Standing Strong in Uncertain Times

Horizons' Executive Director Rodrigo Konigs and youth leader Marco Perez discuss our partner DESMI's community-led efforts to preserve ancestral crops and promote ecological farming.

Humanity is going through a challenging time, as respect for human dignity and compassion are threatened worldwide. In the United States, we witnessed the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) while many wealthy countries reduced international development contributions. The consequences are devastating.

Our partners report that these cuts have intensified challenges, leaving communities on their own against climate change, sexual and domestic violence, armed conflicts, and economic instability.

In this context, it is essential that Horizons of Friendship remains present. Your steadfast support is allowing us to carry forward the vision of our founders, Father Tim Coughlan, David Stewart, and Christine Stewart, and stay true to our commitment to social justice and community development.

This past year, despite the global retreat of aid, we expanded our presence in the South. In Honduras, we began supporting young women through education with the Reyes Irene Valenzuela School, returning to where Horizons began over 50 years ago.

In Costa Rica, our new partnership with CEPIA (Culture, Education and Psychology for Children and Adolescents) will provide free legal counsel for vulnerable people facing human trafficking, sexual violence, and crime, mostly Nicaraguan refugees and economic migrants.

In Mexico, we partnered with IMDEC (the Mexican Institute for Community Development) to support activists defending natural resources. Just as our partner DESMI safeguards Indigenous seeds and agricultural practices, IMDEC will safeguard water, emphasizing urgent cleanup, restoration, and sustainable management of vital water sources.

A defining strength of Horizons is our partnership approach. We do not dictate priorities or impose agendas. We listen, learn from our partners, and prioritize locally identified solutions.

I am proud of our accomplishments. While others have decided to reduce their funding globally, we have increased our reach. Need remains high, but your unwavering commitment brings hope to Mesoamerica. Thank you for your loyalty.

Rodrigo Konigs, Executive Director
Horizons of Friendship

Our Work in 2025/26

Leading Change from Within

Over the past year, Horizons of Friendship has deepened existing partnerships and forged new ones across Mexico and Central America, letting local partners prioritize the issues they care about most. Our shared commitment to dismantling systemic barriers guided our collective focus: protecting traditional agriculture and vital water sources against industrial threats, defending Indigenous rights, and supporting survivors of gender-based violence. By supplying the critical resources for education, tools, and self-advocacy, we continue to fuel our partners' fight to secure their land, health, and fundamental rights.

Project Highlights

Across Central America and Mexico, Horizons of Friendship is currently driving change through 10 active projects. The following offers a snapshot of the essential work achieved with our partners.

MEXICO

- DESMI supported Teopisca communities resisting infrastructure threats and trained 282 community members in agroecology
- IMDEC (new partner) conducted 150+ water tests across four municipalities to demand pollution-related health alerts.

GUATEMALA & EL SALVADOR

- Safe Haven engaged 1,049 young survivors of sexual violence in health and entrepreneurship workshops.
- Utz K'aslemal launched with Global Affairs Canada: 30 young women have completed sexual health training and comadronas have begun monthly development meetings.
- Los Angelitos provided independent living training to 55 youth with disabilities.
- ACUDESBAL trained 185 community members in rescue and evacuation techniques to respond to climate-related natural disasters.

PANAMA , HONDURAS & COSTA RICA

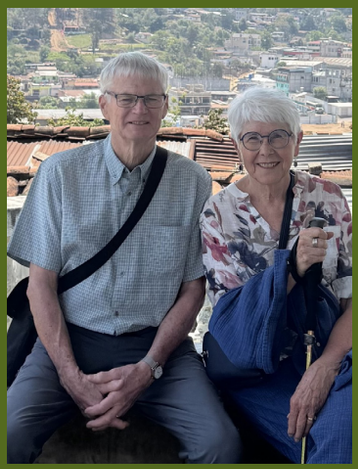
- ACUN preserved Ngäbe Buglé language/culture and launched women-led egg production in five communities.
- Reyes Irene Valenzuela School for Girls (new partner) hosted 60 parents for violence prevention workshops.
- CEPIA (new partner) delivered 43 legal counselling sessions to refugees and survivors of trafficking

ONTARIO

- In partnership with Horizons, Northumberland Community Legal Centre educated 153 migrant workers on labour laws and entitlements.

Natalia Santos Borochón

From the Esperanza community, Natalia Santos Borochón is a traditional midwife in Guatemala participating in our Utz K'aslemal project. "I believe becoming a traditional midwife is a gift from God," says Natalia. "You never stop learning. Sometimes you forget things, but PIES de Occidente is always there to support us. The training we receive is wonderful, and it gives us the knowledge and confidence to better serve our communities."



Lyle and Sharon Vanclief

"Visiting the projects firsthand confirmed just how vital our support is to local families," says Sharon Vanclief, who joined the 2026 Guatemala tour with her husband, Lyle. "While the entire trip was remarkable, the highlight was connecting with the dedicated local teams and fellow participants. It was invaluable to witness exactly how our contributions are used on the ground. Seeing the work of the charitable organization we trust made the experience truly meaningful."

Our partners are dedicated to the fight against poverty and inequality across Central America and Mexico.

84,447

men, women, youth and children DIRECTLY benefited from Horizons' work.

736,258

men, women, youth and children INDIRECTLY benefited from Horizons' work.

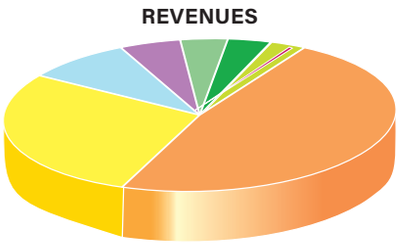
Briceida is part of a women-led collective in Panama, raising hens to increase nutrition and community economies..

Diego Gómez Pérez is a senior council member, ancestral doctor, and participant in DESMI's Guardian of the Seeds Assembly, a yearly gathering designed to safeguard Indigenous agricultural practices in Chiapas, Mexico. "My heart is happy; it is in bloom as I love to see people of different backgrounds gathered to safeguard our ancestral knowledge," says Diego.

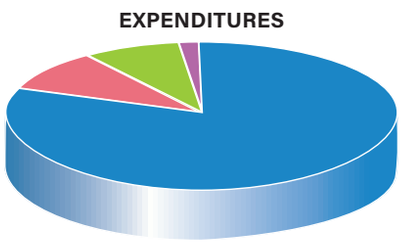
"My hope is that we see more people join the Assembly to learn about protecting our land and Indigenous traditions."

Alicia Cordova Lopez is an activist, community leader, and riverside resident in Mexico fighting against a megaproject impacting Lake Chapala. "Given what lies ahead for our lake, IMDEC's support is vital. They are accompanying us, advising us, training us, and guiding us through all kinds of processes, from filing complaints and communicating to engaging with authorities and connecting with other communities, all with the goal of restoring our lake. The lake belongs to all Mexicans."

Horizons of Friendship Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2026



REVENUES	$	%
Federal Funding (Global Affairs Canada)	917,608	47.48
Foundations	546,959	28.30
Investment & Miscellaneous Income	165,497	8.56
General Donations	94,572	4.89
Endowment Capital Funds	74,416	3.85
Monthly Donations	72,353	3.74
Thrift Shop	54,590	2.82
Provincial Funding	6,872	.36
Total	1,932,866	
EXPENDITURES		
Program	1,560,167	80.72
Administration	182,225	9.42
Operating	156,683	8.11
Thrift Shop	33,791	1.75
Total	1,932,866	



Note: The source for the figures are from the unaudited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2026. Copies of the full audited statements are available at www.horizons.ca.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Horizons of Friendship gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

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Ralph Bruce

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$5,000- $9,999
Rebecca Spaulding
Kevin and Nancy Whaley

The "OC" Circle (The Community Champions)
$2,500-$4,999
Willam and Karen Barnett
Norm Bolen
James Clarke
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Anne Wright Gedcke
Monica Ishihara
Audrey Kenny

The "Chicchan" Circle (Rainmakers)
$1,000-$2,499
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David Sutherland
Edmond Vanhaverbeke
Marie Warner

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Many thanks to the 169 donors who have made a monthly commitment to Horizons of Friendship. Monthly donations provide us with reliable, sustainable funds to help us plan projects effectively.

We would also like to acknowledge the 255 individual donations made this year.

In Loving Memory: **Ralph Bruce**

We are deeply grateful for the life of Ralph Bruce of Val-d'Or, Québec, whose generous bequest to Horizons of Friendship will help continue the work he believed in for years to come. Ralph started donating to Horizons in 1991. His incredible legacy is a lasting reminder that friendship, compassion, and commitment can create meaningful change beyond a lifetime.

Leaving a gift in your Will can help sustain Horizons of Friendship's work and partnerships for future generations. To learn more about how you can leave a legacy gift, please contact: Erin Williams, Donor Relations Manager, 905-372-5483 ext. 22; ewilliams@horizons.ca

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