

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2016 was a year of much needed stability for Escuela Caracol. Nearly all staff started the year with at least three years of experience at Caracol, and our student body was strong with an enrollment of over 80 from kindergarten to sixth grade. We welcomed a number of volunteers and visiting mentor teachers, and organized several Waldorf education workshops for teachers and parents from around Guatemala. Administratively, we welcomed our new Administrative Director, Maria Eugenia, who has brought even more stability to our processes and procedures. We also experienced a degree of financial stability. Our expenditures were only 2% over what was budgeted, and the fundraising work was successful, with an annual campaign that surpassed our goal of \$50,000. We also graduated our fourth class of sixth graders, which was a special moment. They were a tight knit group that were best known for playing guitar in their band, Flor de Jocote (Jocote Flower).



As 2016 was a year of stability, our goal for 2017 is incremental growth. Escuela Caracol is separating the primary grades which were previously combined, and the school year already began with enrollment over 90 -- a new school high. We are also being asked by more schools in Guatemala to provide teacher workshops, as our goal of educational renewal is having an effect.

Escuela Caracol's international community of support is critical to this success, and we offer deep thanks to all who collaborate with us in this important work.

JOSHUA WILSON

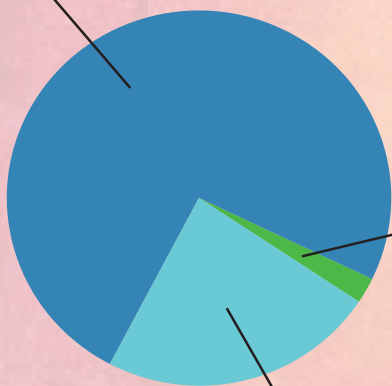
CO-FOUNDER, PEDAGOGICAL DIRECTOR & DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

2016 FINANCIALS: COMBINED FOR ESCUELA CARACOL & ASOCIACIÓN CARACOL

OPERATING INCOME:

\$ 176,784.08

DONATIONS (75%)
\$131,688.93



TUITION (23%)
\$41,488.13

OPERATING EXPENSES:

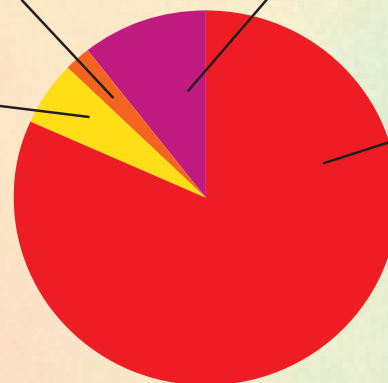
\$ 155,906.04

FACILITIES (2%)
\$3,750.56

PROGRAMS (10%)
\$16,040.73

ADMIN (5%)
\$8,557.06

PERSONNEL (82%)
\$127,557.67



Opening 2016 Balance: \$31,123

Ending 2016 Balance: \$45,883



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

MICHAELMAS: The school led its own day of trash collection to help maintain the beauty of Lake Atitlán. It was a proud moment for the teachers and staff as we watched the primary students take charge and help the younger ones. The kindergarteners gave out food to the *ancianos*, the elders of the San Marcos community, to pay their respects.

JOCOTE FESTIVAL: We hosted our first annual Jocote Festival in honor of the harvest season of the jocote fruit, a local delicacy in the San Marcos La Laguna area. We held flower wreath and kite-making workshops, served fresh food, and enjoyed live music performances! Read more on our blog.

GRADUATION: At our end-of-year celebration, we held a beautiful and emotional graduation for our sixth graders. We celebrated their successes with their families, and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

ENCUENTROS JARDINERAS WALDORF CONFERENCE: Four teachers attended the week-long Waldorf conference and training program in El Salvador. They discussed the spiritual journey of humanity, eurythmia, art, and shared best practices across the Waldorf institutions in Central America.

NAZARIO IGNACIO PORÓN PETZEY, or **NACHO** as he is fondly known at the school, is Escuela Caracol's second grade teacher and the handwork instructor for all of the primary grades. Born and raised in San Pablo La Laguna - a short tuktuk ride from the school - Nacho has been a wonderful presence at the school since 2012. While Nacho is a man of many talents - artistically creative and musically inclined - many do not know about his passion for beekeeping, a hobby his father introduced him to when he was ten years old. Nacho and his wife began cultivating bees themselves six years ago, and now they sell their honey in the tiendas around San Marcos La Laguna and at the school.



Nacho believes that bees exist for more than the cultivation of our food. Beekeeping requires honesty, an appreciation of and warmth for bees, a love. Nacho points out that yellow-- the color of bees-- represents life, culture, and abundance in Mayan cosmology.

Nacho's experience with beekeeping illustrates a less-proclaimed facet of nature: that it listens to humans and responds decisively to our behavior. In many industrialized places, the earth is experienced as a one-way resource we must choose to "use" wisely. Here in San Marcos la Laguna, we are still immersed in a daily interchange with the earth. At Escuela Caracol, Waldorf values and local culture unite in fostering the child's experience within and with the natural world.



Become a **MONTHLY DONOR**

Make a **ONE-TIME DONATION**

Donate to our **WISH LIST**

SHARE INFORMATION about
Escuela Caracol with your networks



\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000

Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiner
Collin Comey Guardian Angel Fund
New Mozart School of Music in California
Alejandro Miron
Patrick & Frances Donovan

\$ 1,000 - \$ 5,000

Amman von Wittenwil Family Foundation
Jerry Hissong
Kristin & Jim DeVoe-Talluto
All Together Foundation (Konojel)
Jan Ramirez
Peter Namuth
San Diego Waldorf School
Hartmut Fischer & Ann Harvey
Ivorybill Foundation
Chicago Waldorf School
Christopher Hutchins
Margaret Taylor
Alaina Stothers
Sykie Toles
Natalie Kelly
Roy & Jane White

UP TO \$ 1,000

Silicon Valley Community / Fenner Foundation
Karen & Gordon Seidenberg
Deepak Chandra
Michael Boucher
Debi Leonard
Stephanie Schmidt
Simon Van Steyn
Daniel Biggerstaff
Ida Danielsson
Betty Staley

Catherine Satterwhite
Barbara Bickford
Amy Hill
Eileen King
Bettina Nawroth
Keith Reagan

Jeannette Milholland
Neah Downs
John Benson
Patricia Sandkamp
Kevin Malone
Zachary Seidenberg
David Mason
Tammy Hertel
Edith McMillan
Mary Richardson
Suzanne McIntosh
Elizabeth Peck
Colleen Donovan

Maria Elena Monteverde-Jackson
Tove Elfstrom
Sandra Levins
Nancy Wu
Jacqueline Develle
Stephanie Bonin
John & Chris Guilbeault
Manda Gillespie & Sadhu Johnston
Margo Seibert
David & Diane Banner
Thomas Brudenell
Mary Flannery
Karin Pogharian
Zita Savage
Julie McCallan
Mary Neumann
Kim Dean

**THANKS TO THE MANY DONORS WHO GIVE THROUGH
FREUNDE DER ERZIEHUNGSKUNST!**

SPECIAL THANKS

Freunde der Erziehungskunst
Rudolf Steiners e.V.
- Germany & Europe -

Atitlan Education Project,
a program under United Charitable
- United States -

(502) 5883 1609
info@escuelacaracol.org
www.escuelacaracol.org

