

50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT 2026





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doris Paquette • Paul Carrick • Alejandro Roldan
Suzanne Beckett • Yemurai Bgwoni • Maria DiCastrì
Don Hanke • Steve Mazerolle • Jen Waring



OUR TEAM

In order of appearance in the above photo: Nicole Farn (Communications Coordinator)
Lorraine Swift (Executive Director) • Allison Chatenay (Project Manager)
Julia Di Giovine (Projects & Operations Manager)

MESSAGE FROM OUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MEANINGFUL CHANGE IS BUILT ONE
RELATIONSHIP, ONE COMMUNITY, AND
ONE ACT OF COLLABORATION AT A TIME.**

For 50 years, our work has been rooted in partnership. Everything that has grown since began there.

Anniversaries naturally invite us to look back, to consider what has allowed an organization to endure. While we are proud of many milestone projects, no single project has defined Change for Children. Rather, thousands of people across communities, countries, and generations have contributed to the legacy we celebrate today.

Together, we have listened first and learned continuously. Whether supporting a school, a water system, a household, or an entire community, our initiatives have demonstrated how practical, locally led solutions improve daily life while laying the foundation for healthier and more resilient communities.

To our long-standing partners, funders, and supporters, thank you. Your trust has allowed us not only to respond to immediate needs, but to invest in the local leadership, knowledge, and capacity that make communities more resilient for years to come.

This year's annual report is less a catalogue of programs and more a portrait of the organization. **Through these pages, we share just a few of the lessons that fifty years of partnering with communities has taught us.**

Part homage to our roots, part reflection on the year behind us, and part love letter to the community that has sustained us, these pages tell the story of a legacy built collectively one partnership, one community, one act of collaboration at a time.

And while this milestone has us reflecting on where we've been, we remain firmly focused on the future. We are reminded just how much is possible when communities, partners, and supporters work together, and we know that our most important work still lies ahead.

This fall, our Gratitude Gala Development Dinner will celebrate the collective effort behind our first fifty years and take a little inspiration from one of nature's best collaborations: the hive. As part of our anniversary year, Change for Children is building alliances with beekeeping cooperatives in five countries to strengthen food security, support local livelihoods, and help communities respond to climate change.

Together, we continue building a sweet future.
Thank you for being part of this legacy.

Lorraine Swift (Executive Director, Change for Children)





PRIORITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate-resilient communities that protect the planet for future generations.



EDUCATION

Inclusive, locally led learning that empowers children and youth to thrive.



GENDER EQUALITY

Equal access to education, leadership, opportunity, and safety.



WATER

Safe water systems, sanitation, and hygiene for healthier futures.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous-led initiatives that protect rights, languages, traditions, and sustainable ways of life.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Local food systems that strengthen independence and dignity.



LASTING CHANGE DOESN'T BEGIN WITH PROJECTS. IT BEGINS WITH PEOPLE.

For 50 years, Change for Children has worked alongside communities with one guiding belief: lasting change begins with local leadership.

That means listening before planning. Building on local knowledge rather than replacing it. Supporting communities to strengthen the ideas, skills, and leadership that already exist. Whether the goal is safe water, stronger schools, sustainable livelihoods, or climate resilience, our role has never been to deliver solutions, it has been to help communities bring their own solutions to life.

Lasting impact is measured by the capacity of communities to carry the work forward.

ROOTED IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP

EVERYTHING BEGINS HERE



This year, that philosophy continued to guide every area of our work.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Guatemala & Nicaragua

Indigenous women's weaving cooperatives in Guatemala strengthened their businesses while preserving traditional knowledge and creating new economic opportunities. In Nicaragua, women-led rice threshing initiatives reduced hours of manual labour, freeing time for families, education, and community life while generating resources to sustain local programs.

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Across Programs

Across every program area, training, governance, and capacity building helped ensure communities have the skills and confidence to manage, adapt, and sustain projects well into the future.

▼ FROM OUR HISTORY – A few moments from a much bigger story.



El Salvador – Facilitated the work of the Nueva Esperanza cooperative, a cooperative established to counteract the effects of civil war and natural disasters.



Guatemala – Work with partner AMMID begins and continues to this day.



Nicaragua – Partnership with the Territorial Indigenous Government in the Bosawas facilitates extending our reach to last-mile communities.



Uganda – A partnership is formed with the Kigezi Healthcare Foundation and projects go on to range from agricultural diversification to community support for orphans.



Guatemala – Partnership with the Asociación Artesanas (Artisan Association) de San Juan La Laguna on the shores of Lake Atitlán in Guatemala begins by listening and understanding their vision.



FLOWING INTO HEALTH

SAFE WATER THEN & NOW

▼ **FROM OUR HISTORY** – A few moments from a much bigger story.

2004

Nicaragua – Funding is received from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the first phase of the Nicaragua Water Project. The Bishop Denis Croteau Development Foundation joins this project matching CIDA dollar-for-dollar.

2011

Nicaragua – The Frank Flaman Foundation announces commitment to sponsor the purchase of a well drilling machine.

2011

Canada – Edmonton's St. Angela School becomes our first School Champion to fund a community water well in Nicaragua.

2018

Nicaragua – The Nicaragua Water Project reaches over 420,000+ people through new well drilling and water system rehabilitations in combination with water committee capacity building.

2019

Guatemala – Households across rural communities learn management and maintenance of 2,500-litre rainwater harvesting and storage systems to address chronic water scarcity.

2022

Nicaragua – Water system rehabilitation investigation begins in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve to reduce reliance on contaminated river water by remote Indigenous communities.

2024

Nicaragua – Safe water system expanded to 4,300 residents in Walakitang serves the schools, churches, and community buildings, and community management is established.

2025

Nicaragua – Water filtration systems are distributed to families without access to centralized water systems in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. The Mayagna community of Amak rehabilitates its water system with CFC support, serving 2500 people.

2025

Guatemala – Installation and rehabilitation of water distribution and rainwater harvesting systems, handwashing stations, and water storage facilities.



SAFE WATER IS NEVER JUST ABOUT WATER.

Over more than two decades focusing on water, we've learned that safe water reaches far beyond the tap. It improves health, certainly—but it also strengthens education, protects livelihoods, creates dignity, and gives communities the confidence to shape their own future.

Our work has evolved alongside our partners. What began with wells and water systems has grown to include governance, hygiene education, climate resilience, and household water security.



This year, communities continued to strengthen safe water access in ways that reflect local priorities and build lasting resilience.

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS Guatemala & Nicaragua

Working alongside local water committees, communities rehabilitated and expanded water systems while strengthening the knowledge, governance, and shared responsibility needed to keep them operating for years to come.

SCHOOL WASH Guatemala

Safe drinking water, improved sanitation, handwashing stations, and hygiene education helped create healthier schools where students can learn and thrive—and where healthy habits extend beyond the classroom into the wider community.

HOUSEHOLD WATER SECURITY Guatemala & Nicaragua

Rainwater harvesting systems, household storage tanks, and water filtration solutions improved water security for families in remote communities while reducing the time and uncertainty associated with collecting safe water.

GROWING THROUGH LEARNING

EDUCATION ACROSS FIVE DECADES



SCHOOLS BUILD FUTURES. COMMUNITIES SHAPE THEM.

Over five decades, we've learned that meaningful learning depends on far more than a school building. It flourishes when teachers are supported, when children arrive healthy and ready to learn, when lessons reflect local language and culture, and when communities themselves value and invest in education.

That understanding has guided our work over the years. From building schools and supporting literacy programs to expanding digital learning, teacher development, and mother-tongue education, we've learned that lasting educational change is rooted not only in access, but also in belonging, relevance, and opportunity.



TEACHER CAPACITY

Honduras

This year, our partners continued creating learning environments where students can thrive and teachers are equipped to help every learner succeed.

Professional development equipped teachers to confidently integrate new technologies while strengthening culturally responsive teaching. New educational resources in Garífuna and Miskito languages supported learning that honours local identity alongside academic achievement.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Guatemala & Honduras

Solar-powered technology classrooms, offline digital libraries, and locally accessible learning resources expanded opportunities for students in communities without reliable internet or electricity, bringing high-quality educational content closer to home.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Guatemala

School kitchens, improved learning spaces, and healthier school environments helped ensure students arrive ready to learn, recognizing that education begins long before the first lesson of the day.

▼ FROM OUR HISTORY – A few moments from a much bigger story.

1987

Canada – Change for Children hosts the International Youth for Peace and Justice Tour.

1993

Brazil – Literacy programs are developed and implemented, followed by vocational training workshops in support of street children outreach.

1998

Nicaragua – Muralism, leadership training, and arts-based rights education programs are initiated, boosting youth self-esteem and community development engagement.

2005

Nicaragua – With the support of generous donors and Foundations – including the 60 Million Girls Foundation, a decade of primary and secondary school construction in the Bosawas biosphere reserve begins.

2015

Bolivia – Indigenous women's federations begin providing school lunches through community-grown food, strengthening both livelihoods and learning.

2019

Guatemala – The first mobile digital learning labs (many to come) are installed complete with access to a Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning.

2020

Nicaragua – Digital learning labs strengthen teacher training and encourage mother tongue language resource creation in the remote Bosawas Biosphere Reserve with funding from the Fund for Innovation and Transformation.

2024

Honduras – Offline technology and digital libraries build teacher and student capacity in marginalized coastal communities and emphasize intercultural education in local indigenous languages.



HARNESSING INNOVATION

POSSIBILITY TAKES SHAPE

THE BEST TECHNOLOGY IS THE ONE THAT FITS.

We've learned that innovation is most powerful when it responds to the realities of daily life. The right solution isn't always the most complex, it's the one that works because it reflects a community's priorities, resources, and aspirations.

From solar-powered water systems and clean cooking technologies to digital learning platforms and renewable energy for remote schools, innovation has helped remove barriers that once seemed impossible to overcome. Technology is one more tool that communities can use to strengthen health, education, livelihoods, and resilience.

As new opportunities emerge, we remain committed to supporting practical solutions that are locally led, environmentally responsible, and built to last.



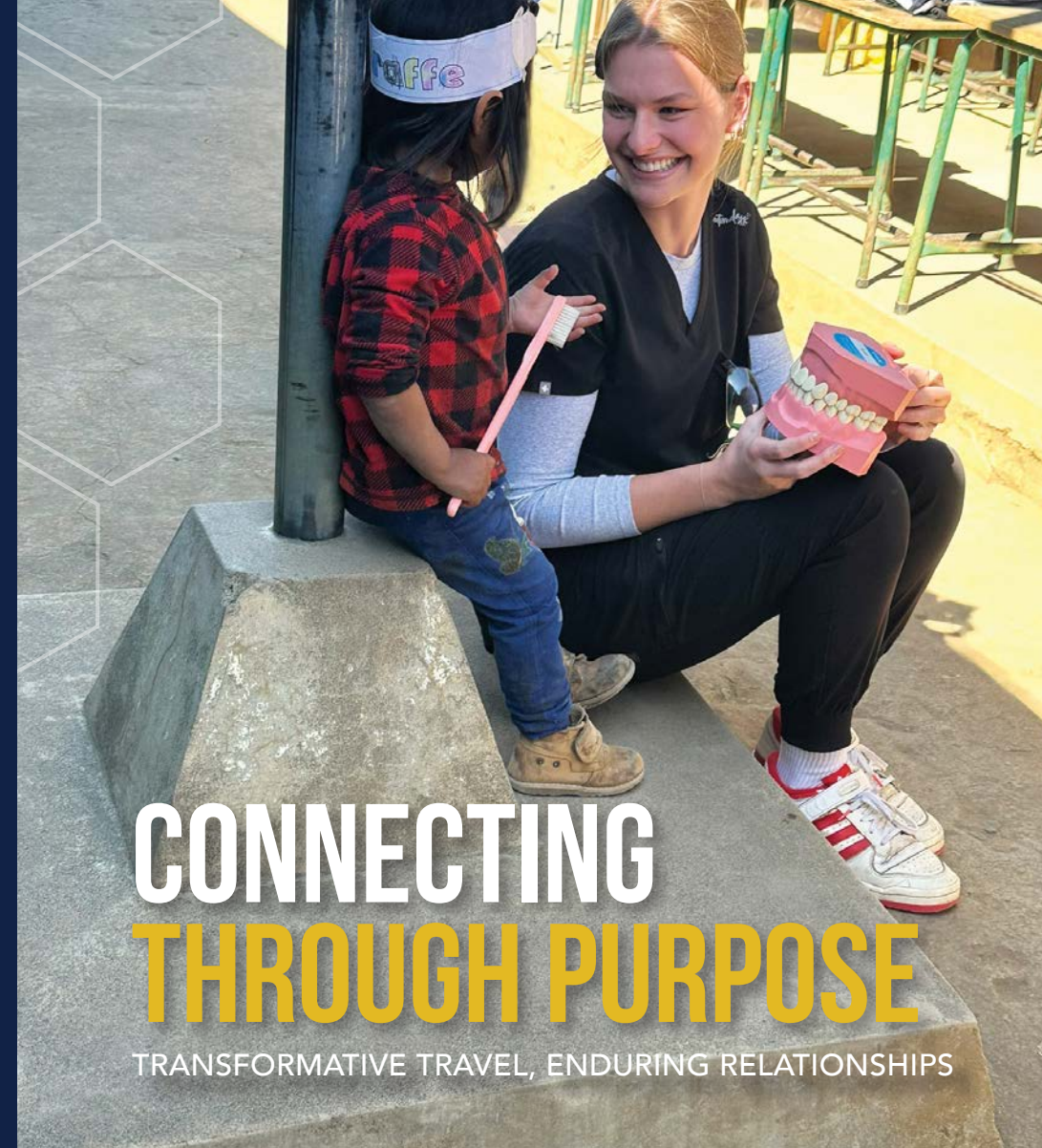
Innovation is helping communities overcome barriers once thought impossible.

TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT BORDERS Guatemala & Honduras

Offline learning platforms and renewable energy are bringing educational resources to communities beyond the reach of traditional infrastructure. At the household level, renewable energy is improving daily life while reducing dependence on costly or unreliable power sources.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS Across Programs

By pairing clean energy with education and community development initiatives, these projects demonstrate how practical, sustainable technologies can remove barriers to opportunity and help communities build stronger, more resilient futures.



CONNECTING THROUGH PURPOSE

TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL, ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS

THE LASTING IMPACT IS WHAT IS CARRIED HOME.

Opportunities for Canadians to partner with communities begin with curiosity, humility, and a willingness to learn. Nearly forty years after our first delegation returned from Nicaragua, travel opportunities for teachers, health professionals, students, and supporters remain one of the most meaningful ways we build global citizenship one relationship, conversation, and shared experience at a time.

Travel can illuminate differences, but more importantly, it reveals the familiar rhythms of humanity—laughter, pride, generosity, and the instinct to share, learn, and grow. These relatable rhythms widen the circle of who and what is carried home, quietly recalibrating the way people choose to show up in the world.

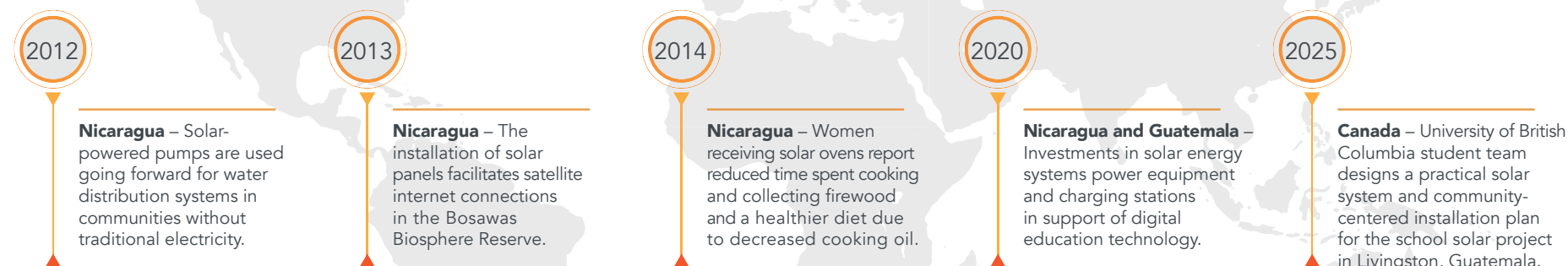
“I was deeply inspired by the love and dedication Guatemalan teachers pour into their students, despite the limited resources available.”
— A. Crich



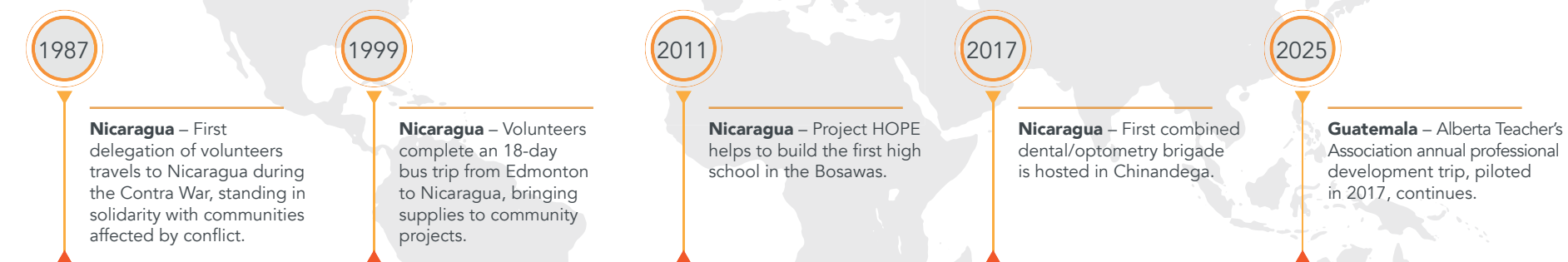
This year, dental professionals provided care in the highlands of Guatemala, where Maya Mam communities welcomed the team into schools and shared spaces and showed us what it means to honour culture and one another.

Educators traveled to Guatemala through partnership with the Alberta Teachers' Association to learn from teachers and schools whose creativity and commitment continue to inspire new perspectives on education.

▼ FROM OUR HISTORY – A few moments from a much bigger story.

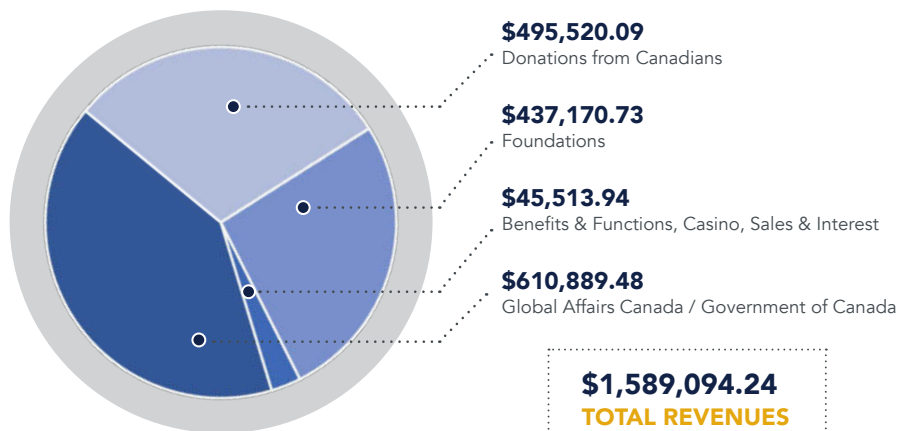


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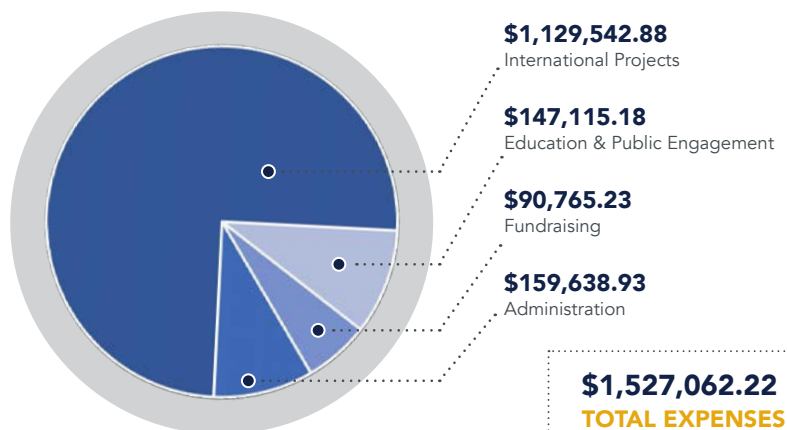


FINANCIAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

REVENUES 2025/26



EXPENSES 2025/26



This financial report is based on numbers from our Audited Financial Statements, which were approved at our Annual General Meeting on September 2nd, 2026.

Change for Children maintains a balance in project accounts at year-end to facilitate the continuation of multi-year initiatives.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

For 50 years, your support has helped turn possibility into progress. Together with communities around the world, we are creating opportunities to learn, grow, lead, thrive—and shape a more hopeful future.

Our work would not be possible without the support of local partners, global partners, and community supporters.



Gratitude
GALA
DEVELOPMENT DINNER 2026



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
Chateau Louis Conference Centre
For tickets: change4children.org

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