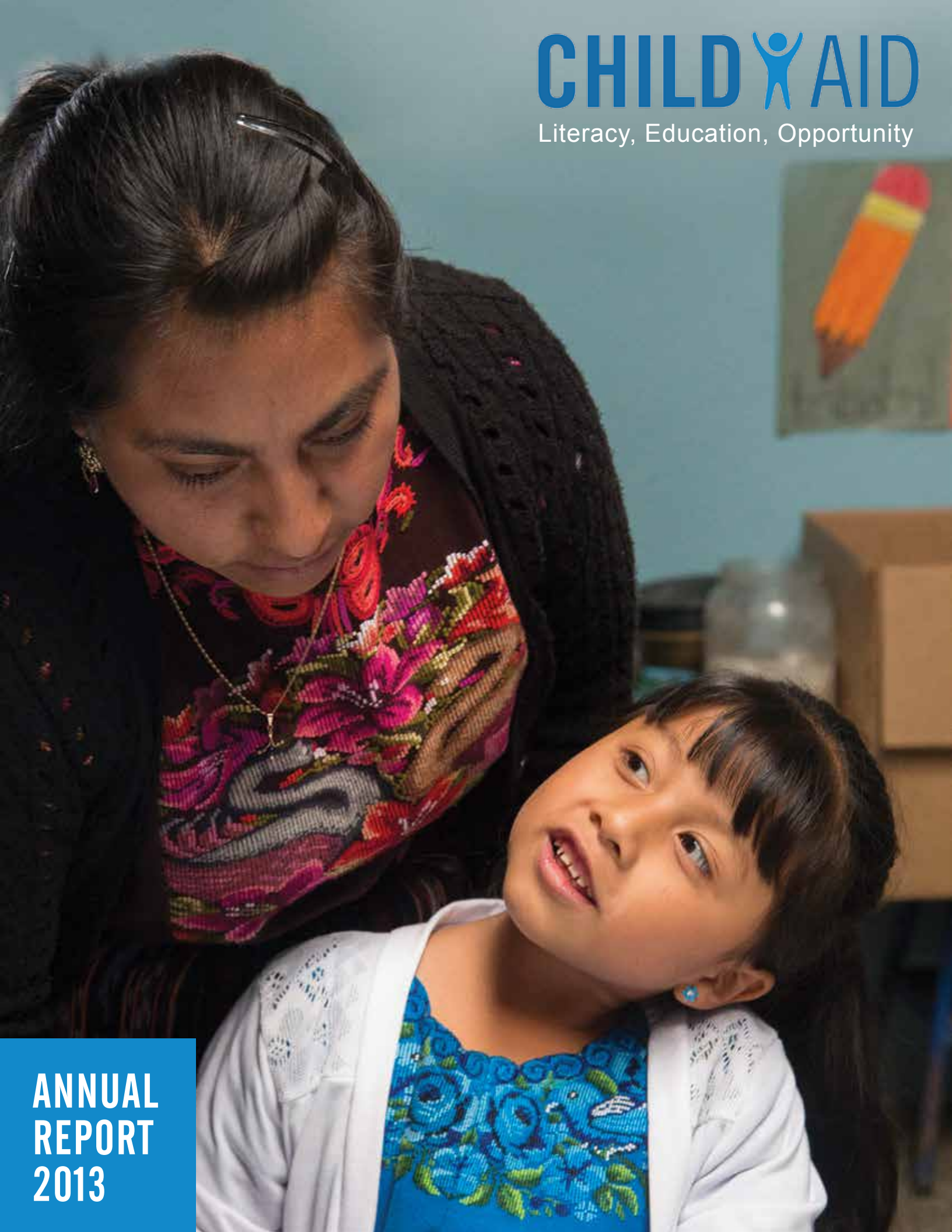


CHILD AID

Literacy, Education, Opportunity



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2013**

Education is a powerful catalyst for change. It imparts knowledge and skills that enable people to realize their full potential and transform their lives. Numerous studies have shown the critical role of education in fighting poverty, improving health, and strengthening civil society in developing countries.



... Changing Lives Through Literacy

Child Aid programs give people the ability to imagine, pursue and realize a better life.

At Child Aid, our work is based on the knowledge that literacy is the foundation of education, and paves the way for a lifetime of learning. Research shows that when children develop basic literacy skills, they gain a powerful tool to enhance their economic opportunities and break the cycle of poverty. They grow into adults who become critical thinkers and problem solvers, able to confront their communities' most urgent problems. Our programs invest in a community's teachers, providing the training and the children's books they need to help their students become better readers, writers, and learners.

In Guatemalan primary school classrooms, the instruction fails to develop the comprehension and critical thinking skills that are so vital to literacy and learning. The children who finish primary school can read a sentence but may not understand the meaning of what they have read. They can memorize information, but don't know how to evaluate it and use it as the basis for their own thoughts and opinions. They can write a paragraph, but struggle to articulate what they want to say.



Thanks to our supporters, girls like this are developing the comprehension and critical thinking skills that are so vital to literacy and learning.

they need to develop a habit of reading, a habit that will strengthen their critical thinking for their entire lives.

These children are Guatemala's most valuable resource, and the greatest hope for their communities. But there is no time to waste: Guatemala cannot afford another generation without access to quality education. Investing in education is essential for a brighter future in Guatemala. The children who discover the power of education today will be the ones who shape the world of tomorrow.



"Teaching someone to read, to understand what they read and to develop their abilities, is to make a better person, one who will make better decisions in their life."

Graciela Landa Pichiyá, Literacy Trainer



"Through Child Aid, I have had the opportunity to improve my life. I began to learn the importance of understanding what you read. I began to have the ability to analyze and compare what I read to my own life experiences. I feel better about myself because I have my own opinions and can express them."

Jeremias Morales, Literacy Trainer

Training Teachers

Investing in teachers to break the cycle of illiteracy.



“The Child Aid techniques help us as teachers to have more active classroom activities. The students are developing many abilities for reading, for comprehension, for analysis. Students learn much more now because they understand what they read.”

Paola Chavez,
Teacher



“My favorite part of the training was learning the techniques, because it showed me that learning is not only about listening but can also be about participating. I feel that after this experience I can be a better teacher. I know now how to treat each child because each child is different in how they learn.”

Flor de María Coc,
Teacher

Teachers in Guatemala face many obstacles to becoming effective literacy instructors. Most come from the same educational background as their students, and have struggled to read and write themselves. Young teachers come to the profession with almost no effective training and receive little, if any, support to help them improve. They lack suitable books and materials to teach reading, and are often forced to make due with outdated textbooks or even newspaper clippings.

As a result, teachers rarely teach anything beyond basic reading skills, and the idea of incorporating new methods or techniques into their classrooms intimidates them.

Child Aid’s teacher training program is focused on making all teachers successful educators and is specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by Guatemalan teachers. Through hands-on workshops, teachers learn practical techniques and activities for developing reading comprehension and critical thinking in their students. They also gain experience in making the classroom learning environment more active and engaging.

After each workshop, our literacy trainers visit the teachers in their classrooms for one-on-one coaching sessions: they model new techniques, offer suggestions, answer questions, and provide support and encouragement. These sessions allow teachers to experience success while learning challenging new skills. This helps them to build the confidence that drives their

continued improvement. Teachers tell us that Child Aid’s approach to training not only provides them with useful knowledge and techniques, it also makes them feel more respected and valued as professionals.

Your investment in teacher training helps communities to build their capacity to educate their children. The transformation of teachers into empowered educators will affect every child in their classrooms, opening up a world of opportunity that previous generations of students never had.



Each teacher in our four-year program receives six training sessions per year, including two workshops and four one-on-one follow-up sessions.

In Child Aid workshops, teachers are learning how to make their classrooms more open and interactive, encouraging students to participate in activities, ask questions and contribute their ideas to the learning process.





“I started reading to my kids at night or we read together. But it was always the same books because we could only afford to buy a few. So, the diversity of books we get from the library is helpful for us. My children have the biggest smiles when they are reading a new book.”

Mariel de Alonzo,
Parent



“My children bring books home and read them there. We have a practice of reading a story before they go to sleep, so they bring a book home because they know we will read in the evening. I feel happy to see that, to see them calm down and use their imaginations when reading a book.”

Claudia de Alverado,
Parent

Providing Books

Bringing books to children opens a world of learning.

Access to books, and lots of them, is a vital component of motivating children to read. Without a variety of books at their reading level that interest them, children have little motivation to open a book, and thus are unlikely to develop the habit of reading. Education experts recommend that schools begin with a minimum of seven books per child, and build their libraries to at least twenty per child. Sadly, most Guatemalan classrooms are lucky to have one or two books per student, and many of these books are outdated and not suitable for a child learning to read.

Child Aid’s literacy programs have always emphasized the importance of bringing books to children. Thanks to your support and to generous donations from U.S. publishers, we ship tens of thousands of Spanish language books to Guatemala each year, delivering them to remote schools and libraries. We are also supplementing school libraries with targeted purchases of specific books that fill in gaps in their collections, so that kids have access to a thorough range of titles and subjects.



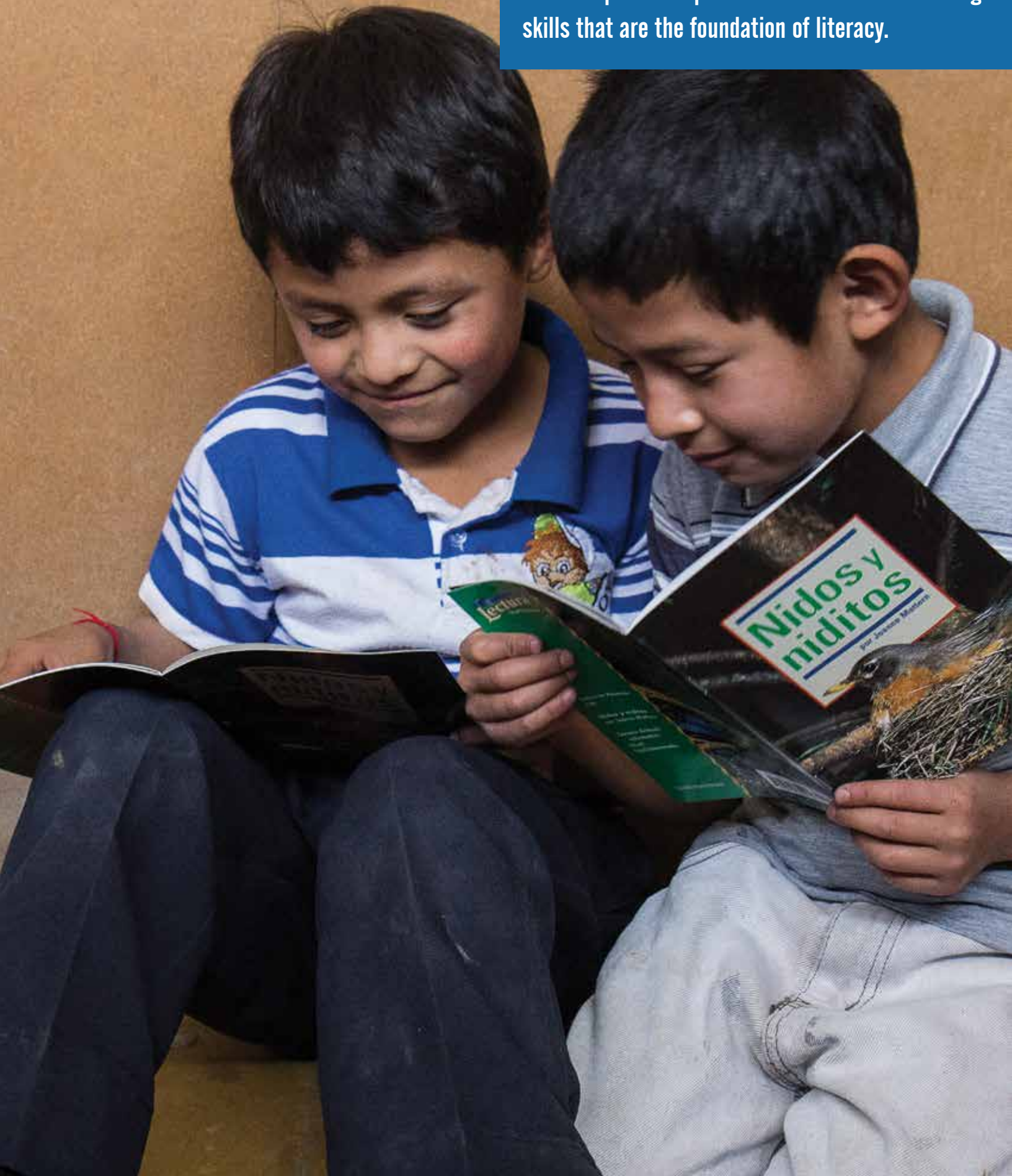
Literacy trainer Jeremias Morales unloads books at the El Naranjo school with the help of eager students.

We compliment our book donations with teacher and librarian training programs that ensure that the books are used regularly and effectively to support student learning. We also work with schools and libraries to create book-lending programs and extracurricular literacy activities that give children opportunities to read outside of school. In partnership with school

administrators, we are finding ways to get students to read daily, and to help teachers integrate books into all classroom instruction, including science, math, health and social studies.

In communities where educational resources have always been scarce, our books offer access to a new world of learning, and an opportunity to expand the knowledge of everyone in the community. They are fundamental to helping Guatemalan children reach their potential in school and in life.

Children who have access to a variety of engaging books are more motivated to read and more likely to develop the comprehension and critical thinking skills that are the foundation of literacy.





“Child Aid workshops are always very productive because they include lots of practical ideas. I’ve learned how to classify and organize books, I invited teachers from the local school to bring their students to the library for story hour, and I started a backpack lending program to get some of the new books to the schools.”

Gloria Muñoz Garacia, Librarian



“In the communities where we work, many of our children don’t have the habit of reading. With the Adventures in Reading program, we have a plan for how to get kids to the library, capture their attention and develop different activities for them.”

Rigoberto Chacach, Librarian

Improving Rural Libraries

Turning libraries into community hubs for literacy.

Since books are so rare and expensive in Guatemala, libraries have limited resources and offer few programs or services to their patrons. Most libraries lack child-friendly spaces, and have few books that might engage young readers.



A librarian helps students check out books for reading at home.

Child Aid works with rural communities and schools to transform libraries into dynamic hubs for reading promotion and education. We help libraries build their collections by providing each one with hundreds of high-quality children’s storybooks and nonfiction books every year. We offer a program of workshops where librarians learn how to improve their services and to make their libraries more accessible to the community. They

learn how to transform their libraries into welcoming environments, to run programs and activities that promote literacy, and to set up book lending. Our literacy trainers visit libraries to monitor progress, offer suggestions, and provide support.

Summer program keeps kids reading and learning

Child Aid developed Adventures in Reading, our library reading program, to bridge the gap during the three-month school break between October and January. Without access to books through school during vacation, and few if any opportunities to read at home, kids stop reading and lose momentum.

Over the four- to eight-week programs, thousands of kids visit libraries to participate in read-aloud sessions, word games, writing activities and guided discussions that develop their skills and make reading fun. This year, many libraries hosted book clubs for higher-level readers, giving kids the opportunity to read more challenging books and share their opinions in discussion groups. Libraries also added writing activities for children, such as school newspapers, personal journals, and contests.



Literacy Trainer Jorge Sanum shares a story with kids outside the Sumpango Municipal Library.

FUNDIT

(Fundación para Desarrollo Integral de El Tejar)

Since 1996, Child Aid has partnered with this locally run organization to operate a community library in El Tejar and the CEDIN preschool, which is a four-year, early-start program serving children 3-6 years of age. Child Aid provides the majority of the school's support. Thanks to the generous support of Ethical Bean, LEAF (Lake Eden Arts Festival) and PEG (Proyecto Para las Escuelas Guatemaltecas), we also provide student scholarships, sponsor a nutrition program, and support a music program for preschool and primary school students.



A teacher with her students at the CEDIN preschool in El Tejar, Guatemala.

The FUNDIT library in El Tejar has served as a laboratory for some of the key elements of Child Aid's literacy programs, including Adventures in Reading. We have also developed new strategies here to increase book lending to children.

CHILD AID by the numbers

Our Impact in 2013



376

Teachers received training



60

Librarians received training



22,200

Students taught by Child Aid trained teachers



100,746

Books distributed to schools and libraries

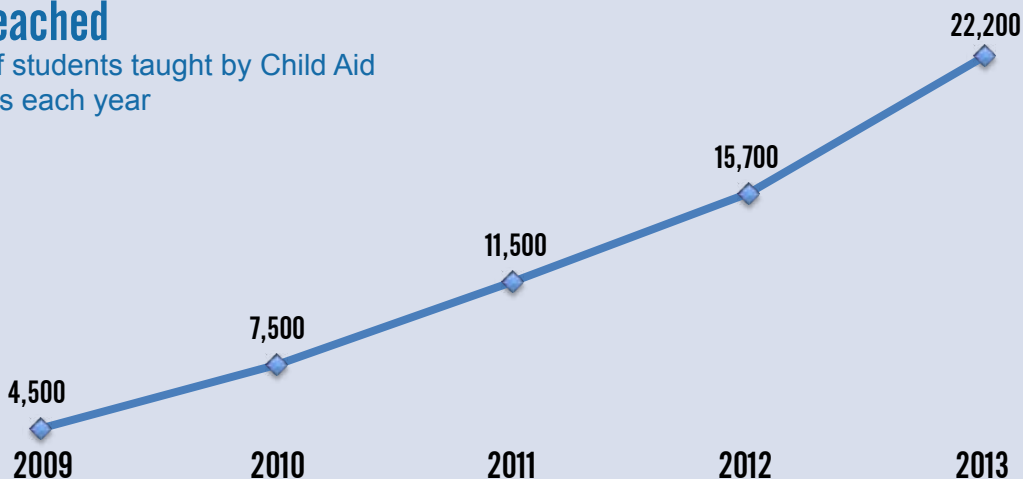


15

New school libraries created

Students Reached

Total number of students taught by Child Aid trained-teachers each year



Financial Highlights.....



\$928,283
IN CASH
DONATIONS



\$1,141,708
IN-KIND
DONATIONS



90.38%
SPENT ON
PROGRAMS

Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUE	Unrestricted Cash & Security Contributions	\$411,040
	Restricted Contributions & Grants	\$517,243
	In-Kind Donations	\$1,141,708
	Investment & Other Income	\$290,707
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,360,698

EXPENSES	Program Services	\$1,836,062
	Management & General	\$91,866
	Fundraising	\$103,636
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,031,564

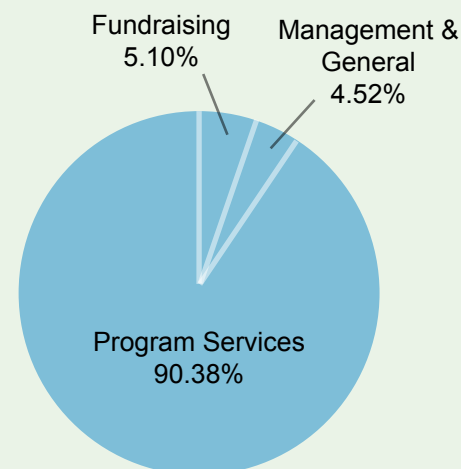
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES **\$329,134**

ASSETS	Cash Restricted	\$20,453
	Cash Unrestricted	\$629,221
	Securities Restricted	\$205,794
	Securities Unrestricted	\$1,239,455
	Other Assets	\$5,173
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,100,096

LIABILITIES	Accounts payable & current liabilities	\$36,524
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NET ASSETS	Unrestricted	\$1,586,026
	Temporarily restricted	\$477,546

Total Net Assets: \$2,063,572
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$2,100,096**



Guatemala has one of the lowest literacy rates in Latin America. Most indigenous children grow up in poverty and few make it past the sixth grade.



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Each teacher trained through Child Aid's program will influence hundreds of students throughout their careers

Up to \$499

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Students work together to find information about sea mammals. Non-fiction books are a vital classroom resource for activities that teach comprehension and critical thinking skills.

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*Osbin Lopez reads
to his brothers and
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