



## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**Mujerave improves family health and dramatically reduces deforestation by installing wood-burning stoves for families who cook over open fires.**

# CONTENTS

<b>Page 4:</b>	<b>OUR HISTORY</b>
<b>Page 6:</b>	<b>FOUNDER'S NOTE</b>
<b>Page 8:</b>	<b>FINANCIALS</b>
<b>Page 10:</b>	<b>GOALS FOR 2016</b>
<b>Page 11:</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>

**In the communities we work in, nearly 90% of the population lives in poverty (less than \$2 per day).**



## OUR HISTORY

In 2014, Kody M. Gerkin and his wife, Melissa Martinez, traveled to the small Maya K'iche' village of Santa María Chiquimula, the town that had been Kody's home for a two-year period between 2006 and 2008 when Kody was a Peace Corps Volunteer. In the Peace Corps, Kody was trained to carry out projects to improve family health. Between 2006 and 2008, Kody helped organize a project that installed nearly 450 improved wood-burning stoves for families that cooked over open fires inside in their homes. When Kody returned in 2014, Guatemala was in the midst of its worst drought in decades.

With up to 75 percent of the corn crop failing, one million subsistence farmers were being pushed to the brink of starvation. In August of 2014, the Guatemalan government declared a State of Public Calamity in 16 of its 22 departments, including Totonicapán, where Santa María Chiquimula is located. According to a United Nations (UN) report, "female heads of household, children under age five and pregnant women were identified among the most vulnerable groups given the increased likelihood of suffering the consequences of the effects caused by prolonged drought." Aid organizations, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), had pledged millions of dollars for immediate assistance, though the UN stresses in its report the amount of money pledged is not enough to alleviate the suffering of millions of Guatemalans.

When Kody and Melissa bore witness to the suffering of their friends in Guatemala, they decided to act. Kody began to leverage his experience in rural, indigenous communities in Guatemala's Western Highlands. Melissa brought her project management skills and unique experience in start-up organizations to Mujerave. Once Kody and Melissa began sharing their passion with friends and family, they quickly realized how much support they had. The Board of Directors and External Advisors, as well as countless volunteers, have truly fueled their desire and helped turn the passion into action!

Mujerave was an all-volunteer organization in 2015, but has a goal of hiring two Guatemalan staff members and an Executive Director in 2016.

**Our Board of Directors, Strategic Advisors, and international team of volunteers logged over 800 volunteer hours in 2015.**



## FOUNDER'S NOTE

2015 will be remembered as the year Mujerave was born.

In 2015, Mujerave's Board of Directors was formed. Its bylaws and articles of incorporation were approved by the Board. The organization was granted 501(c)(3) status, and Mujerave's website was finalized. The list goes on and on, and it was done exclusively by volunteers! Our Board and dedicated team of volunteers worked tirelessly and without compensation to bring Mujerave to the women in Guatemala who so desperately need assistance during a time of drought and famine.

Mujerave is a very lean machine with an estimate of less than 2% of its budget in first quarter 2016 earmarked for administration and overhead costs. We are very proud to be able to run a small nonprofit so efficiently, and look forward to striving to make the best use of the donations and grant monies we receive. During the first quarter of 2016, Mujerave also looks forward to building wood burning stoves and a greenhouse as part of its pilot projects, benefiting nearly one dozen families directly and immediately.

These six stoves alone will reduce the risk five women and their families have of contracting pneumonia and other deadly upper respiratory infections. Furthermore, the stoves mean less firewood is used to cook meals and heat the home, and this means thousands of pounds of firewood stays in the forest in the form of oxygen producing trees.

The greenhouse will generate income for Gloria and Norma, a female head of household (Gloria) and her neighbor (Norma) who Gloria identified as having the skills and qualities of a suitable work partner. The income means the children Gloria and Norma care for have lower risks of suffering from chronic malnourishment, and they will be able to attend school for longer periods of time, increasing the income potential they have in their lifetimes. Gloria has no running water or sanitation services and never had an opportunity to go to school herself. With the support of generous donors, Mujerave is empowering Gloria to improve her community.

In 2016 we hope to hire our first staff members. Furthermore, we hope to raise

enough money to transform 100 families in Guatemala through sustainable development projects that will immediately impact the lives of rural women and those they care for.

Mujerave cannot do this alone. We need your help! We need you to get involved, to donate or to come down and volunteer with us. We need you to tell your friends and co-workers about the important work that we do and share our story as we grow and expand in 2016. Continue to check in on our website for updates, and feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions. Our contact info is listed on the last page of this report. We look forward to leveraging your support to help empower the women we serve.

Kind regards,



Kody M. Gerkin  
Founder  
Mujerave

**Project partners, volunteers, and beneficiaries work side-by-side to clear land for Mujerave's pilot greenhouse.**



# FINANCIALS

## MUJERAVE'S 2015 PROFITS AND LOSS STATEMENT

	<u>Administration</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
<b>Income</b>			
<i>43400 · Direct Public Support</i>	0.00	4,160.30	4,160.30
<i>In-Kind Service Contribution</i>	24,722.22	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>24,722.22</u>	<u>4,160.30</u>	<u>28,882.52</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	24,722.22	4,160.30	28,882.52
<b>Expense</b>			
<i>60960 · PayPal Fees</i>	62.78	0.00	62.78
<i>62170 · Bank Fees</i>	1.29	0.00	1.29
<i>65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications</i>	62.26	0.00	62.26
<i>65060 · Website Registration Fees</i>	303.30	0.00	303.30
<i>65070 · Software</i>	84.00	0.00	84.00
<i>In-Kind Service Contribution</i>	24,722.22	0.00	24,722.22
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>25,235.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25,235.85</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-513.63</u>	<u>4,160.30</u>	<u>3,646.67</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>-513.63</u>	<u>4,160.30</u>	<u>3,646.67</u>

NOTE: Mujerave did not carry out projects in 2015, the year of its launch. For this reason, the budget is exclusively administration costs.

**Mujerave will continue to monitor the ongoing drought and ensure that our programming matches the evolving needs of indigenous communities in Guatemala.**



# GOALS FOR 2016

## RAISE \$35,000 USD

To achieve the goals detailed below, Mujerave plans to raise \$35,000 USD in 2016. This will be accomplished through a combination of fundraising campaigns and grant writing. Mujerave staff and volunteers are also opening up relations with Rotary International as possible partners and a source of funding.

## BUILD 10 GREENHOUSES

Mujerave's plan to create sustainable income streams for some of the Western Hemisphere's poorest women includes providing financial and technical support for the construction of ten greenhouses.

## IMPROVE THREE SCHOOLS

Mujerave's commitment to healthy schools and community meeting spaces will see us support the construction of bathrooms and hand-washing stations at two rural schools.

## BUILD 60 STOVES

Deforestation and climate change are serious problems in Guatemala. Mujerave's efforts to reduce deforestation rates in Guatemala's most vulnerable indigenous communities (while simultaneously reducing rates of deadly respiratory infections) include building efficient stoves that reduce family firewood consumption by 50 percent.

## HIRE THREE STAFF

Mujerave's path to sustainability as an organization includes transitioning from an all-volunteer organization to having an Executive Director and two staff persons on the ground in Guatemala.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Kody M. Gerkin, MA  
Founder and President  
Mujerave**

**Email: [info@mujerave.org](mailto:info@mujerave.org) / [mujerave.guate@gmail.com](mailto:mujerave.guate@gmail.com)**

**Phone USA: 303.242.5412**

**Phone Guatemala: 502.3100.5904**

**Street: 322 Inca Street**

**Denver, CO 80223**