-stocked, fully accessible and deeply involved in literacy work within their communities.

With training and support from Child Aid, our librarian partners conduct reading activities for nearly 3,000 children who lack basic reading skills. These programs take place throughout the year, both in libraries and in local schools. book-lending programs that allow children to take books home, often for the

# We help librarians conduct literacy outreach in their communities and establish first time in their lives. The result? More children have access to books and more children are reading.



Girls read recently donated books at a library's outdoor tables in the province of Sololá.



# **Bringing Books to Children**

magine teaching children to read using only clippings from the local newspaper or irrelevant, dog-eared books that are decades old. Sadly, this is what most teachers in rural Guatemalan schools have to work with. No wonder literacy

rates are so low.

**Books are the building** blocks of literacy.

The books Child Aid brings to communities are ageappropriate, relevant and much needed. Working every day in local schools and libraries, our literacy teams ensure that children have access to quality, Spanish-language materials

that support their school work and inspire them to read.

We do this, not by going in, dumping books and leaving. Rather, we work with local partners to see that the materials are used regularly by children. Working side by side with librarians, we remove useless titles, catalogue incoming books and improve library spaces. We encourage schools and libraries to lend books – something rarely done in Guatemala – so children can read at home. Most importantly, we train librarians and teachers to use these materials in daily reading programs. The tens of thousands of books Child Aid delivers are essential and fundamental tools in our fight against illiteracy.

### In 2010, Child Aid:

- Brought 82,000 Spanish-language children's books Guatemala.
- Made them accessible to over 10,000 impoverished children.
- Improved book collections in 149 schools and libraries.



These boys in the village of Chicacao received new textbooks and storybooks in 2010 and have access to hundreds more in the Child Aid-sponsored community library.



# **Our Partners**

In addition to the hundreds of teachers and librarians with whom we work, Child Aid partners with in-country nonprofits to broaden our impact. These grassroots partnerships make local communities stronger and our work more effective.

#### **CORAL** Oaxaca, Mexico

Twenty-three years ago, Child Aid co-founded a low-income hearing clinic in Oaxaca, Mexico. This clinic, called CORAL, has since grown into a full-service speech and hearing center, the only resource of its kind for poor families in

**CORAL**, founded by Child Aid, is now the key provider of hearing services to Oaxaca's poor.

southern Mexico. Child Aid provides oversight and operating assistance to CORAL, bringing testing, therapy, clinical services, advocacy, family support and hearing aids to some of the poorest children in the country. CORAL staff works with families and schools to integrate hearing-impaired children into their communities. Using a mobile testing unit, they also

visit remote communities and screen infants and children who would otherwise have no access to hearing tests. This is made possible by Child Aid supporters.

### In 2010, Child Aid and its partners:

- Tested more than 1,393 children for hearing problems.
- Served 1,210 poor children and adults in its hearing clinic.
- Provided quality Montessori education to 107 preschool children from poor families.
- Provided 105 scholarships to impoverished students allowing them to attend primary and middle school.

#### FUNDIT El Tejar, Guatemala

Since 1996, Child Aid has partnered with FUNDIT (pronounced foon-deet), a locally-run community organization in El Tejar, Guatemala. Child Aid and FUNDIT operate the only Montessori-style preschool for poor children in the country, CEDIN, a four-year, early-start program serving children 3-6 years of age. All children who complete this preschool program leave knowing how to read and write at a basic level – an astounding accomplishment considering Guatemala's extremely high rates of illiteracy.

Due to the extreme poverty of their families, many of the 107 children enrolled are malnourished. Child Aid and FUNDIT sponsor a nutrition program that offers free daily meals to the students. We also provide long-term scholarships to the school's neediest graduates so they can progress through primary and middle school. A local library, supported by Child Aid and FUNDIT, ensures that families in El Tejar have access to quality books and reading programs. This multi-faceted partnership gives hundreds of poor children in El Tejar educational opportunities they would otherwise never have.



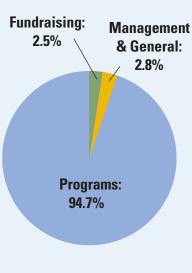


# **Child Aid 2010 Financial Statements**

hild Aid is an efficient, cost-effective nonprofit organization that prioritizes programs for children that make a real and lasting difference. In 2010, we again received the highest rating, four stars, from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations. Charity Navigator determined that Child Aid is fiscally responsible and financially stable, exceeding industry standards and outperforming most other charities in our field.



Revenue	Unrestricted Cash & Security Contributions	\$260,278
	Restricted Contributions & Grants	\$359,561
	In-Kind Donations (non-cash)	\$2,106,278
	Investment Income	\$62,046
	Total Revenue	\$2,788,163
Expenses	Program Services	\$2,611,264
	Management & General	\$76,388
	Fundraising	\$68,991
	Total Expenses	\$2,756,643
	•	
	Revenue Over Expenses	\$31,520
Assets	Cash Restricted	\$795
	Cash Unrestricted	\$255,542
	Securities Restricted	\$192,324
	Securities Unrestricted	\$827,903
	Other Assets	\$-
	Total Assets	\$1,276,564
Liabilities	Accounts payable & current liabilities	\$16,660
Net Assets	Unrestricted	\$1,008,817
	Temporarily restricted	\$251,087
	Total Net Assets:	\$1,259,904
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,276,564



# **Our Supporters**

On behalf of Child Aid's Board of Directors and staff, as well the children and communities we serve, Thank You! Your generosity makes our work possible, allowing us to bring educational opportunity and critical hearing services to some of the poorest children in the world.

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Mayan girl with reading.

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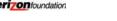












917 SW Oak Street, Suite 208 Portland, OR 97205

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Teachers in the village of Xecotoj who participate in Child Aid's *Reading for Life* literacy programs.

