

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Last year was a sabbatical year for me, during which time I completed my High School Waldorf Training and welcomed to the world the newest member of my family, Sandino Joshua. Although I was not at Escuela Caracol, I was still quite involved in the ongoing activities of the school through many emails and Skype calls. At Escuela Caracol, our organization has consisted of three spheres of activity: Teaching, Administration, and Development. During my absence, I was amazed to see how the Teaching and Administrative areas worked almost entirely on their own. This says a lot about the maturity of Escuela Caracol and is evident in the school's many accomplishments. Development, however, was the one area where we struggled. That being said, at the end of the year the Caracol community came together, made difficult but important cutbacks, and launched an impressive campaign that allowed the school to finish 2015 with a balance for 2016. The international community of support around Escuela Caracol played an essential role at that critical moment, and to that community we are tremendously grateful.



The year 2015 was both a year of mature roots taking hold as well as a year of contraction and pruning. Our goal for 2016 is to continue the work of consolidating the school's vital forces and formalizing its financial processes in preparation for continued growth. We hope you will continue to accompany us on that path.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Wilson".

Joshua Wilson

Co-Founder, Pedagogical Director & Director of Development



### Key Accomplishments in 2015

- ⊙ Elevated national, regional, and international visibility including appearances in national periodicals and a television program. Within the Waldorf international community, our teachers attended international conferences in Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland and the XII Latin American Congress of Waldorf Education in Cali, Colombia.
- ⊙ Increased enrolment by 30% since 2014 and graduated the third 6th grade class since inception.
- ⊙ Invested in teacher education through trainings, most notably the Waldorf Teacher Training in the Anthroposophical Development Center in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico.
- ⊙ Continued to engage with the local community through family workshops and key partnerships with organizations like the Konojel Community Center, a local nonprofit that combats chronic malnutrition and endemic poverty in Guatemala.

## A few highlights from 2015



In February, a group of educational professionals visited us as a part of a training driven by Lund University (Sweden) and funded by the Swedish International Cooperation. Part of their training activities included visiting Guatemalan schools to inspect the Rights of the Child. Escuela Caracol was the only school selected nationwide for their visit! [Click here to read more.](#)

In July, four of our teachers attended the XII Latin American Congress of Waldorf Education, which was held in the city of Cali, Colombia. [Click here to read more.](#)



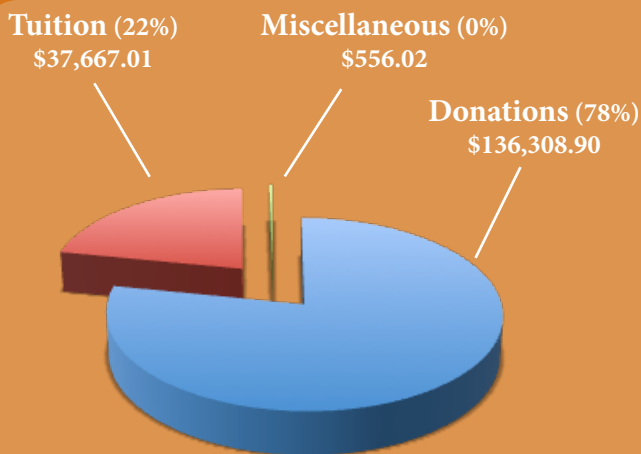
As a part of our Michaelmas celebrations, our primary grades picked up the trash around our town and posted signs encouraging environmental conscienciousness. The kindergarteners passed out food to the elderly in the community. [Click here to read more.](#)

In November, for the first time ever, the teachers of the school helped coordinate a community-wide event to help raise funds for Escuela Caracol. The efforts resulted in roughly \$3,000 in proceeds that went directly toward the school's food program. [Click here to read more.](#)

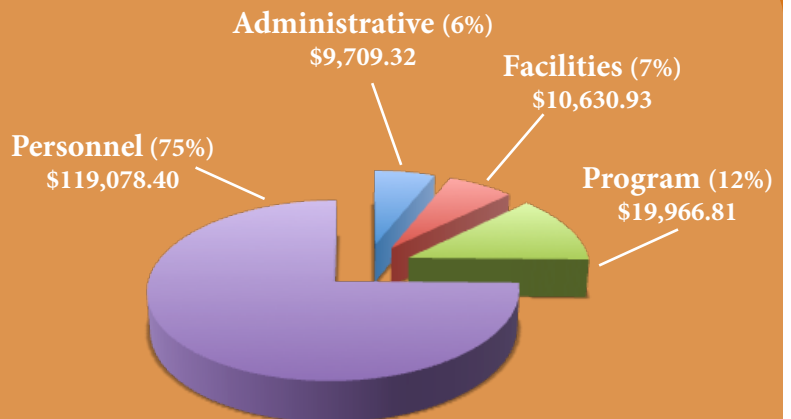


## Combined Financials for Escuela Caracol & Asociacion Caracol 2015

### Operating Income 2015 Total: \$174,531.93



### Operating Expenses 2015 Total: \$159,385.47



Opening Balance 2015: \$15,354.94  
End Balance 2015: \$30,501.40



## THANK YOU to our 2015 donors

### \$5,000 - \$10,000

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Fanny Corrales Villegas  
David Mercer

A special thanks to the Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners e.V. for coordinating the many sponsorships and donations from across Germany and Europe. A special thanks to Atitlan Education Project (AEP) for coordinating many sponsorships and donations across the United States. AEP is a program of United Charitable Programs, a 501(c)3 nonprofit in the United States.

## Praise for Escuela Caracol

“Escuela Caracol is a pioneer in bridging communities. In San Marcos in general there isn’t that much of an integrated working class between foreigners, Guatemalans from the cities, and Mayan Kakchikel. The work the school is doing to help local Mayan teachers get trained, from inside the Mayan community, who then act as role models for local and expat children...it’s like the re-weaving of the web, the *tejido*, I see it as that, because during the war people were really turned against each other. It’s beautiful, it’s really nice.”

- Martha Lynd, Parent and San Marcos community member



## Teacher Profile: Andrea Arrivillaga Hurtado

Andrea has been a teacher at Escuela Caracol for 8 years. As one of the founding members of Escuela Caracol, Andrea was instrumental in helping legalize the school through the Guatemalan Ministry of Education.

Teaching is Andrea's lifelong passion, and she loves incorporating her love for theater into her classes to engage the children in enthusiastic storytelling.

Prior to San Marcos La Laguna, Andrea spent most of her life growing up in Xela. She has since spent time in various parts of Guatemala, as well as a brief scholarship to study Renaissance Art in Italy. She was thrilled to be able to participate in the trainings in Switzerland and Colombia this past year.



[Click here to watch her full interview on our YouTube page!](#)



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