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GLOBAL LEARNING EXCHANGE INITIATIVE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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We Transform Lives

Who we are

Global Learning Exchange Initiative (GLXi®) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing literacy in Guatemala. We strive to empower elementary school children with the skills they need to read, learn, and succeed. By collaborating with teachers, students, parents, and community stakeholders, we aim to create a brighter future for children, their families, and their communities.

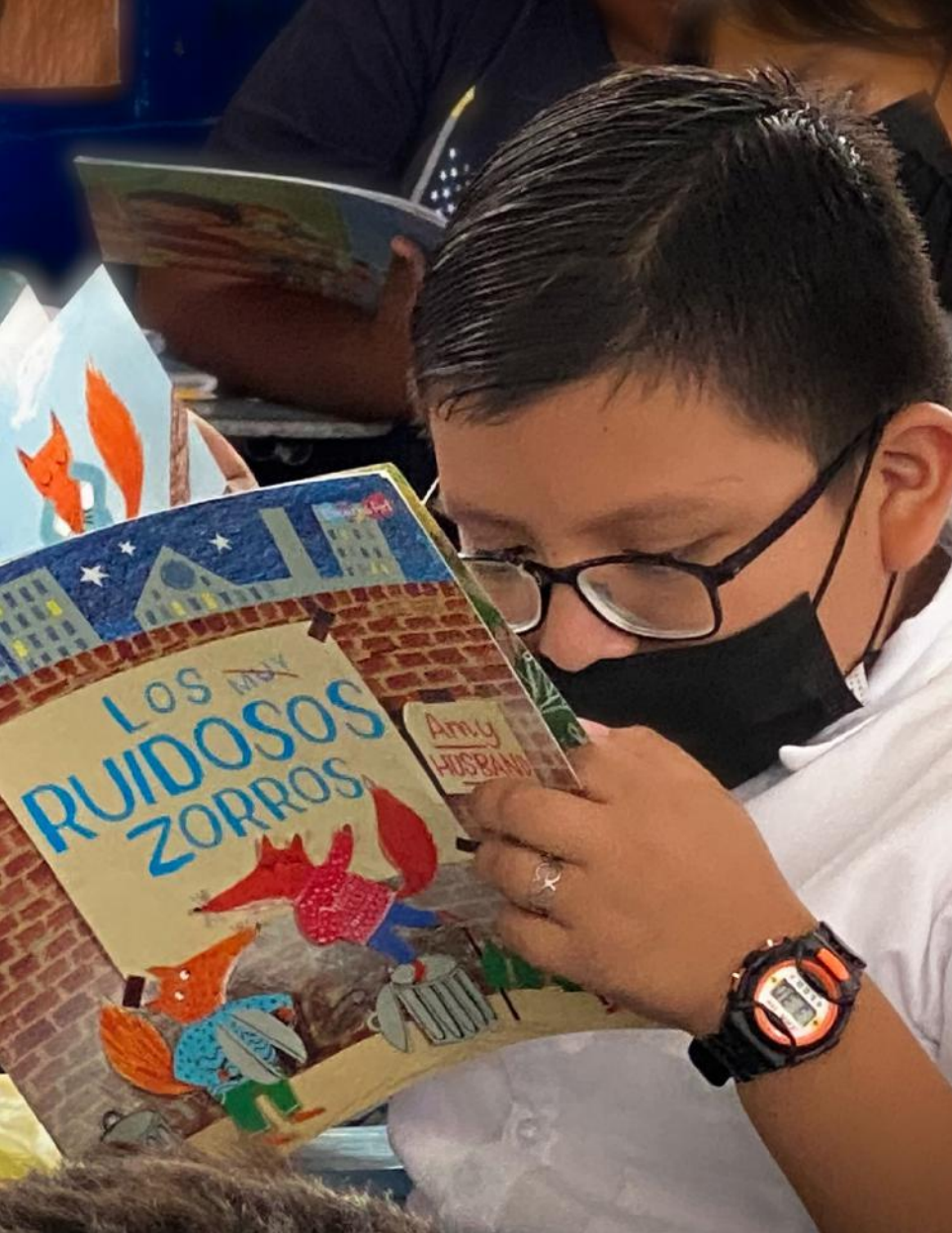
Who We Serve

At Global Learning Exchange Initiative, we serve elementary school children and their teachers in Guatemala using a specially developed literacy curriculum, focusing on those in under-resourced communities. The primary grades have the most influence on a child's future personal development. Primary education teaches children foundational skills that prepare them for life, work, and active citizenship.

Why We Serve

Fundamental to Global Learning Exchange Initiative's mission is the belief that an educated citizenry can better create healthy, productive communities. This kind of improvement can uplift a nation. We believe that populations around the world are born capable and uniquely talented. The crucial missing factor for those individuals who won't succeed and those who will is opportunity. We believe that all people deserve this opportunity regardless of where they are born, and it starts with education.





Mission Statement

To empower elementary school children in Guatemala by providing access to an unparalleled literacy curriculum and professional teacher training that creates new opportunities for the next generation.

Our purpose

is to transform lives and communities through child literacy, one lesson at a time.



Our Values



Committed to a literacy curriculum that **ENGAGES** a child's body and mind



Instilling **PRIDE, DIGNITY** and the **CONFIDENCE** to be **CURIOUS** in our kids



EXPANDING capacity and **EMPOWERING** educators



Building **COLLABORATIVE** and **TRUSTING** teacher partnerships tailored to the local classroom



Dedicated to professional and local **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Our Impact



45

Literacy Book kits were provided to **45** teachers from **24** public schools, benefiting **1,214** students from **9** diverse regions in Guatemala:

Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Jalapa, San Marcos, Mazatenango, Quetzaltenango, Huehuetenango, Baja Verapaz, and Quiché



Digital library including

473

books shared with GLXi teachers and **45** physical libraries with a total of **3960** books.



45

Technology kits were provided to **45** teachers from **20** public schools, benefiting **1,393** students from **4** regions of Guatemala:

Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Jalapa, and San Marcos



54

Teachers completed the GLXi Open Books, Open Minds training program



45

school supplies kits were provided to **45** teachers from **20** public schools, benefiting **1,393** students from **4** regions of Guatemala:

Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Jalapa, and San Marcos



Technology kits include **1** Chromebook, **1** Chromebook charger, **1** HDMI adapter (if needed), **1** projector, **1** remote control, and **1** laser pointer

GLXi Makes it possible for children to learn and move forward

Imagine a world where the circumstances of your birth determine your destiny. That was the reality for Reina and her mother, Rosa, until they encountered Global Learning Exchange Initiative (GLXi), a beacon of hope in their lives.

Seven years ago, we discovered Reina and Rosa living in a humble home constructed from corrugated metal sheets and dirt-packed floors. It is the same place where we met them in May of 2023. Their physical environment remained unchanged, but what had transformed was their spirit. Now a ninth-grader, Reina thrives in school, eager to learn and meet new people. Her dreams span from becoming a veterinarian to pursuing a career in accounting or business administration. Her love for animals fuels her desire for veterinary medicine. As she approaches her 15th birthday, she's on the cusp of a new educational chapter, determined to achieve her dreams.

Reina acknowledges that her journey started with GLXi, which taught her to read and write. Reina benefited from GLXi's exclusive literacy curriculum, "Open Books, Open Minds (OBOM)." Our program works for children like Reina because it is delivered by a dedicated team of trained teachers equipped with essential resources, including books. Thanks to the foundation she received from GLXi, Reina has excelled in school, earning honors the previous year.

**"Thanks to GLXi, children can learn and move forward."
~Reina, a GLXi student**



Rosa, Reina's mother, vividly remembers the years before GLXi entered their lives. Reina used to struggle with her homework, and Rosa felt helpless because she couldn't assist her. Then GLXi introduced them to the world of reading, and Reina never looked back. Reina still treasures the book GLXi gave her, which is a constant reminder of her journey.

Reina and Rosa's story is a testament to the transformative power of education and the hope it can bring. It reminds us that, with the right opportunities, individuals can defy the odds and reach for their dreams.

Books are crucial to education and achieving our mission of providing children in Guatemala with access to literacy. That is why GLXi provides new teachers with ample age-specific books with visually engaging illustrations that bring words to life.



2023 Program Highlights



Creating a Digital Book Library for GLXi Classrooms

GLXi is thrilled to announce a groundbreaking pilot project aimed at enhancing the educational experience for children in Guatemala. Led by an exceptional team, this initiative leverages the expertise of Matt Pitlyk, Senior Machine Learning Engineer at MedChat, and Jazmin Campos, Digital Experience Designer at 1904Labs. The project's inspiration came from Sean Walsh, former GLXi Board member and co-founder of 1904Labs in St. Louis, whose vision and commitment to education and technology laid the foundation for this effort.

The Team Behind the Innovation

This project is driven by the collaboration of Matt Pitlyk and Jazmin Campos, who bring extensive experience in machine learning and digital design, respectively. Their work with our GLXi Educational Team in Guatemala is key to the project's success.

Leadership and Vision

Our Guatemalan GLXi team, led by Jaime Vielman (Executive Director), Dr. Juan Fernando Porres (Director of Education), and Andrea Tumax (Impact Coordinator), plays a crucial role in developing the digital library. Their expertise ensures that the content addresses diverse learning needs and promotes inclusivity. Books will feature characters with various disabilities, fostering empathy and normalization among young readers.

Importance of Culturally Relevant Books

Culturally relevant books are essential for Guatemalan students to see their lives and experiences reflected in their learning materials. Currently, there are few books that truly represent Guatemalan culture, leading to a disconnect for

students. By incorporating culturally relevant themes and characters, we aim to make reading more relatable and engaging. Additionally, producing these digital books is cost-effective, allowing GLXi to expand the program without significant financial burden, ensuring broader access to high-quality educational resources.

Empowering Education Through Technology

Leveraging AI and innovative digital design, this project enriches our OBOM curriculum and sets a new standard for educational content in Guatemala. Each digital book includes teacher resources to enhance vocabulary and critical thinking skills in an interactive learning environment. These free resources ensure equitable access to quality education for all children. Book themes range from social development and communication skills to environmental awareness and cultural heritage, tailored to different age groups.

Conclusion

This pilot project marks a significant step forward in our mission to provide high-quality, culturally relevant, and inclusive education to children in Guatemala. Through the combined efforts of our team and partners, we are confident this digital library will have a lasting impact on Guatemala's educational landscape. Join us in this transformative journey to bridge educational gaps and inspire a love of learning in the next generation.

To support this initiative or learn more about how you can get involved, please visit our website at www.glxi.org.

A Pilot Project for Adding Pre-Primary

While preschool and kindergarten education is fairly ubiquitous in the United States, that is not true in Guatemala. Many Guatemalan students enter first grade without prior educational experience, forcing first-grade teachers to contend with diverse abilities while following a common lesson plan.

We've long heard from our participating teachers what a challenge this is. Student assessments have shown that it hurts student performance, so we wanted to see if our program could help.

We started our Open Books, Open Minds program ten years ago, focusing on grades one through three. But in 2023, after listening to teachers, we responded with an ambitious pilot program that will also bring our curriculum to pre-primary teachers.

We are incredibly excited about this initiative.

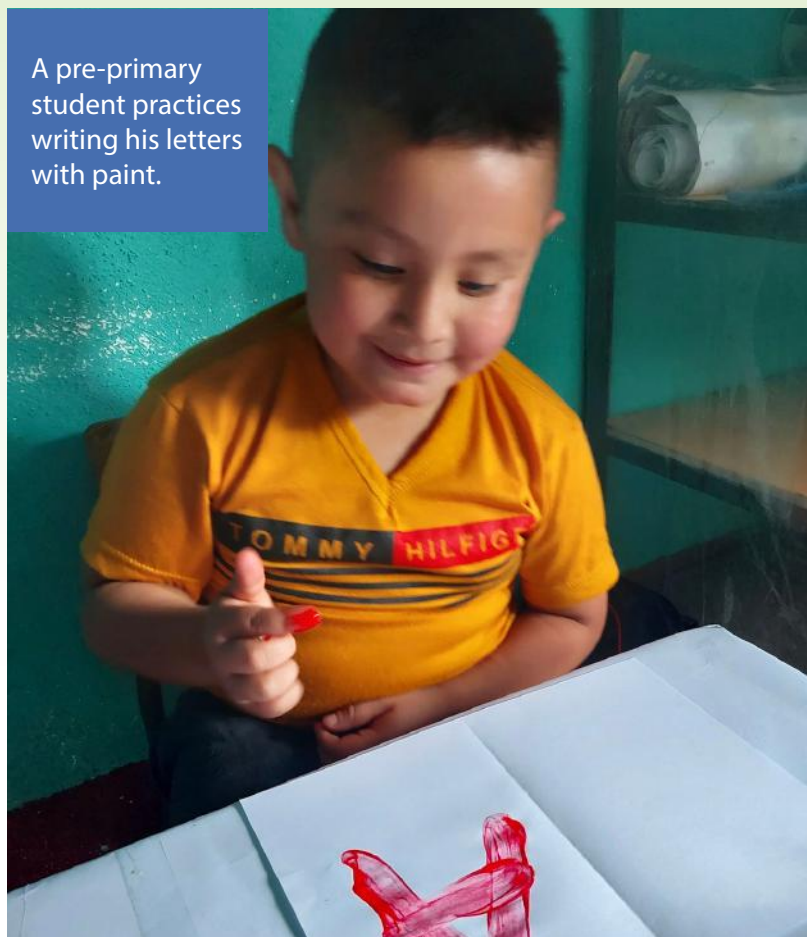
Why Pre-Primary? According to UNICEF, "Universal preschool education is a global priority because it:

- establishes strong foundations for learning,
- increases the effectiveness and efficiency of education systems, and
- is an effective strategy for promoting economic growth."

In Guatemala, fostering improved readiness among children for their educational journey is crucial. This is particularly true when you consider the social and economic circumstances that are prevalent in most of the Guatemalan population, where children already have the deck stacked against them as far as the tools and resources needed for quality education.

We believe the educational preparations leading up to first grade are highly beneficial—and, in fact, pivotal—in cultivating skills and nurturing children's learning potential.

A pre-primary student practices writing his letters with paint.



This pilot program puts that theory into practice, creating a continuum of early educational opportunities to benefit students and teachers alike.

We plan to make the program's expansion permanent, building upon GLXi's proven successes and bringing literacy tools to even more teachers and students in Guatemala.

Seven preschool teachers from public schools underwent training in three regions: three in Guatemala City, three in Sacatepéquez, and one from Baja Verapaz. They all completed the training program and demonstrated efficient and active performance in implementing the strategies learned in their classes.

Assessment results are even better than we could have predicted!

In 2023, for the first time since the pandemic, students returned to classrooms full time and we were able to administer student assessments at the beginning and end of the year. This gave us a comprehensive read of student progress and an understanding of how GLXi's curriculum is helping classrooms recover from the multi-faceted blows of the pandemic.

Every year, we administer the IDEL test ("Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura") to get a quantitative measure of how GLXi students are doing with their reading and learning. This research-based formative assessment includes a series of measures designed to assess the basic early literacy skills of children learning to read in Spanish.

The 2023 assessments showed that GLXi's OBOM curriculum makes a measurable difference in the classroom.

Here are just a few highlights:

- The percentage of GLXi students performing at their expected grade level exceeded our goal for the year.
- GLXi students significantly outperformed control groups of students who were not following the OBOM curriculum.
- GLXi students showed noteworthy gains in their reading levels over the year, proving that we are making a difference in responding to the after-effects of the pandemic.

These fantastic results show the effectiveness of the GLXi education team in addressing learning issues identified by the teachers, the quality of our training, and the dedication of the teachers to help their students.

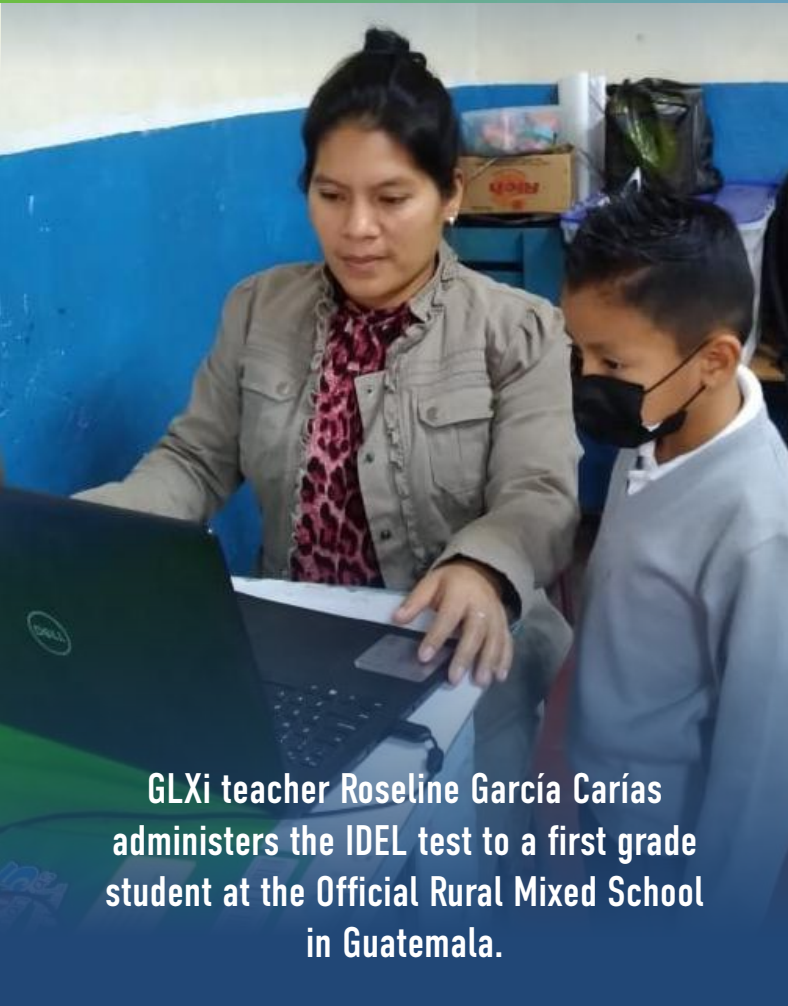
For details describing the results, go to:

<https://glxi.org/program-performance-metrics>

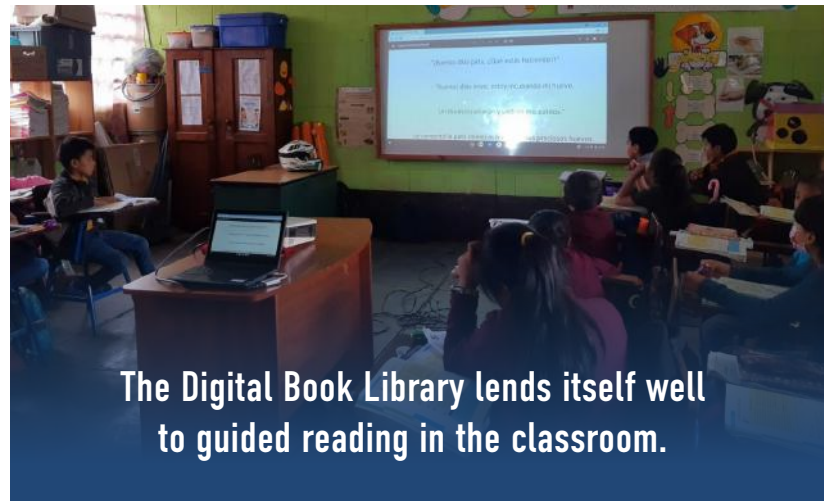


GLXi teacher Ana María del Rosario Castillo Carías administers the IDEL test to a second grader at the Official Urban Mixed School "Colonia 1 del Mayo School" in Guatemala.

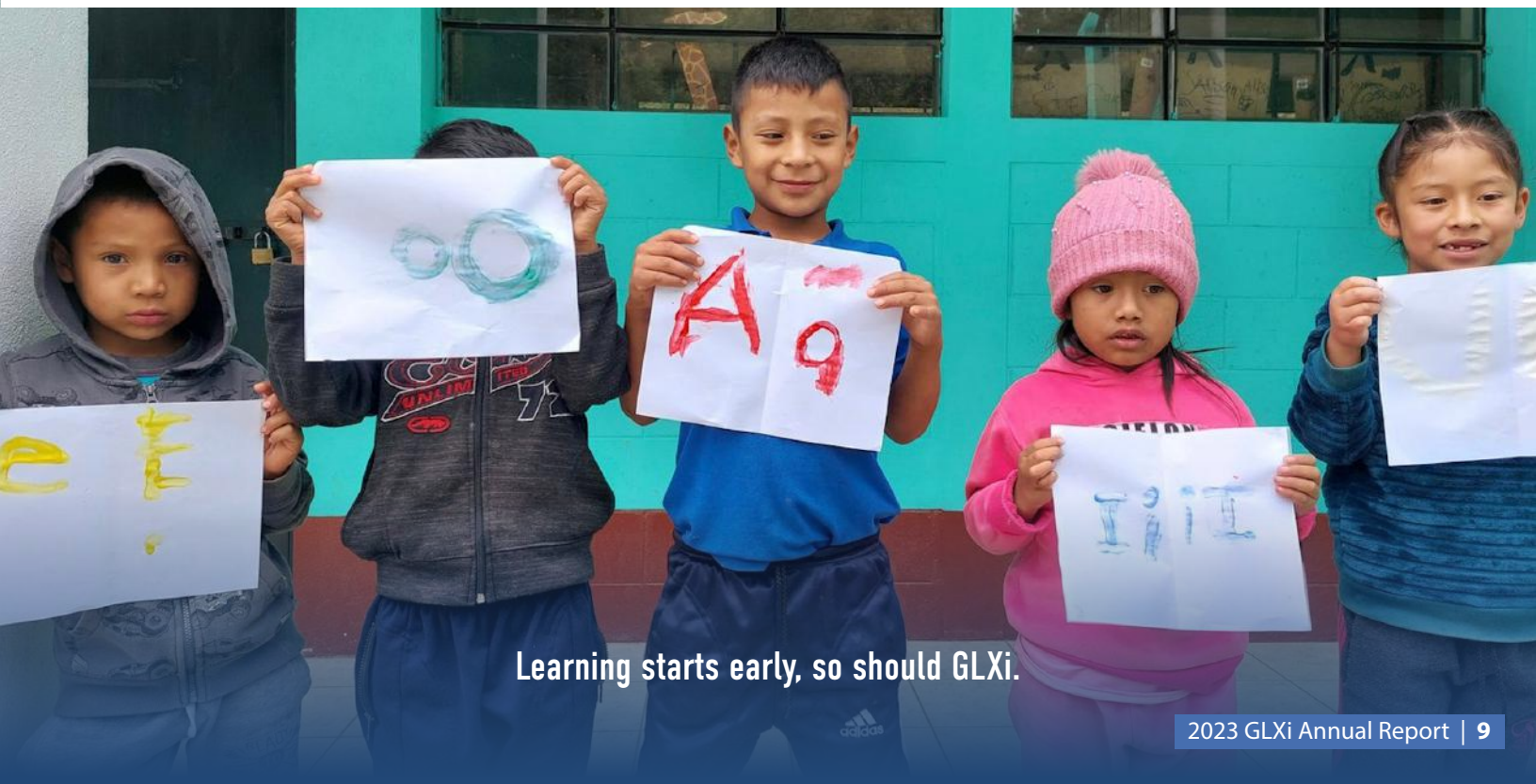
“One child, one book, one pen can change the world.”
~Malala Yousafzai



GLXi teacher Roseline García Carías administers the IDEL test to a first grade student at the Official Rural Mixed School in Guatemala.



The Digital Book Library lends itself well to guided reading in the classroom.



Learning starts early, so should GLXi.

Financials

Our Financials 2023

REVENUES

\$293,904

EXPENSES

\$267,137

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR

\$81,888

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$26,767

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

\$108,655

Strategic Initiatives for

Enhanced Revenue

Our financials show continued growth. Moving forward, we are committed to expanding our revenue streams through innovative fundraising strategies, strategic partnerships, and exploring new grant opportunities. We believe that by continually adapting and leveraging our strengths, we can secure a stable and prosperous future for our organization and those we serve.

Board of Directors & Staff

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Executive Director - Guatemala

Juan Fernando Porres, PhD
Director of Education - Guatemala

Andrea Tumax
Impact Coordinator - Guatemala

NGO Status

A milestone – achieving NGO Status

In 2023, GLXi reached a significant milestone by becoming a recognized nonprofit in Guatemala. This new status enables us to secure more funding, build meaningful partnerships, and provide essential benefits like healthcare to our Guatemalan employees through the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS), enhancing their well-being and stability.

Our leadership team in Guatemala, including Executive Director Jaime Vielman, Director of Education Dr. Juan Fernando Porres, and Impact Coordinator Andrea Tumax, ensures that our programs are deeply rooted in the community and effectively address local needs. By gaining nonprofit status in Guatemala, we have reinforced our commitment to our local team, providing them with access to national healthcare services, including medical consultations, hospital care, maternity services, and workplace injury care through the IGSS. Their collaboration with our US Executive Director Ana Schulz exemplifies our commitment to sustainable, community-driven growth.



Being a nonprofit in both the U.S. and Guatemala allows us to tackle educational challenges with greater flexibility and legitimacy. It opens new opportunities for funding and partnerships, helping us make a lasting impact. Additionally, it demonstrates to our teachers, students, and school communities that we are dedicated to their long-term success and well-being.

We are now working to obtain official accreditation from the Ministry of Education for our “Open Books, Open Minds” training program, monthly teacher workshops, and the pre-primary model. Previously, we couldn’t apply for this accreditation, even though we were active in the public school system. Accreditation will improve our programs, benefiting both students and teachers through recognized professional development and fostering closer collaboration with local schools.

We are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support over the years. Your contributions have been crucial in achieving these milestones. Together, we can continue to create a brighter future for the children of Guatemala, making a real difference in education and empowering the next generation of leaders.

On behalf of all of us at GLXi, we remain sincerely grateful,

Ana G. Schulz
Executive Director- United States

Jaime Vielman
Executive Director- Guatemala



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