

El Salitre
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S CENTER

Annual Report

2022

**El Salitre Women's and
Children's Center Project**

2558 Atalaya Hill Trail
Santa Fe NM 87505

www.elsalitrecenter.com

Betsy Wack, Board President
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From the Board President

Dear Supporters,

In the face of significant challenges and obstacles, this year has proven to be an inspiring testament to the resilience and spirit of the El Salitre community.

We started 2022 with **bold goals**, high hopes, and an unwavering commitment to our mission of empowering the women and children of El Salitre, Guatemala. Reflecting on the past twelve months, I am proud to report that we have made **substantial strides** in achieving our objectives.

The completion and inauguration of our **El Salitre Sewing Center** was a landmark moment. Our seamstresses moved into the center in October, marking a new era for our organization. The safe, vibrant, and resourceful environment has sparked **creativity, entrepreneurship, and hope** amongst our seamstresses.

With your support, we added **five** new student seamstresses, each of them enthusiastic and determined to seize the opportunities that lay ahead.

Our new building allowed us to expand our educational services to the children of El Salitre. We now provide daycare and enrichment support to **twenty-five** children.

However, this year has not been without its challenges. The global COVID-19 pandemic had far-reaching effects on our operations. Construction of our center took twice as long as we initially planned and costs escalated, leaving us with an overrun of nearly \$45,000. While we managed to meet this unexpected expense and complete our new building, we depleted our operating budget.

As we move into the new year, we are embarking on an exciting new venture - marketing our products in Antigua. To make our marketing efforts possible, we added an in-country director to our small staff. While this enterprise is still in its infancy, we are confident that the **quality and authenticity** of our products will boost the sale of our products and soon contribute to the financial support of the center.

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we must also confront the reality of our current financial situation. To continue our mission and expand our impact, **we need your help more than ever**. I invite you to consider supporting our cause, either by contributing financially, purchasing our products, or spreading the word about our mission.

Your **generosity and commitment** to our cause are what **fuel our progress**. On behalf of the entire El Salitre community, I thank you for your **unwavering support and belief in our mission**. Together, we can continue transforming lives, one stitch at a time.

Warm regards,



Betsy Wack

President, Board of Directors El Salitre Women's and Children's Center

Our Vision

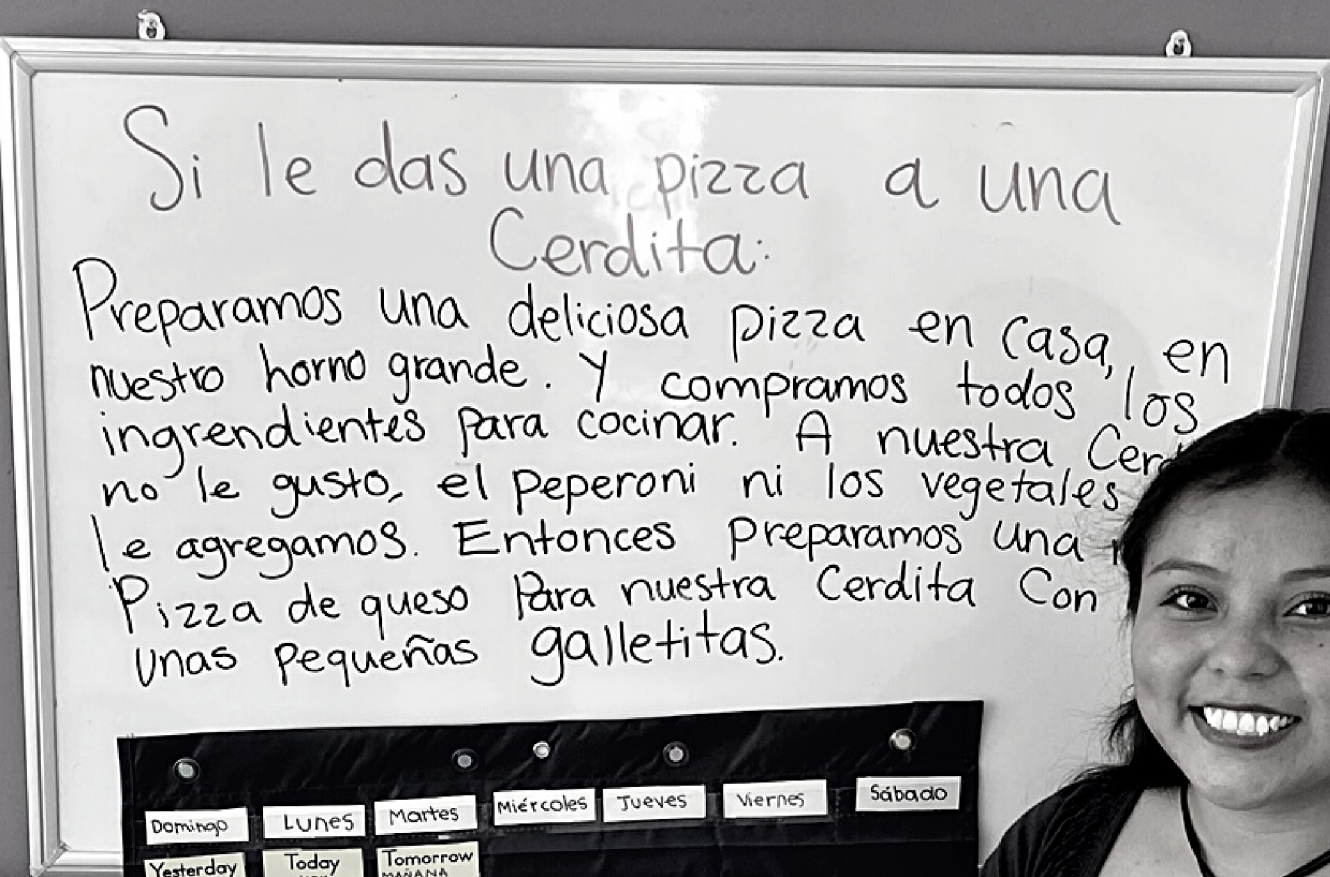


To strengthen the community and enhance the quality of life by empowering women through job skills development, leadership and entrepreneurship training, strong women-to-women networks, quality childcare and education, and improved family nutrition and living conditions.

To empower the women of El Salitre to transform their lives, care for their families, and create a connected, compassionate, and healthy community.



Our Mission



Si le das una pizza a una Cerdita:

Preparamos una deliciosa pizza en casa, en nuestro horno grande. Y compramos todos los ingredientes para cocinar. A nuestra Cerdita no le gusta el peperoni ni los vegetales le agregamos. Entonces preparamos una Pizza de queso para nuestra Cerdita con unas pequeñas galletitas.



Our History

Our Journey Begins

In 2016, our journey began in a dusty room in El Salitre, Guatemala - a safe haven mission amidst poverty and violence. We asked a simple question to five women from the community: "How can we help?" The stark realities they shared about their everyday struggle for survival sparked a resolve in us to find a solution, and thus began our fight against the intractable poverty in El Salitre - "The Salt."

Our Progress in 2022 *The Transformation of El Salitre Center*

In 2022, we saw the completion of our beautiful new building on the shore of Lake Amatitlan. This property, enclosed by an eight-foot fence, provides a clean, safe work environment for ten women and an educational center for 25 children. Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to fully pay for the construction of this center.

We're thrilled to share that our Guatemalan friends now have bank accounts, health insurance, and retirement benefits. They are excited about the prospect of welcoming five new colleagues in the coming year and another five the following year.

The Center Today

The women at our center engage in sewing and embroidery, creating products marketed in Antigua by our newly hired marketing director, Juliana Ortiz. Their work has caught the attention of Guatemalan designers, leading to agreements that place our products in Antiguan stores.

To address education problems in El Salitre, our center provides educational programs for the children when they aren't in school. Two of our program graduates, Reina Barrera and Maria Poitan, serve as teachers, providing the children access to computers, books, art, and math tools.

The El Salitre Center's mission of creating connected, compassionate and healthy communities is reflected in our work. We believe in using sustainable, upcycled textiles using natural fibers that we acquire through our local partnerships.

One of our new and exciting suppliers is **The New Denim Project**. The New Denim Project is a third-generation family-owned textile mill established in 1956 in Guatemala. They collect and sort post-industrial waste from local garment factories, grounding these scraps back into fiber, to spin these once again into new yarns to create 100% natural, upcycled fabrics.

The process is chemical-free, dye-free, and uses minimal water and energy. Leftover lint from the upcycling process is used by highland coffee-growers to use as compost for their specialty coffees.

The El Salitre Center is using these beautiful cotton fabrics in our clothing line and table textiles.

The New Denim Project



Our Board

Betsy Wack, *President*
Lee Ann Lyons, *Vice President*
Lorraine Gruys, *Secretary*
Linda Henke, *Treasurer*
Mike Dewes, *Director*
Amy Inman, *Director*
Bill Panther, *Director*
Barbara Kohm, *Director Emeritus*



2022 Financials

Revenues: \$205,723.37
Expenses: \$184,966.04
Net Assets at Beginning of Year: \$329,257.00
Change in Net Assets: \$101,808.02
End of Year: \$500,732.62



Donations are the lifeblood of our mission.

To contribute, visit www.elsalitrecenter.com or mail your check to
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Santa Fe, NM 87505.

**Thank you for your continuous support.
Together, we are creating a world of difference.**