



Fiscal Year 2025

Annual Report

*Our First Year: Books, Community,
and Growing Together*



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Cover Illustration: *Photograph of commissioned mural on outer wall of La Casita de los Libros in Chichicastenango, Guatemala*

Message from our Founder

Dear Friends,

When I first traveled to Guatemala, I was moved by the resilience of the people I met — and by the barriers so many young people face in pursuing an education. That experience planted a seed. Today, it has grown into Empowered Guatemala: a community of supporters united by the belief that education creates opportunity and that every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential.

Our first year exceeded our hopes. Through scholarships, English-language instruction, mentorship, and the programs of La Casita de los Libros, we invested in the dreams of young people in and around Chichicastenango. We celebrated students advancing to new grade levels, entering university, gaining English fluency, and building skills to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

We've also learned that small investments create lasting change. A scholarship provides more than tuition — it provides hope. A book sparks more than knowledge — it sparks curiosity. An English lesson opens more than language skills — it opens doors.

None of this is possible without you. To our donors, volunteers, board members, and community partners: thank you. And to our local staff and leaders in Guatemala — whose dedication keeps our programs rooted in the real needs of the communities we serve — your commitment inspires us every day.

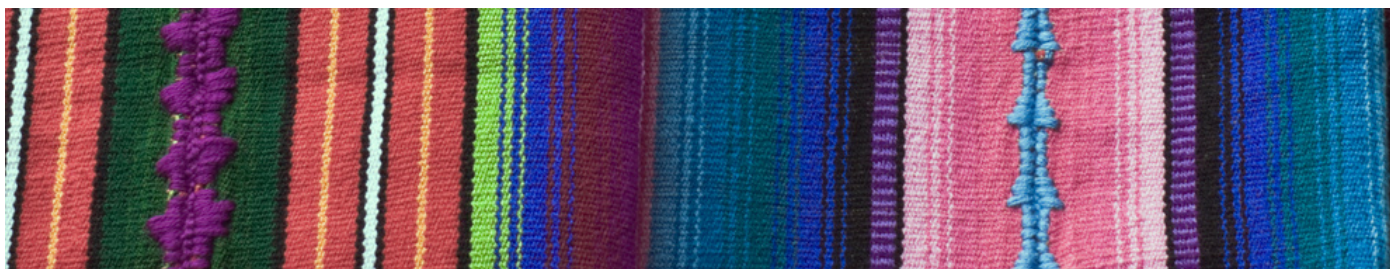
As we look ahead, we remain focused on expanding access to education, strengthening our library and literacy programs, and supporting students on their journeys. Thank you for standing alongside the students and families we serve. Together, we are helping build a future full of possibility.

With gratitude,



Patti Stewart-Garbrecht
Founder and President
Empowered Guatemala





Our Mission

Empowered Guatemala is a nonprofit organization **empowering the young people of Guatemala through education, scholarships, and mentorship** — helping them reach their full potential and create a lasting impact in their communities.



Our Commitment

We support projects that enhance the desire and ability to learn while providing the financial resources necessary to turn educational aspirations into reality. By investing in education, we invest in a future where young Guatemalans can create opportunities for themselves and their communities.

Our purpose is not only to provide educational support, but also to foster curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning. Through partnerships with local volunteers, educators, families, and supporters, we are working to create opportunities that empower individuals and strengthen communities.



Current and Upcoming Programs Supported by Empowered Guatemala

- La Casita de los Libros Community Library
- Monthly educational activities
- Clubs (e.g., GO club, public speaking/storytelling)
- Homework support groups
- English Learning
- Student scholarships - New for 2026
- STEM education - New for 2026

Why Educational Opportunity Matters in Guatemala

For many young people in Guatemala, education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Yet significant barriers prevent students — particularly those in rural and Indigenous communities — from reaching their full potential. While most children begin primary school, only a small percentage continue to university, limiting their access to higher-paying careers and economic mobility.¹

Without education and job-ready skills, many young adults enter a labor market dominated by informal employment. Approximately 68% of Guatemalan workers are employed in the informal sector, where wages are low, jobs are unstable, and opportunities for advancement are limited.²

Education changes this trajectory. Access to scholarships, tutoring, English-language instruction, and learning resources equips young people with the skills needed to pursue higher education, secure stable employment, and become leaders in their communities. By investing in education today, we help create pathways to opportunity, self-sufficiency, and lasting change for future generations.



- For every 100,000 children who start primary school, only about 12,000 eventually reach university.¹
- Guatemala's monthly minimum wage is approximately 4,000 quetzales (about US \$500), while many informal workers earn substantially less.³

1. Observatorio de Educación, Universidad Rafael Landívar. *El embudo educativo y la desigualdad para el acceso a la educación superior en la juventud* (2025). (<https://odep.url.edu.gt/investigaciones/monitoreo-de-coyuntura/2025/11/el-embudo-educativo-y-la-desigualdad-para-el-acceso-a-la-educacion-superior-en-la-juventud/>)

2. World Bank – *Guatemala Overview* (https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guatemala/overview?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

3. Trading Economics. Guatemala Minimum Wages. Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/guatemala/minimum-wages>

From Vision to Reality

Empowered Guatemala was founded with a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves access to educational opportunities that help them reach their full potential.

We started operations in January of 2025 and received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in March of 2025 in the United States. Just six months later, in September 2025, we opened La Casita de los Libros — a community library and learning center in Chichicastenango designed to support children, youth, and families.

That original vision grew beyond what we imagined. Today, La Casita serves as a hub for learning and community engagement, offering book lending, tutoring, story times, English classes, educational activities, and access to resources that encourage lifelong learning.

As we grow, we hold fast to what brought us here: expanding access to education and ensuring every learner — regardless of their circumstances — feels welcomed, supported, and inspired

"Me gusta la biblioteca porque mi bebé aprende y desarrolla su hábito por la lectura. Me gusta venir porque pasamos tiempo juntas."

"I love the library because my daughter is learning and developing a love of reading. I also love coming because we get to spend time together."

— Karly Patricia, mother



Open Doors, Open Futures

At the heart of our work are the children, youth, and families of Chichicastenango — a vibrant highland community where educational resources have historically been limited. Through La Casita de los Libros, we meet learners where they are and give them the tools to go further.

Our doors are open to all ages: young children discovering books at story time, students getting homework help, teenagers building confidence through English classes, and parents seeking resources to support their children. Whatever stage of the learning journey, there is a place at La Casita.

In 2025, we launched our scholarship program that awarded 2026 scholarships for 18 students from surrounding communities — helping them pursue secondary school, vocational training, or higher education that might otherwise have been out of reach.

Every learner we support carries that investment forward — not just for themselves, but for their families and their community.



"Me encanta la mesita, los libros porque aprendo a leer."
"I love the little table and the books because I'm learning to read."
— Máriann Renneé, age 2

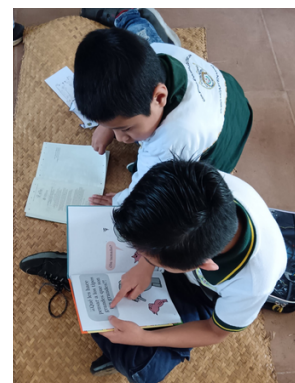


La Casita de los Libros: Where learning, creativity and community come together

For many Guatemalan children and families, access to books, educational resources, and quiet study spaces can be limited. La Casita provides a place where students can read, complete homework, receive tutoring, participate in educational activities, and discover new interests in a supportive environment.

Since opening its doors in September 2025, La Casita has become a gathering place for learners of all ages. Through books, classes, story times, and community events, it helps foster a love of learning while creating opportunities for personal growth and connection.

We believe that access to education extends beyond the classroom. By providing resources, encouragement, and a safe place to learn, La Casita de los Libros is helping empower the next generation of students and strengthening the community one reader at a time.



“Nuestras cosas favoritas de la biblioteca son los cuentacuentos, las manualidades, los legos y los talleres de pintura.”

“Our favorite things about the library are the storytimes, the crafts, the Legos, and the painting workshops.”

–Diana and Linda, sisters ages 10 and 8

The Heart of La Casita de los Libros:

Señora Zila Ordoñez

Some people don't just fill a role — they embody it. Señora Zila Ordoñez is one of those people.

Born and raised in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, Zila brings something no job posting could ever require: a deep, lived understanding of the community she serves. As a trained teacher and passionate advocate for children, she was a natural fit for La Casita de los Libros from the very beginning — not just because of her credentials, but because of her heart.

From the earliest days of building out the library through its daily operations, Zila has poured herself into making this space everything it was meant to be. She understands the beliefs, customs, and rhythms of her community, and that knowledge shapes every program, every welcome, and every book placed in a child's hands.

When she's not at the library, Zila is a devoted mother to Tomás, an avid reader, a gifted cook, and a gardener who coaxes beautiful flowers and plants from the earth — a quiet reflection of the very work she does every day, nurturing things to bloom.

We are deeply honored to have Zila as a colleague, a community representative, and a friend. La Casita de los Libros wouldn't be what it is without her.



Programs and Impact in 2025

In September 2025, Empowered Guatemala proudly opened La Casita de los Libros, creating a welcoming space where children, youth, and families can access books, educational resources, and learning opportunities. During our first four months of operation, we welcomed 321 visitors and began building a community centered around learning, curiosity, and personal growth.



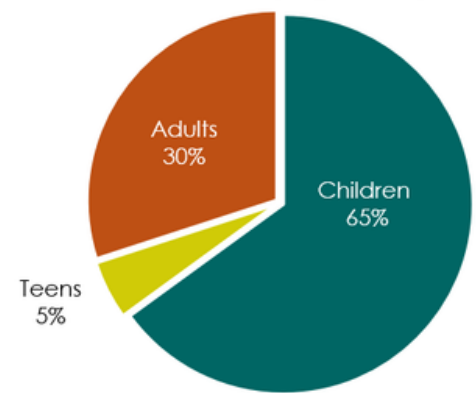
Lending Library

The lending library collection centers on children's titles, with a growing selection for adults so that parents and caregivers can discover the joy of reading alongside their children.

Borrowing books is earned, not assumed. Visitors become eligible to check out books after regularly participating in library activities — a practice that builds relationships with families and nurtures a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Families also shape the collection itself. Through a suggestion box, community members can request topics they want to explore, ensuring our shelves reflect the curiosity and needs of the people we serve.

Visitors By Age Group



During our first four months of library operation:

- Collection grew to 801 books
- Welcomed 321 visitors, including 206 children, 17 teens, and 98 adults.
- A total of 130 books were borrowed

Programs and Impact in 2025 (Cont.)

English Learning Classes

In 2025, La Casita began offering English classes for adults interested in developing new skills and expanding future opportunities.

Learning English can open doors to employment, education, and communication in an increasingly connected world. We look forward to continuing to grow this program and helping more community members achieve their personal and professional goals.

Key Achievements:

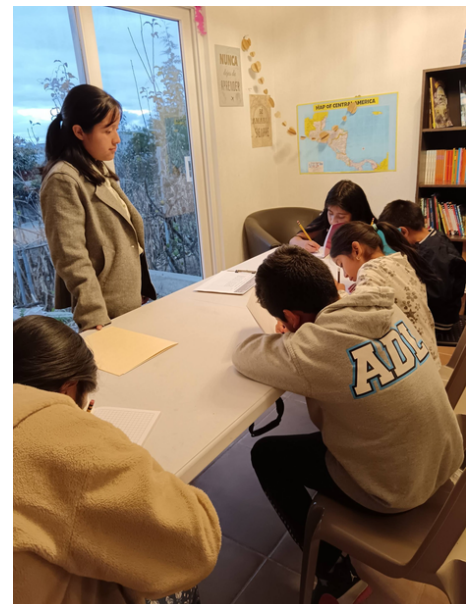
- 2 instructors hired
- 12 adult students enrolled and actively participating in classes

Study Support

One of the original visions for La Casita de los Libros was to create a safe and welcoming place where students could study, read, and receive academic support outside of school hours.

During 2025, we invited local schools to visit the library and learn about the resources available to students and families. These visits helped introduce children to the library and reinforce that La Casita is a place where learning is encouraged and supported.

While a formal tutoring program would not begin until 2026, laying this foundation was an important first step toward creating a community learning center where students can thrive.



Math Tutor, Melany, leading a group of primary and middle school students through math exercises.

Programs and Impact in 2025 (Cont.)

Community Events & Story Time

La Casita de los Libros is more than a library — it is a gathering place for learning and creativity.

Throughout 2025, we hosted monthly community events and story times that encouraged children and families to explore new ideas, develop creativity, and build a love of reading.

Activities included read-aloud story sessions, painting workshops, holiday celebrations, movie viewings, storytelling events, and hands-on crafts.

Activities hosted Sept.-Dec. 2025:

- 5 community events
- 7 story time sessions

The number of activities already more than doubled in the first half of 2026!



Programs and Impact in 2025 (Cont.)

Scholarships

Education remains at the core of our mission. In 2025, Empowered Guatemala awarded 18 student scholarships for the 2026 school year to help them pursue their educational goals and continue their studies.

While most scholarship recipients are from Chichicastenango, the program also serves students from neighboring communities, including San Lucas Tolimán, Quetzaltenango (Xela), and Sololá.

Our 2026 scholarship recipients include:

- 4 Primaria (primary school) students
- 7 Básico (middle school) students
- 3 Diversificado (high school) students
- 4 University students

Through scholarship support, we help reduce barriers to education and invest in the next generation of leaders, professionals, and community members.

Typical Annual Tuition Costs (USD)

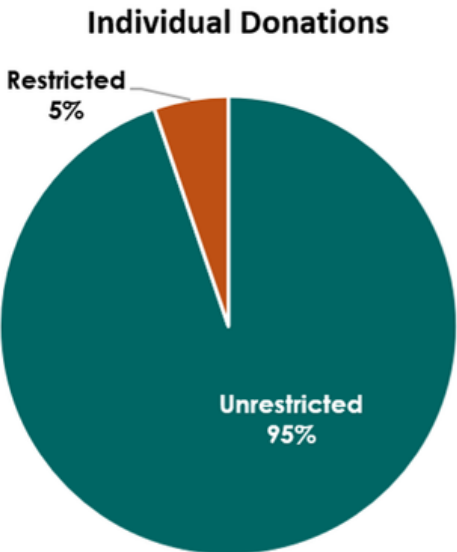
- Primaria (primary school) \$240
- Básico (middle school) students \$600-1379
- Diversificado (high school) students \$900
- University students \$1300



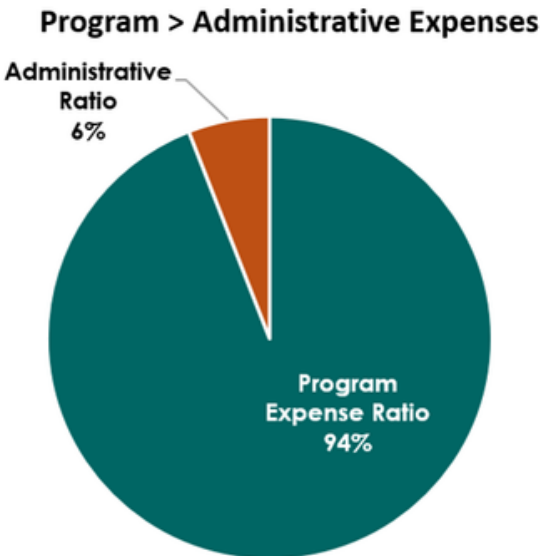
2025 Financial Snapshot

Empowered Guatemala is committed to transparency and responsible stewardship of every donation entrusted to our mission. Here are the key financial metrics for 2025. Full financial reports are included in the report **Appendices 1-4 (pp. 19-22)**.

REVENUE SOURCE	AMOUNT
Donations	\$15,818.15
In-Kind Donations	\$4,801.81
Fundraising Events	\$10,779.37
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,399.34



EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Library (Operations, Books, Supplies, Activities & Events)	\$7,950.88
English Classes	\$919.19
Fundraising	\$267.27
Administrative & Operating Expenses	\$290.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,427.34



- First year start up costs offset by in-kind donations.
- Volunteer board (unpaid, self-financed travel).

Building on What We've Started

The work of 2025 laid a foundation — a library where children come to read, learn, and belong. As we look ahead, we are building on that foundation with intention.

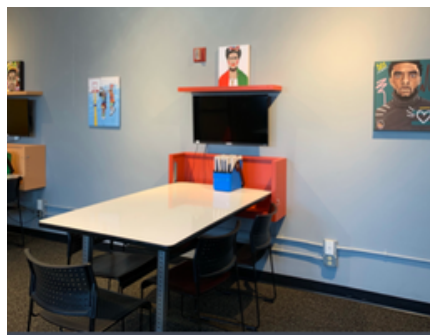
In 2026, La Casita de los Libros will introduce new programs designed to deepen and broaden our impact. Funded by a newly awarded grant, a STEM activity series will bring hands-on science and math exploration to students who have few opportunities for this kind of learning outside of school. Our Library of Things will make tools, games, and educational materials available to borrow — expanding what a library can offer to the whole community. We will also grow our tutoring programs to reach more students who need individualized academic support.

To make this growth possible, 2026 will be an important year for fundraising. We are actively seeking donors and grants to sustain our existing programs and launch these new ones — and to lay the groundwork for expanding our scholarship offerings in 2027, so that more students can access the educational opportunities they deserve.

Our commitment remains rooted in the community of Chichicastenango: creating the conditions for children and families to learn, grow, and thrive.



Example of what our upcoming STEM lab will look like!



Thank you: Opening Doors Together

None of what we accomplished in 2025 would have been possible without the generosity, encouragement, and dedication of our supporters.

To our donors, volunteers, community partners, board members, families, and friends — thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the power of education. Your support helped transform a vision into reality, opening the doors of La Casita de los Libros and creating new opportunities for children, youth, and families in Guatemala.

Whether you donated funds, volunteered your time, shared our story, provided books, or encouraged our work, you played an important role in helping us build a welcoming space for learning and community.

As we look toward the future, we are excited to continue growing our programs and expanding our impact. We are grateful to have you as part of this journey.

Together, we are helping create brighter futures through education.

With gratitude,
The Board of Directors
Empowered Guatemala



<https://www.empoweredguatemala.org>



Meet Our Board Members

Empowered Guatemala is led by a dedicated board of volunteer directors. Our team includes members who regularly travel to our partner communities in Guatemala multiple times each year. We collaborate closely with local leaders who actively engage in their own fundraising efforts to complement our initiatives. By working hand-in-hand with community councils, we ensure that our programs are locally led and culturally resonant.



Patti Stewart-Garbrecht
Founder, President



Mary Kay Phillips
Vice President, Co-Founder



Regi Akan
Secretary



Diana Price
Treasurer



Kathryn Layton
Academic and Library
Sciences Advisor

*Appendix 1***Financial Report: Statement of Activities****Statement of Activity**

January-December, 2025

	Total
Revenue	
4100 Individual donations	
4110 Individual donations - Unrestricted	14,988.16
4120 Individual donations - Restricted	830.00
Total for 4100 Individual donations	\$15,818.16
4300 In-kind Contributions - Non Cash Revenue	
4310 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	
4312 Software Subscription (In-Kind)	348.00
4313 Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	41.73
Total for 4310 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	\$389.73
4330 Donation of goods/services (In-Kind)	2,699.96
4340 Organization/Administration Fees (In-Kind)	1,712.12
Total for 4300 In-kind Contributions - Non Cash Revenue	\$4,801.81
5100 Fundraising events	10,444.37
5110 Event tickets	10.00
5130 Auction	325.00
Total for 5100 Fundraising events	\$10,779.37
Total for Revenue	\$31,399.34
Gross Profit	\$31,399.34
Expenditures	
7100 Organization expenses	
7140 Software fees/subscriptions	80.00
7150 Contractors and consultant fees	3,213.30
7160 Supplies and Materials	90.52
7180 Other expenditures	14.40
Total for 7100 Organization expenses	\$3,398.22
7200 Program expenses	3,036.56
7220 Supplies and Materials	892.82
7240 Property utilities	96.76
7260 Property rental	1,598.23
Total for 7200 Program expenses	\$5,624.37
7300 Fundraising Expenses	
7320 Fundraising Supplies and Materials	267.27
Total for 7300 Fundraising Expenses	\$267.27
7400 Management & General Expenses	
7410 Banking/Credit Card/Merchant Processing Fees	105.08
Total for 7400 Management & General Expenses	\$105.08
7500 Travel expenses	32.40
Total for Expenditures	\$9,427.34
Net Operating Revenue	\$21,972.00
Net Revenue	\$21,972.00

Appendix 2

Financial Report: Statement of Cash Flows



Statement of Cash Flows

January-December, 2025

Full name	Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Revenue	21,972.00
Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:	
9112 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind):Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind):Prepaid Expense - Software Subscription (In-Kind)	-348.00
9113 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind):Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind):Prepaid Expense - Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	-41.73
9130 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind):Prepaid Expenses - Fundraising (In-Kind)	-2,699.96
9140 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind):Prepaid Expenses - Organization/Administration (In-Kind)	-1,512.12
Total for Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:	-\$4,601.81
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$17,370.19
NET CASH INCREASE FOR PERIOD	\$17,370.19
Cash at beginning of period	\$0.00
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	\$17,370.19

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Appendix 3

Financial Report:

Statement of Financial Position

**Statement of Financial Position**

As of Dec 31, 2025

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1100 Checking accounts	1,000.00
1110 U.S. Bank Checking - 4260 - 1	1,382.58
1120 Mercury Checking (6723) - 2	14,987.61
Total for 1100 Checking accounts	\$17,370.19
Total for Bank Accounts	\$17,370.19
Other Current Assets	
9100 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind)	
9110 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	
9112 Prepaid Expense - Software Subscription (In-Kind)	348.00
9113 Prepaid Expense - Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	41.73
Total for 9110 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	\$389.73
9130 Prepaid Expenses - Fundraising (In-Kind)	2,699.96
9140 Prepaid Expenses - Organization/Administration (In-Kind)	1,512.12
Total for 9100 Prepaid Expense (In-Kind)	\$4,601.81
Total for Other Current Assets	\$4,601.81
Total for Current Assets	\$21,972.00
Total for Assets	\$21,972.00
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	
Net Revenue	21,972.00
Total for Equity	\$21,972.00
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$21,972.00

Appendix 4

Financial Report:

Statement of Activity by Class



Statement of Activity by Class

January-December, 2025

Class	100 Unrestricted/ General Ops	201 Library	202 English Learning	203 Scholarships	300 Management & General	400 Fundraising	Total
Revenue							
4100 Individual donations							
4110 Individual donations - Unrestricted	14988.16						14,988.16
4120 Individual donations - Restricted		680.00		150.00			830.00
Total for 4100 Individual donations	14988.16	680.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	\$15,818.16
4300 In-kind Contributions - Non Cash Revenue							
4310 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)							
4312 Software Subscription (In-Kind)	348.00						348.00
4313 Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	41.73						41.73
Total for 4310 Software Fees/Subscriptions/Web Domain Fee (In-Kind)	389.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$389.73
4330 Donation of goods/services (In-Kind)		2699.96					2,699.96
4340 Organization/Administration Fees (In-Kind)							
	1712.12						1,712.12
Total for 4300 In-kind Contributions - Non Cash Revenue	2101.85	2699.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$4,801.81
Cash Revenue	10244.37	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,444.37
5100 Fundraising events							
5110 Event tickets		10.00					10.00
5130 Auction		325.00					325.00
Total for 5100 Fundraising events	10244.37	535.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,779.37
Total for Revenue	27334.38	3914.96	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	\$31,399.34
Gross Profit	27334.38	3914.96	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	\$31,399.34
Expenditures							
7100 Organization expenses							
7140 Software fees/subscriptions					80.00		80.00
7150 Contractors and consultant fees		1720.65	919.19				2,639.84
7160 Supplies and Materials	90.52						90.52
7180 Other expenditures					14.40		14.40
Total for 7100 Organization expenses	90.52	1720.65	919.19	0.00	94.40	0.00	\$2,824.76
7200 Program expenses							
7220 Supplies and Materials		4032.21					4,032.21
7240 Property utilities		503.03					503.03
7260 Property rental		96.76					96.76
		1598.23					1,598.23
Total for 7200 Program expenses	0.00	6230.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$6,230.23
7300 Fundraising Expenses							
7320 Fundraising Supplies and Materials						267.27	267.27
Total for 7300 Fundraising Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	267.27	\$267.27
7400 Management & General Expenses							
7410 Banking/Credit Card/Merchant Processing Fees					105.08		105.08
Total for 7400 Management & General Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.08	0.00	\$105.08
7500 Travel expenses							
		0.00					\$0.00
Total for Expenditures	90.52	7,950.88	919.19	\$0.00	199.48	267.27	\$9,427.34
Net Operating Revenue	\$27,243.86	-\$4,035.92	-\$919.19	\$150.00	-\$199.48	-\$267.27	\$21,972.00
Net Revenue	\$27,243.86	-\$4,035.92	-\$919.19	\$150.00	-\$199.48	-\$267.27	\$21,972.00

Accrual Basis Thursday, June 18, 2026 10:22 PM GMTZ