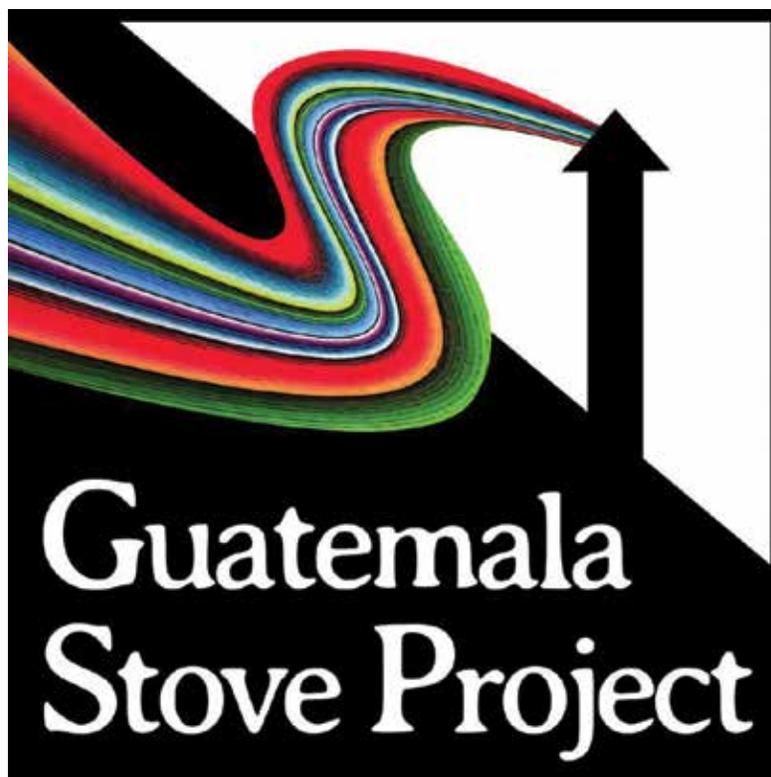


GUATEMALA STOVE PROJECT

Annual Report

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021



*BUILD A STOVE
CHANGE THE FUTURE*

ABOUT US

The Guatemala Stove Project (GSP) is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-governmental organization dedicated to helping indigenous Maya people of the western highlands of Guatemala. Our primary mandate is to improve living conditions for families by funding the building of improved cookstoves. GSP also provides educational bursaries, microloans and funding for relief efforts and sustainable development projects.

GSP is a grassroots volunteer-driven organization entering our 22nd year of operation. We are a group of Canadians from many different backgrounds and interests who bring new ideas and perspectives. Respect for these ideas and initiatives are what keeps us going. We partner with three Guatemalan organizations; CEDEC (Centro de Estudios Para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación), AMI (Asociación de Mujeres Ixchel) and AMMID (Asociación Maya Mam de Investigación y Desarrollo) through which we provide support to indigenous communities.

To date, a total of 7,368 cookstoves and 19 school stoves have been constructed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FOUR PROGRAMS

I. Masonry Cookstoves

Due to circumstances of poverty, countless indigenous Maya in Guatemala continue to cook indoors over wood burning fires. Cookstove smoke contributes to a wide range of chronic illnesses and health impacts. Household air pollution worldwide is reported as the leading environmental cause of death and disability ahead of unsafe water and lack of sanitation.

Funds are sent as available throughout the year to our partners on a rotating basis and local masons build the stoves. The price of one cookstove is \$300. In this fiscal year GSP funded construction of 250 cookstoves for a total of 7,368 cookstoves built to date.

Fifty cookstoves were built by AMMID in the communities of Cuatro Caminos, El Edén and Tuilelén. One hundred cookstoves were built by CEDEC; fifty in Xecachelaj, Santa Maria Totonicanpan and fifty in El Cerro Cabrican, Quetzaltenango. Of the one hundred stoves built by AMI, fifty were in Aldea La Calera, Zunil. Quetzaltenango and fifty in Aldea Choacorrall II.

GSP stoves vent toxic smoke outside. A stove uses 50% less firewood than traditional three stone fires which decreases deforestation and resultant soil erosion. The family benefits from improved health and economic savings and less time spent gathering wood and preparing meals. Over the 10-year lifespan of a GSP cookstove, 20 to 30 tons of carbon are offset.

Malnutrition among children in the highland communities where we work is reported at 70% leading to delayed growth and development, inability to concentrate and poor school performance. To combat this problem, GSP began an initiative building school cookstoves in January 2020. This fiscal year, CEDEC built 10 school cookstoves in the communities of San Francisco la Union and Santa Maria Chiquimula for a total of 19 school cookstoves built to date. These benefit hundreds of children as they were able to eat a nourishing meal prepared by the school volunteers. One school cookstove costs approximately \$550.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FOUR PROGRAMS

II. Educational Bursaries

The AMMID Educational Bursary Program began in 2014 with the aim of helping girls attend middle and high school as many are denied this opportunity due to limited family economic resources. Educating girls will promote self-esteem, provide more job opportunities and build stronger and healthier families and communities. An educational bursary for one year of middle school costs approximately \$600 and \$800 for high school.

Restrictions due to the COVID pandemic created major changes for our fifteen bursary students. Our education coordinator Jovita Guzman supported the students with work to be completed at home as feasible, and in November 2020 all 15 girls completed their respective grades. GSP is very proud of the hard work and commitment of Dora Leticia Pérez y Pérez and support from her family. After receiving a bursary for six years, Dora graduated from grade 12 with a diploma in bookkeeping/perito contador con orientación en computación.

The new school year commenced in January and saw the admission of 14 girls: grade 7 (3), grade 8 (3), grade 9 (2), grade 10 (3), grade 11 (2) and grade 12 (1). As well, one mature student attends grade eight in adult school every Sunday. The students are greatly assisted and mentored by Jovita. Six of the girls in middle school are being supported with funds from the Wilma Wilkinson Fund. This fund, given in memory of Wilma, started in the 2020 school year and will support six girls to attend the six years of middle and high school. In January, \$12,000 was sent to AMMID to pay for tuition, lodging for one student, school supplies and the salary for Jovita.



III. Microloans

This fiscal year \$3,288 was added to our microloan program which started in 2012. To date GSP has contributed just over \$26,000 to the larger AMMID microloan fund. The system is based on the principles of the Grameen Bank. The money continues to circulate amongst AMMID members with loans being used to enhance agricultural outputs or support small commercial ventures. There are strict criteria to qualify for a loan with the initial loan being approximately \$150 and which can increase up to a maximum of \$600 if all criteria are met. The repayment rate is close to 100%. The interest rate is reduced when recipients commit to a green initiative of planting trees or grasses which help prevent deforestation and landslides.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FOUR PROGRAMS

IV. Emergency Assistance

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, families in Guatemala experienced critical food shortages. The restrictions on gatherings, work and business activities were a severe blow, especially to the indigenous communities living in rural areas where GSP works. Individuals could not sell their produce in markets, food prices increased, some food items became scarce and meagre family food supplies were quickly used up. There is no effective safety net and health resources for rural communities are extremely limited or nonexistent. One partner stated “indigenous communities are the most affected in this case because they cannot sell the products they harvest and the markets shrunk dramatically.” Another wrote that people are very worried because of the threat of the Corona virus and the hunger which assaults them because of lack of food and work.

For a limited time period, funds were directed for emergency assistance. In response to proposals from AMI and AMMID, a total of \$21,172 was sent to buy basic food items as black beans, rice, corn, Incaparina, sugar, oats, cooking oil. After purchase in bulk, these food items were transported to the affected communities and divided into bags for distribution to the families. In all, more than 500 families were helped to obtain some degree of food security.

A surge of migrants from Central America attempted to cross the Mexico/United States border in 2020 to 2021 causing a humanitarian and political crisis. Poverty, violence and natural disasters caused many to attempt reaching the US in search of a better life. This situation was brought close to home as GSP learned of the massacre in January 2021 of 19 Guatemalan youth in a northern Mexican border state. Eleven were from the municipality of Comitancillo where GSP has worked in partnership with AMMID for over 12 years. A special campaign raised \$2,700 which was sent to AMMID to assist affected families pay for funeral and associated expenses.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW: This past year has been one of great change, challenge and creativity for our volunteers in Canada. Usual annual GSP fundraising activities were cancelled and volunteers learned to adapt and carried on virtually for fundraising and volunteer meetings.

April 2020: In January 2020, GSP entered into partnership with Algonquin College School of Media and Design students who worked on the GSP website with the aim of refreshing the site and increasing our social presence. This update was completed and launched in mid-April. Content has been greatly expanded but further writing is necessary as well as continual updates.

August 2020: Due to the hard work of a core group of volunteers, one hundred calendars were printed. Priced at \$15, most were sold with some being retained for promotional purposes. Since the appearance of the first GSP calendar in 2011, they have served to educate readers and portray the richness of the Maya culture and beauty of Guatemala.

The Annual General Meeting was held August 30 at Terrace on the Tay, Perth when outdoor activities were permitted. It was an enjoyable time to reconnect and enjoy the sunny afternoon. Many thanks to retiring director Phil Brackenbury who stepped down after serving for six years on the board where he provided great leadership, hard work and compassion. GSP welcomed a new board member, Rob Bowyer. Rob joins Erika Johner who has completed her fourth year as director and Janet Allan in her fifth year.

September 2020: For a second year, GSP worked with Algonquin College Child and Youth Care Program. Following a virtual presentation and ongoing consultation with Liz and Janet, two sections of students in their first year successfully carried out online fundraising activities on our behalf. This was to fulfill a course requirement that students plan and implement a program that benefits the agency with which they partner.

October 2020: Don Juan Puac was the first mason who worked with CEDEC and he assisted in developing the first generation of plancha stove. According to Ishim Yac, Don Juan “helped create both the physical and metaphorical foundations of the stove project that have changed the lives of so many.” In 1999, Don Juan taught Tom how to build stoves and Tom estimates Don Juan must have built thousands of stoves in his lifetime. Sadly, Don Juan died in October due to complications of COVID-19.



Tom initiated the use of Knightsbridge Foreign Exchange which helps save money when transferring funds to Guatemala. Depending on the transfer amount and value of the Canadian dollar, a few hundred dollars can be saved with each transaction.

November 2020: GSP hosted its first joint Perth Ottawa online silent auction. The working committee was set up in August and worked hard to plan, collect donations and upload descriptions and photos, advertise, run the auction and handle and report money transactions, deposits and tax receipts.

The auction ran from November 6 to 16, and used 32auctions.com as the platform. One hundred items were featured including Guatemalan crafts, pottery, gift baskets, paintings, restaurant and business vouchers and donations for stoves, microloans and bursaries. Due to the generous support of volunteers and business community, a profit of \$21,700 was realized to support our programs.

January 2021: After exploring different fundraising options, GSP purchased the services of Grant Advance Solutions for an 18-month period starting August 2020. Grant Advance Solutions is a software company which provides information about Canadian foundations that could be potential funding sources. They also offer online support and guides for proposal writing. Following completion of online tutorials, a committee began work in earnest in January.

February 2021: Since 2000, GSP has led volunteers to Guatemala on the February volunteer stove building trip. This year the trip, as well as stove documentation and visits with bursary students, were cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions. On our behalf, the very capable Ishim Yac documented 50 stoves in Xecachelaj, Santa Maria. The risk of contracting COVID-19 herself prevented further documentation until a late date.

Guatemala Stove Project
Statement of Income & Expenses
for the year ended March 31, 2021
(unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
General Donations	\$87,360	\$110,430
Sam Clarke Memorial Fund	0	100
Micro Loans	0	4,220
Bursaries	2,965	12,615
Fundraising (Stoves, Bursaries, Microloans)	26,008	8,488
TOTAL INCOME	\$116,333	\$135,853
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Cookstoves & Other Project Expenses	\$88,954	\$98,780
Education/Bursaries	\$13,000	\$13,443
Emergency Assistance	\$21,172	\$11,705
Microloans	\$3,288	\$4,062
Project Documentation & Promotion, incl. Travel	885	5,801
Fundraising	1,745	2,456
Administration & Overhead	7,074	5,423
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$136,118	\$141,670
NET INCOME	-\$19,785	-\$5,817

Guatemala Stove Project
BALANCE SHEET
as at March 31, 2021
(unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash & Bank	\$13,062	\$32,493
GST refundable	125	479
Inventory of Crafts for Resale	2,000	2,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,187	\$34,972
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0
Accrued Liabilities	1,510	1,510
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,510	\$1,510
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		
Opening Balance	\$33,462	\$39,279
Net Income for the year	-19,785	-5,817
Closing Balance	\$13,677	\$33,462
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$15,187	\$34,972

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We would like to thank the many volunteers who not only commit to the various fundraising activities and meetings but also work behind the scenes to keep us running as an organization. Special thanks to:

- ~ Eric Scheuneman manages our stove database, processes income tax receipts and mails thank you certificates to donors
- ~ Terri Henderson maintains the spreadsheet and tracks debits and credits
- ~ Liz Ballantyne Jackson and Janet Allan coordinate the Ottawa chapter
- ~ Pierre Fortier (curator of photos), Judy Field (design and production), Liz Ballantyne Jackson (writer) and Rita Redner (editor/advisor) produce our calendar
- ~ Paul Hauraney assists with banking and presentations
- ~ Holly Blair and Janet Allan co-chaired the fall fundraiser
- ~ Liz Ballantyne Jackson chairs the Grant Advance committee and manages the GSP website.

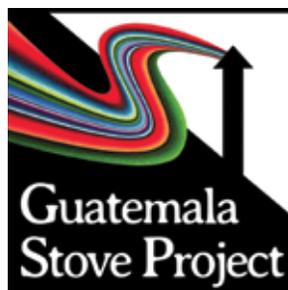
We are able to provide support to the communities of the western highlands in Guatemala as a result of the leadership of Jose Yac (CEDEC), Clara Colop and Ishim Yac (AMI) and Rubén Feliciano (AMMID).

Tom Clarke continues in his 23rd year as coordinator of GSP attending meetings, receiving and sending emails and coordinating activities. Tom works tirelessly to promote GSP and assist the indigenous people of Guatemala. Thank you Tom for your initial vision and your continued passion and dedication.

The Board of Directors consists of Rob Bowyer, Erika Johner and Janet Allan who meet regularly, take on many tasks and oversee GSP operations.

Thank you to all our volunteers and donors. Our work depends on your generosity.

For more information, please visit our website at guatemalastoveproject.org
and our Facebook page at [GuatemalaStoveProject](https://www.facebook.com/GuatemalaStoveProject)



Guatemala Stove Project
Registered Canadian Charity # 871977617RR0001
Coordinator Tom Clarke
Email: info@guatemalastoveproject.org
PO Box 20057, Perth, Ontario K7H 3M6
613-267-5202