



MISSION PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ALONG WITH CEDEPCA



Southminster PC group at Corazón de Mujer

Introduction to Guatemala and the Current Context





House of Memories Museum, Guatemala City

The House of Memories Museum is an interactive space that reconstructs the historical memory of Guatemala. The physical museum is located near the Central Park in Guatemala City and is typically open every day except Sunday from 9 am – 1 pm and 2–5 pm.

The Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) inaugurated the permanent installation of the Casa de la Memoria, an art exhibit that empowers youth to reconstruct their historical memory through the creation of personal and collective identity. Through photographs, visitors are guided through exhibits which document resistance to colonialism, US imperialism, and ongoing militarization, while sharing the stories of people who have been silenced, communities who have been massacred, and leaders who have been disappeared.

Casa de la Memoria invites visitors to take concrete steps to preserve historic and continue memory to accompany movements for social justice: https://nisgua.org/step-into-the-house-of-me mory/

Alternatively, a virtual tour is available which provides much of the same information that Prof. Hector Castañeda teaches in his presentation the Guatemala in Context. It is a guided virtual tour of the museum, accessed at: https://casadelamemoria.org.gt/ (Note: Comenzar: means "start tour")



Dr. Prof. Héctor Castañeda Juarez

He was born in Guatemala City 1946, he went to the United States of America and completed undergraduate studies at Cleveland State University, he holds a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis Indiana; his doctoral work covers the period of 1944–1954 in the history of Guatemala and its links to Latin American theology.

He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1980, and the United Church of Christ (1984); since 1994 is the pastor of Saint John the Divine Presbyterian Church in Guatemala City. He is also a professor of theology, biblical and social studies in various seminaries and universities in Guatemala City.

Relief Map, Guatemala City

The Relief Map of Guatemala (Mapa en Relieve de Guatemala) is a huge relief map of Guatemala erected at ground level on two scales: 1: 10,000 for the horizontal extension and 1: 2,000 for the vertical, with an approximate surface area of 1,800 square meters. It is in Zone 2, at the end of Avenida Simeón Cañas.

The Map was built in 18 months, from April 19, 1904, to October 29, 1905, with brick, mortar and a cement lining by the Guatemalan lieutenant colonel and engineer Francisco Vela on behalf of then President of Guatemala Manuel Estrada Cabrera with the support of engineer Claudio Urrutia. The Relief Map has been remodeled twice: in 1980 by the Guatemalan Tourism Institute and the collaboration of the Municipality of Guatemala City, and in 2014 by the Municipality of Guatemala City.

The site also includes an exhibition hall which houses a photographic exhibition called Guatemala in the 18th century.

The tour is led by an English-speaking guide. For more details and pictures, you can visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relief_map_of_G uatemala



Oficina De Derechos Humanos Del Arzobispado De Guatemala, "ODHAG", Guatemala City

The ODHAG is one of the most important human rights organizations in Guatemala. Founded in the early 1990s, the ODHAG has challenged major human rights abuses since then. The Recovery of the Historical Memory project, which examined the 36 years of civil war and blamed the Guatemalan army for perpetrating 80% of the killings, resulted in the assassination of the office's director, Bishop Juan Gerardi in 1998. With a current staff of 40 persons, the ODHAG centers its human rights works in the following three areas: Creating a Culture of Peace, Defending Human Dignity, and Reconciliation. Source:

http://www.globalworkers.org/advocates/defe nder-network/oficina-de-derechos-humanosdel-arzobispado-de-guatemala-odha



Montana State University group at Relief Map



Ecofiltro, Guatemala City

Ecofiltro was founded over 20 years ago and functioned as a nonprofit organization for most of Its history. Philip Wilson, CEO, came to the conclusion that the water problem, specifically the fact that there is a lack of drinking water in rural homes of many Guatemalans, could not be adequately solved by depending on donations.

He then decided to turn Ecofiltro into a company with a cause – a social business – that would focus on a hybrid approach to the problem such that the sales of filters in urban areas would help to reduce the price of the filters for families in rural areas. It was then that Ecofiltro S.A. started to design and plan the building of a new factory capable of producing 20,000 filters per month in Antigua, Guatemala. The new Ecofiltro factory opened in April 2012. Today, Ecofiltro has distributed over 700,000 filters throughout Guatemalan territory. In 2021 we initiated a new expansion of our production facility which will allow us to produce 500,000 filters per year! Ecofiltro describes itself as "a social enterprise with a well-defined mission: to benefit 1 million Guatemalan families in rural areas by 2025."

If you have traveled in Guatemala or stayed in a hotel anywhere in the country, you will have likely seen Ecofiltros in various styles and models. The offices at CEDEPCA also use several of them. Groups may be able to tour the Ecofiltro factory near Guatemala City.

For more information: https://ecofiltro.com.gt/en/our-purpose



Virginia Tech University group

Migration





Casa de Migrante, Guatemala City

Casa de Migrante is operated by the order of Scalabrini in Guatemala City. The Scalabrinians arrived in Guatemala in 1992 to serve in two distinct locations: along the Mexico-Guatemala border and in Guatemala City, where deportees and migrants often found themselves starving and homeless.

In 1993 and under the responsibility of the Scalabrinians, the Archdiocesan Center for Migrant Assistance (CAM) was created in the capital city. Its objective is to offer pastoral and humanitarian care to the internal and external migrant population. In 1999, at the request of the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala and on its behalf through Mons. Álvaro Ramazzini Imeri National President of the Human Mobility Pastoral, the Scalabrinian Missionaries assumed the direction of the Migrant House in the capital city. Since the creation of the Migrant Houses in Guatemala and due to the social awareness work carried out, an integrated pastoral care for migrants has been implemented. The beneficiary population is deportees, refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, migrants and others. (https://www.simn-global.org/centros-scalabr inianos/centro/mountain-cycling/)

During recent years, Intercultural Encounters groups have visited Casa de Migrante to observe their work first-hand and have also provided monetary and physical support by assembling and delivering hygiene kits, food kits, and other items directly or via CEDEPCA staff.



Learning about migration and current context, Guatemala City

We invite Prof. and Researcher Lizbeth Gramajo to do a presentation to groups at CEDEPCA during their time at the office. She has presented in our virtual journeys and local visits about the root causes of migration. She is also the author of a book and has written several articles related to this topic. For more details about her presentation you can watch a portion of a video from a Virtual Journey on Migration on our YouTube channel https://youtu.be/_ziUX5kCxUcat minute 27:30 to listen to her short bio, and second video on the same topic: https://youtu.be/A_4xCeCVill, at minute 10:23.

INNER

InnerChange, Quetzaltenago

InnerChange aims to catalyze authentic movements of God's kingdom among the poor, models holistic ministry for the mainstream Church, and recalls the broader body of Christ to god's tender heart for the marginalized. Communities of missionaries live in poor, marginalized neighborhoods around the world.

"InnerChange founded its team in Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala in the summer of 2006. From day one, we have been immersed in the world of children and youth seeking to survive on the city's streets. As our ministry and team grew, our focus became children and their families because many of them lack sustainable income and opportunities for education, leaving them with little hope for a better future.

Our ministry activities include a tutoring and scholarship program, weekly Bible studies for the kids, discipleship groups and monthly bible study for the parents. We also deeply value the relationships we build with these families through inviting them into our homes, celebrating together, annual retreats and accompanying them through whatever life brings. God has created a beautiful community among the families, our team, and local volunteers.

Our team vision is to be and create change-makers in our community transformed by the love of God, share the good news of Jesus, strengthen the capacities of families, and walk humbly with our God."

At various times, InnerChange has worked with a deportation center in the heart of Xela, where parents may wait for deported children and youth who have been deported from the US or Mexico and arrive by bus. InnerChange has provided encouragement and accompaniment to these parents and families.

Contacts: German and Karla Avila For more information: https://icguatemala.novo.org/

Centro de Atención Integral Migrante (Casa Mirna Mack), Guatemala City

This is a project led by the Jesuit Network with Migrants, in which the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus have had an active participation in its implementation, following in the footsteps of Mother Cabrini (Universal Patroness of Migrants).

This is an effort that is also carried out in collaboration with Humanitarian Action for Migrant Children, Secour Catholique Caritas France, Rafael Landivar University and #cabrinimissionfoundation.

Contact: Otilia Agustin

Education





AMMID (Maya-Mam Research and Development Association),

Comitancillo, San Marcos, Guatemala

The history of the AMMID association dates back to 1976, when a sizable earthquake occurred which affected the entire country. The family of Tomhas Grauman and Wendy Neander, representing the Pueblo Partisans organization of Canada arrived with a delegation to support the affected. During their stay in Guatemala, they met Nicolasa Cardona Mauricio from the village of Taltimuch who invited them to visit Comitancillo and a friendship and collaborative relationship was born.

This is a local association based in the local community and formed by men and women who promote activities to generate processes which allow holistic sustainable development communities. AMMID's programs include: Agroecology, Community Management, Economic Productive Development for Women, and Integral Health.

Mission: To promote social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental development sustaining the Maya-Mam identity, while generating alternatives of structural solutions to problems, building local skills to guarantee a decent level of livelihood for families and communities in Comitancillo. The programs seek to incorporate the principles of harmony, equity, and respect of nature.

For more information: www.ammidguatemala.org



CEIPA (Centro Ecuménico de Integración Pastoral), 8a. Calle 19-33, Quetzaltenango, QZ, Guatemala Zona 1

Nearly half of Guatemala's entire population is under the age of 18. Forty-one percent of young people have an indigenous background and two-thirds of indigenous families live in poverty or extreme poverty. There are high rates of child labor, and children are unusually involved in "informal" and hazardous work environments such as garbage collection and night work in factories. A large majority of Guatemalan children are subject to daily violations of their rights, including exclusion from education and healthcare, physical and emotional abuse, and sexual and labor exploitation.

CEIPA supports and protects children who work in the local markets of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. It lobbies for children's rights and active civic participation for children through the creation of local child-led commissions that work alongside the municipality on issues related to children.

In addition, CEIPA has schools and vocational training focused on providing an education to child laborers, a health clinic, a resource library, and radio programs featuring and produced by youth.

For more information:

https://www.idealist.org/en/nonprofit/7765779 495484f32a1cO9c5ecef25aa7-centro-ecumeni co-de-integracion-pastoral-ceipa-quetzalten ango



EDUCO, Guatemala City

EDUCO is an NGO that has worked in more than 14 countries for more than 30 years for the well-being and rights of children, especially the right to receive quality education. The Mission Statement states: "We work with girls, boys, and their environment to promote fair and equitable societies that guarantee their rights and well-being."

In Guatemala, EDUCO collaborates with 147 schools in the department of Quiche to reach more than 39,000 children and young people and more than 10,000 adults.

further highlighted the socioeconomic inequalities of Guatemalan society, particularly those of rural children, exemplified by the high rates of malnutrition, a general lack of protection of children and adolescents, and gaps in the educational system which had to adapt to a virtual platform without having the necessary means. In this context, EDUCO renewed its agreement with the Ministry of Education and chose to support local partner organizations with the aim of providing a hybrid education modality that combines learning at home and in a classroom.

The pandemic, together with political instability, For more information: https://www.educo.org/



Hope Academy, located in the El Aguacate region of Antigua Guatemala

Tree 4 Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (https://tree4hope.org/) committed to providing a bright future of long-term hope for children, elders, and their families in Guatemala and around the world through educational, health, and mental wellness outreach programs. Tree 4 Hope is a ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA, Camp Hill, PA https://www.lss-elca.org/about-us/justice-min istries/ammparo/

Tree 4 Hope operates Hope Academy-a STEAM-based, Spanish and English bilingual school for girls with support for Kaqchikal, the indigenous Mayan language of the region, and hands-on internships at local businesses-in Santa Lucia Milpas Altas. The school grew from one kindergarten classroom in 2019 at the Miguel Magone orphanage to a new, modern school building with 67 girls in pre-K through Grade 6.

Tree 4 Hope has purchased land and built a bilingual STEAM school with a global focus on science, arts, engineering and business, blending Western and Latin American teaching methods for multi-cultural learning. Taught in a positive learning environment, the curriculum emphasizes women's rights, global relationship-building, and self-esteem, cultivating these girls' intellectual, social, and

spiritual development. Because educated women are more likely to have fewer children and larger incomes, our graduates will change the entire economic outlook of their village.

Hope Academy's bilingual model revolves around having both a native Spanish speaking and native English-speaking teacher in each classroom so that our students, starting from preschool, soak up English naturally through immersion. In Guatemala, tourism is one of thelargest industries in the country and so being able to speak English at a high level of fluency prepares our students to enter a variety of careers in the tourism and travel industry. Working with one of our local Guatemalan teachers, you can help our students develop their bilingual capabilities to the highest level.

Contacts: Glenda Duarte and Erin (director of the English program)

Also, see the information on Chica Bean to learn more about the relationship with Hope Academy.

Francisco Coll School (Colegio Fracisco Coll), Guatemala City

The school, established in 1995 and named after Saint Francisco Coll, is located in a barrio called by locals simply "el basurero," the dump. For more than 25 years, Francisco Coll has provided free education for low-income children from families who work as recyclers in the dump. The school was inaugurated in 1994 and has been stewarded by the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciata, in partnership with International Samaritan, to provide for the education, food, and health needs of the children and families.

The Guatemala City dump is the largest landfill in Central America. More than one-third of the country's trash is put there. Scavengers remove and recycle up to a million pounds per day, including glass and aluminum, but expose themselves to toxic fumes and hazardous materials in the process. The most senior scavengers rush garbage trucks to try to acquire the newest items before anyone else. There are many horrific stories about people being people being crushed by the trucks in their haste. Scavengers with the most experience know what different trucks carry; trash from supermarkets and restaurants is highly valuable because of the potential to eat or sell it later.

About 300 students attend classes from 7:30 am to noon. Many are forced to drop out to earn money for their families. An after-school tutoring program has at times been offered to offer additional instruction and keep students off the streets. The students live in the barrio near the dump, but suffer from malnutrition, abuse from drug-addicted parents and gangs, and toxic pollutants released into the air from the dump.

For more information:

https://www.intsam.org/a-dream-come-truea-new-roof/ and

https://www.ncronline.org/sisters-school-stan ds-out-guatemalan-dump-town



La Puerta Abierta, Santiago Atitlán

La Puerta Abierta is a vibrant learning center for students of all ages with a focus on meaningful education and literacy outreach in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. We offer creative teaching practices that awaken a love for learning and exploration in our students and teachers.

La Puerta Abierta Learning Center began in one small room on the second story of a building in the heart of Santiago Atitlan. Recognizing the importance of having access to books and literature for children and teens, founders Karen Hedrick, a retired teacher and Amanda Flayer, a former Peace Corps volunteer, started La Puerta Abierta in 2007.

The project opened with one part time librarian, a few tables and chairs and a large collection of books. A sign was hung from the roof of the building and not long after, children began to flow into the center. Throughout the past twelve years, La Puerta Abierta has launched and maintained a variety of projects to inspire the children of Santiago Atitlan to connect with reading including the Traveling Library, Saturday morning story hours, Mommy and Me classes, radio readings and teen reading circles.

In 2010 La Puerta Abierta expanded to include a progressive school that provides an inviting, stimulating, and nurturing educational environment for our young learners. We follow a creative curriculum that embraces art and exploration.

Contact: Juanita Chiviliu, Principal; Amanda Flayer, Founder

https://atitlanabierta.com/about/



Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Asturias Academy is an independent, accredited, non-profit school based in Quetzaltenango (Xela) that serves children from pre-primary through high school. Students are encouraged to remain in their community in order to become future leaders and to make Guatemala a better place to live.

The Academy has adapted Brazilian educator Paulo Freire's Popular Education model to offer a student-centered learning environment. The system encourages all students and teachers to think of themselves as learners, teachers, and ultimately world transformers. As opposed to an educational system filled with indigestible facts, Popular Education uses themes that directly confront the students' lives. The process of bringing core curriculum to life by making it relevant to students' experiences helps them to retain the academic material. In addition, the Asturias Academy provides opportunities for students to gain skills in areas such as carpentry, computers, and sewing so they can utilize these skills to support their continuing education.

Our initial contact was through Cheryl Rowan, who spent a week with Bibliotecas sin Fronteras in the summer of 2015. Some groups have visited the school to learn about their model of education and the alternatives they provide to migration.

To learn more, please visit: https://www.asturiasacademy.org/



New Horizons, Quetzaltenango

Asociación Nuevos Horizontes is a Guatemalan-run NGO that has been working children with women and in Xela. Quetzaltenango since 1989. ANH is comprised of a network including an administrative office, a shelter, and a day care center. All offer support, services, and temporary shelter to women and children who are survivors of

domestic violence and to single mothers with extremely limited financial resources.

AHNH Programs include: shelter for women and their families; day care center; community education outreach programs; health and therapy center; legal aid services; vocational training; and medical and psychological help.



Montana State University group at La Puerta Abierta

Small Businesses/ Cooperatives



ADISA, Santiago Atitlan

ADISA was created out of the experiences of Francisco Sojuel Figueroa, his wife, Maria Argentina Figueroa, and the birth of their third child, Nita Eliza. Nita was born with hydrocephalus, a condition in which water on the brain causes the head to enlarge. Because of their situation and lack of services available for people with disabilities in Santiago Atitlán, they began to contact other parents and organize a support system for families of children with disabilities.

At its founding in 1998, ADISA worked with three families in Santiago Atitlán. Today, ADISA attends to over one thousand children and young adults in Guatemala and is a leading organization in Latin America in the defense of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The work started with providing care at the community level in special education and neurological physiotherapy sessions, with the intention of integrating more families into the organization. The programs were formalized through the development of its strategic plan and ADISA obtained legal status as an association on September 12, 2003.

For more information: http://www.adisagt.org/

Corazón de Mujer (Heart of the Women) Weaving Cooperative, Chimaltenango

This group's members are indigenous women who suffered from the armed conflict in Guatemala during the 1980s, but joined to form a weaving group in Chimaltenango, Guatemala in 1991. Approximately 16 members weave traditional textiles on back strap and foot looms, generating income to support their families. Some of the members are widows and weaving is their only source of income due to lack of opportunity to study. As an organized group of women, they are able to solicit training and are learning new skills. CEDEPCA has had a relationship with Corazon de Mujer for many years.

For more information:

https://cedepca.org/en/newsletter-empowere d-women-on-their-way-to-food-sovereignty/



Peaks&James group at Corazón de Mujer



Chica Bean — Impactful Guatema-Ian Specialty Coffee, Santa Lucia Milpas Altas, Sacatepéquez

"Chica Bean is Guatemalan specialty coffee, produced by women, roasted at origin, and delivered fresh to your door in the US. With convenient subscriptions, tasty gifts, and a direct connection to our farming community, we're where the happiness to a great cup of coffee meets the warm-fuzzy feeling of contributing to a better world."

Coffee is roasted in origin, allowing a higher percentage of wealth generated by coffee to be maintained within Guatemala. Coffee is shipped directly to the US, with very short turn-around times between roasting and delivery (often within one week). For more information: https://chicabean.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/ChicaBeanCoffee

article from See also this the Wall "The Street Journal. entitled 10 Best Global Coffee Brands to Buy Online. According to Coffee Pros": https://www.wsj.com/buyside/home/best-glo bal-coffee-01653677405 Chica Bean is listed here as one of the "10 Best".

Tours of the roasting facility with a tasting included are available. (150Q when we visited in March 2023)



Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) – Campesino Committee of the Highlands, Santiago Atitlán

Initially began as a civilian support group for the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) during the height of the armed conflict ("civil war") in 1982 San Martin in Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango. This organization has been in existence since the early 1980s but was outlawed during the conflict and worked "underground" organizing Mayan campesinos. They re-emerged after the conflict and were recognized as a "legitimate" political group working withing Guatemalan civil society.

The original name was the Campesino Committee in Defense of the Highlands. The perception that the CCDA was another armed group led to the arrest, disappearance, assignation, and exile of many of the CCDA directors by the repression of the government against social groups and human rights. For this reason, CCDA changed its name to the Campesino Committee of the Highlands. The CCDA began to work clandestinely until 1988 but was not established legally until 2000 when it became a legitimate legal organization. There are still CCDA members who live outside the country.

The CCDA participates at a regional, departmental, national, and international level in defense of access to land and the agricultural situation, labor rights, human rights, and the Mayan cultural situation. Through their work, several members receive support in regard to land, credit, and educational scholarships, and have the opportunity to participate in various trainings offered by the CCDA and other affiliates.

At the national level, the CCDA forms part of the National Coordination of Campesino Organizations (CNOC). Through this group, campesinos can organize themselves and struggle together to improve their living conditions; that is to say, collaborate for policies which favor rural development and call for a better Guatemala which considers the needs of campesinos and indigenous people.

Today about 800 communities in 20 of Guatemala's 22 provinces belong to the CCDA, but the organization is strongest in the Madre Vieja valley of Sololá.

For more information:

https://www.cafejusticia.ca/partners/campesi no-committee-of-the-highlands-ccda/



The Ability Experience group at ADISA

Programs Providing Support for Women



Corazón de Mujer (Heart of the Women) Weaving Cooperative, Chimaltenango

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Source:

http://www.corazonscarves.com/finecrafts/pc /viewcontent.asp?idpage=3

COPEARTE, Comalapa, Chimaltenango

It is a women weaver's collective that now is part of CEDEPCA's and Self-Development of the People projects (PCUSA). They did a presentation at Corazon de Mujer when the CEDEPCA board was here in Guatemala (February 2023). To watch their story and video, you can click: copearte_corto_febO6.mp4 It is a video with subtitles that we worked for their presentation.



Fraternidad de Presbiterales Mayas, Diagonal 15, 29-63 Zona 3 Quetzaltenango

Fraternity of Mayan Presbyterals is an organization of women in rural areas. It emerged in 1986 with the unification of three Presbyterals: Maya Quiche, Mam and Kakchiquel. It arose from awareness of the triple marginalization women face (for being a woman, for being poor and for being indigenous) which result in a lack of opportunities and a high level of illiteracy. For more than 30 years of legal existence, la Fraternidad has been dedicated to the purpose of working for the comprehensive development of women and their families. La Fraternidad is an organization of Christian women which seeks to promote capacity building in theological, health, family nutrition, environmental and productive activities to improve the quality of life of families. Currently la Fraternidad works directly with 450 women and indirectly supports 2,300 women from three indigenous populations.

For more information: https://www.fraternidadmaya.com/

La Esperanza Community

Is part of Fraternidad de Presbiterales Maya. Their group has work projects that other churches and organizations in the US have supported such as bakery, chocolate making, microloans projects, and they are women that support their homes as most of their husbands flee to the US looking for job opportunities. In this way, a visit to this community also provides a context migration.



WINGS (Women's International Network for Guatemala Solutions), 9a Calle, Poniente No.17, Residenciales El Rosario No. 3, La Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez

WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services to underserved, primarily rural, Guatemalan youth, women, and men. Since 2001, WINGS is a Guatemalan-based non-profit NGO.

"Guatemala faces major health and development challenges, including infant, child, and maternal mortality, malnutrition, poverty, and gender and ethnic inequality. Our programs provide vital health care and education to help families thrive. Our vision is a Guatemala where every person can exercise their reproductive rights to determine his or her future and achieve a healthy society." WINGS currently works in 11 departments; 91% of patients live in rural areas.

For more information: https://www.wingsguate.org/



Peaks&James group at La Esperanza Community