

Mayan
Hands

handmade · fair trade

Annual Report

2022-2023



Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year, Mayan Hands has much to celebrate and exciting developments on the horizon.

This year, Mayan Hands affirmed that *how we work* is just as important as *what we accomplish*. In this report I am proud to share how Mayan Hands initiated our new health and well-being program: in conversation with our artisan partners. Our team visited every group and engaged artisans in a collective process of envisioning well-being. Through this participatory creative exercise, our artisan partners honed in on their own top health priorities. They are the experts, and their voices are shaping the program's scope and direction.

The year was also marked by a thoughtful leadership transition, as we congratulated Anne Kelly on her retirement after years of dedicated service. As Executive Director, Anne elevated Mayan Hands to new heights with her creativity, vision, and passion for fair trade. Navigating leadership transition is a stress test for any organization. Thanks to the joint efforts of Anne, our Board of Directors, and our team, Mayan Hands emerged from the transition united by a shared strategic vision and poised for growth.

It is thanks to you and your support that Mayan Hands continues to grow and develop in service to our artisan partners in Guatemala. To every customer who purchases artful handmade gifts, every shop owner who serves as an ambassador for our products and story, every donor who contributes to scholarships and training programs, and every supporter who follows our journey, I thank you for being in community with us.

With deep gratitude,



Madeline Kreider Carlson
Executive Director

Mission

Mayan Hands is a fair-trade nonprofit dedicated to providing economic and educational opportunities to Maya women and girls, so that they can build sustainable futures for themselves, their families and communities, as they continue to live within the culture they cherish.

Values

Respect	Solidarity
Trust	Sustainability
Collaboration	Cultural Identity
Integrity	

How We Work



Market Access

Access to global markets provides women with opportunities to earn vital income.



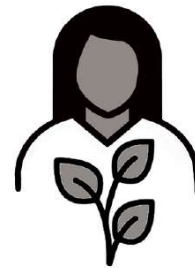
Capacity Building

Artisans participate in trainings to develop their skills in craft, design, business management, and leadership.



Education

Mayan Hands and our artisan partners invest in the next generation by providing scholarships and support to Maya girls and young women.



Well-being

Addressing a critical lack of health resources in artisan communities, Mayan Hands is investing in preventive health education and services, including mental health.

Market Access = Economic Development

This year
by the
numbers:

182

women earned fair
wages from artisan
work

61,842

handmade
products sold

\$436,701

total fair trade
purchases from
Guatemala

Mayan Hands' primary focus is the sale of top quality artisan-made products, opening access to an international market with the goal of **offering a fair, stable income to talented women artisans**. We place consistent monthly orders with artisan groups and pay a fair price for each piece according to the time, materials, and skill necessary.



Designing Opportunity

New product design is an ongoing element of our ethical partnership with artisans.

The design process is a conversation: artisans spark ideas and add their aesthetic vision, often choosing vibrant colors and inventive design elements. The Mayan Hands team contributes insight on market trends and practical considerations like packability.

At left: The new and striking Cristina basket, designed by the El Triunfo group and launched in 2023, is an impressive showcase of artistry and technical basketweaving skill.





Mayan Hands artisan partners carry on **centuries-old craft traditions** while achieving economic independence.



Educating Girls = Investing in Social Change

This year
by the
numbers:

62

students received
scholarship
support

153

children received
school supplies

\$55,524

total scholarship
support granted

To address persistent educational disparity in rural Maya communities, our Education Program **offers scholarships to the daughters of our artisan partners**, from sixth grade through university. Scholarship students gather twice annually, together with their mothers, to share their successes, socialize, and connect with girls from other communities.



Leaders of Tomorrow

“Through my accomplishments and challenges I have a new understanding of **how teachers can be leaders**. Currently I am working for the MAIA Impact School as a natural sciences educator.

More than simply a job, for me it is an honor to contribute to education in our region of Sololá, where most of the education system gives priority to a traditional education in which critical thinking, analysis, creativity, and innovation are neither permitted nor encouraged, especially in indigenous girls.

As I continue my university studies I will remain conscious always that the protagonist of the classroom is the student. **I believe I can be an example for these girls and for myself.**”

-Evelyn Yulissa

Evelyn graduated this year with a degree in Teaching & Pedagogy and a concentration in Natural Sciences & Environmental Education. She is now working toward her Licenciatura. Her mother is part of the Chuacruz felt group.



Students Speak Out

“This is my first year as a scholarship student with Mayan Hands. My favorite class is English, and I hope to someday study nursing.”

– *Mixenia Susana*



“This year I began my hospital practicum with shifts in surgery and the emergency department. I learned about surgical procedures, instruments, and how to administer oxygen.”

– *Jesus Irene, university student, Nursing & Health Management*

“I am the only one of my brothers and sisters who had the opportunity to go to school. I am grateful for the financial and moral support that Mayan Hands has given me through the years.”

– *Ofelia Maribel*



“With my education I look forward to getting a good job so I can give back to my parents in gratitude for all their support. Later my dream is to open my own art gallery, a space where I can showcase my abilities in drawing and painting.”

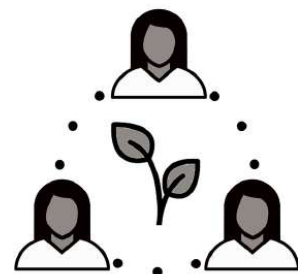
– *Irma Susana*

“I am in my final year of studies in public accounting & auditing. Education has helped me better support our group of artisans in managing payments and bookkeeping.”

– *Aurelia Micaela, weaver*

Artisan Group

Spotlight: Chuacruz



Group Profile

Group members: **8**

Department: **Sololá**

Languages: **Kaqchikel, Spanish**

Technique: **Needle felting**

Years working with Mayan Hands: **1**

Mayan Hands welcomed the Chuacruz group this year. This multi-talented group has previous experience with backstrap weaving, jaspe dyeing, mostacilla (beadwork), and embroidery. Needle felting is a new skill! They completed felt training with instruction from the expert needle felters in the neighboring community of Vasconcelos. The group quickly mastered creation of our popular felted bird ornaments.





Building *Capacity*

Our artisan partners are not just expert craftswomen; they are also small business owners. Each group is a collectively-run, democratically organized micro-enterprise.

Capacity building is an investment in our artisan partners: supporting them to leverage their intelligence, skill, and motivation to be as successful as possible.

Trainings this year included an orientation to new bookkeeping and tax requirements, onboarding a new group, and engaging another in design training.



This year
by the
numbers:

15

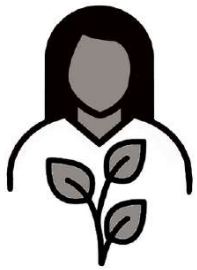
groups received
training in
bookkeeping and
tax requirements

1

new artisan group
joined the Mayan
Hands community

7

artisans
participated in
design training



Picturing Well-being

To lay the groundwork for a new preventive health and well-being program, the Mayan Hands team visited every artisan group to conduct a participatory study of health needs and priorities. The anthropologist-designed study creatively engaged women in **picturing a healthy woman and an unwell woman, and the conditions, choices, and care that impact the well-being of Maya women in rural Guatemala.**

From the study emerged a nuanced, holistic perspective on well-being. The groups identified social, physical, environmental, and economic determinants of health.





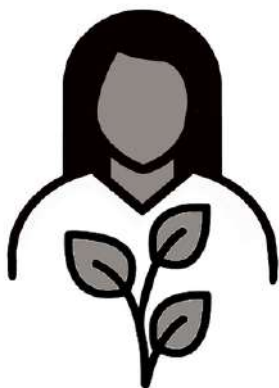
Artisans' Insights about Well-being

What does an unhealthy woman look like?

An unhealthy woman appears sad. She feels pain in her back, her limbs, or her belly. She has little motivation to work or to engage with her family. She is often worried about her situation and about the rising costs of basic goods. She does not feel supported by her husband and children. She didn't have access to family planning and has many children. Her poor health affects her work, and she turns in products with quality defects.

What does a healthy woman look like?

A healthy woman is happy, well-dressed, active and friendly. Her clothing may not be new, but it is clean. She doesn't suffer from chronic illness. She has a loving and understanding bond with her husband and children. She is organized and knows how to manage her time. She is strong and able to work, which means she has her own money. A healthy woman cares for her well-being: she takes vitamins, eats fruits and vegetables, cooks at home and uses natural medicine. She cares for her mental health and enjoys her life to the fullest.



Priorities for 2023-2024

These priorities emerged from the visualization sessions:

- Vision screenings and glasses
- Women's health
- Mental and emotional health

Mayan Hands will train and engage volunteer health promoters in each artisan group to serve as a peer resource and primary point of contact about health education & care activities.

financials

Mayan Hands Foundation

Statement of Financial
Position as of
May 31, 2023

For a complete copy of Mayan
Hands Foundation's
Independent Accountant
Review Report, please contact
us at info@mayanhands.org or
(518) 729-1900

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$291,053
Investments	\$168,359
Inventory	\$167,677
Accounts Receivable	\$28,454
Deposit	\$500
Total Current Assets	\$656,043

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$6,517
Accrued Expense	\$6,690
Total Liabilities	\$13,207

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$642,836
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Statement of Activities Year Ending May 31, 2023

SUPPORT & GAINS

Donations	\$103,194
Gains	\$4,914

PROGRAM REVENUE

Product Sales	\$641,087
Cost of sales in support of Maya women	\$436,701
Net Program Revenue	\$204,386

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$194,783
Management and General	\$100,740
Fundraising Services	\$5,613
Total Expenses	\$301,136

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$11,358

NET ASSETS, beginning of year \$631,478

NET ASSETS, end of year \$642,836

thank you - gracias - matiox

With humility and deep gratitude, we honor the ecosystem of people who make Mayan Hands' work possible:

Artisan Partners

Your creativity, talent, and dedication are the heart of Mayan Hands. Thank you for your trust and collaboration.

Donors

Thanks to you and your support, we are able to respond to our artisan partners' needs and priorities and deliver programs that improve their lives.

Wholesale & Retail Customers

Your purchases are an investment, enabling talented women to thrive. Thank you for being ambassadors of our handmade products and their story.

Volunteers

Thank you for giving your time and expertise to support our sales and programs.

Fair Trade Community

We are grateful for our colleagues and peers who model a different way of doing business, with generosity and care for people and the planet.

Board of Directors & Staff

Your passion, thoughtfulness, and hard work makes it all possible!

Board of Directors

Vera Eccarius-Kelly, president
Laurie Naranch, vice president
Sharon Costello, secretary
Mark Van Wormer, treasurer
Stefanie Adler
Beth DeAngelis
Edwin Conor Graham
Liva Jacoby
Ricardo López-Torrijos
Rebecca Pendergrass
Brenda Rosenbaum

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Madeline Kreider Carlson, USA
Diane Yoder, USA
Katie Nottke, USA
Neely Benoit, USA
Julio Cardona, Guatemala
Nancy Cosme, Guatemala
Mayra Rocché, Guatemala
Marisol Morales, Guatemala
Damaris Martínez, Guatemala
Jennifer Menéndez, Guatemala

Photo credits:

Mark Van Wormer, Marisol
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Madeline Kreider Carlson

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