

Our Partners

Much of our success thus far has been due to strong partnerships with many community leaders and organizations:

Seeds for a Future Semillas Para el Futuro

Amigos de Chocolá: Supports our community with funds for library and other social programs, including scholarships.

Arkay Foundation (arkayfoundation.org): This foundation provides non-earmarked funds to support Seeds/Semillas' efforts in Chocolá. Board member Karen Kahn is a Director of the Foundation.

Avnet, Inc. (avnet.com): Headquartered in Phoenix, AZ, Avnet is an international technology-distribution company. Beginning in 2011, Avnet has provided multiple grants in support of Seeds/Semillas' education programs.

Behavior Research Center, Inc (brc-research.com): The Center is owned by the present leaders of Seeds/Semillas and has underwritten all basic administrative, communications and meeting costs of the organization. It also underwrites the professional time of two of its executives in support of the program, totaling roughly 8 man-months a year between the two executives.

East-West Seeds (eastwestseed.com): Headquartered in Thailand, East-West Seeds specializes in researching, developing and introducing high-yield vegetable varieties that grow well in tropical climates. They have partnered with Seeds/Semillas to provide seeds and technical support to the family gardening program.

Friends of the Phoenix Library: With the help of Friends of the Phoenix Library, Seeds/Semillas has added 2,500 library-quality Spanish-language books to the CLC library on subjects primarily for children and women.

FundaSistemas (fundasistemas.org): Dedicated to systemic economic development programs in rural Guatemala, including programs targeted at increasing Guatemala's cacao crop, FundaSistemas has provided two years of on-site counseling and training pertaining to cacao and reforestation to our cacao grower group. As the cacao farmers' plantations in Chocolá move into

the production stages, it will assist in design and construction of a processing plant, and getting product to market.

FUNSEPA (Fundacion Sergio Paiz Andrade): A private family foundation in Guatemala supporting and providing education and technology for Guatemala's youth. Through its connection with Riecken Community Libraries Foundation, Seeds/Semillas qualifies to participate in FUNSEPA's computer-based digital education plan.

Guatemala Ministry of Culture: The Ministry supports cultural development and has provided Seeds/Semillas with technical and in-kind support and directed the development of a Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Chocolá.

International Capital Partners: A real estate investment firm formerly headquartered in Phoenix, which has provided significant non-earmarked funds in support of the program.

Let's Be Ready (letsbeready.org): Let's Be Ready has more than 20 pre-schools in rural communities in Guatemala. We engage in a reciprocal program with this NGO in which we provide training to parents and teachers on vegetable production and have provided building construction materials for their school in the Chocolá area.

Marketing with Imagination (marketingwithimagination.com): This strategic marketing and brand development firm and their associates, Paul Howell Design and The Lucid Agency support Seeds with the development of print and web communication planning and materials.

Namaste Direct: An NGO that provides micro-financing and business training to women.

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Continued:

Seeds for a Future Semillas Para el Futuro

Pilones de Antigua (pilones.com): The largest producer of vegetable and tree seedlings in Guatemala, Pilones has provided important in-kind contributions including training on plant germination, plants and tree stock for both the reforestation and vegetable programs and green house construction materials.

Rain Forest Alliance (rainforest-alliance.org): The Rainforest Alliance has helped to identify a palette of native trees that grow well in the region which can replace non-native trees as shade for coffee and offer farmers new sources of income through the production and sale of fruit, nuts and lumber.

Riecken Community Library Foundation (riecken.org): We collaborate with Riecken Community Libraries to increase the capacity of our Community Learning Center. It provides information and organizational training to the Library Committee and Director, and guides the development and implementation of reading and learning programs.

Riester Foundation (riesterfoundation.com): A private US foundation interested in forest canopies and migration pathways for tropical birds. Their grants support the Cacao and Reforestation initiatives.

Wuqu' Kawoq: Wuqu' Kawoq is a health NGO focusing on education local populations on maternal and child health care, environmental conditions which influence health, and family issues such as health, and family issues such as health maintenance, nutrition, diabetes & substance abuse. Wuqu' Kawoq supports our health programs.

The Hershey Company (thehersheycompany.com) and Mitsubishi Exportadora: The Hershey Company and Mitsubishi Exportadora in Guatemala, have encouraged individual employees to provide important technical services, principally scientific in nature, in the form of chemical, food safety and flavor analysis of cacao samples from Chocolá to ascertain their commercial value, to ensure that the farmers are producing a safe

and marketable product, as well as helping Seeds/ Semillas and Chocolá establish exportation contacts which will serve upcoming product marketing.

Education Partners: University of San Carlos, the University del Valle and the Centro Regional de Capacitacion (CERCAP): We have partnered with these universities and organizations to provide both workshop teachers and practicum graduate students to teach, coach and mentor in our democracy training programs.