2017 In Review
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Each time I have the opportunity to speak with the mothers, fathers and guardians of our young scholars and participants, I remember that no one is too poor to leave an inheritance. **The best inheritance that we parents can leave our children is an education.**

In 2017, we awarded more scholarships than ever! We started the year with 117 scholars and ended it with 34 high school and university graduates.

But our successes don’t stop there. We strengthened and deepened our work with youth, their families and their school communities. We increased youth participation by 15%, stepped up our efforts to involve parents, and invested - for the first time - in teacher training to expand our impact into the classroom.

**Educating and empowering youth to reach their full potential is the key to breaking generational cycles of poverty that will change their lives, families and communities forever.**

This kind of transformational change takes time and sustained commitment - from our youth and their families, our staff and our generous community of partners and donors. Together, we ensure that youth are equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to make healthy choices and lead lives of dignity and opportunity in their country.

We are exited to share with you our successes from 2017. Successes that bring smiles to the the faces of our staff, our families, and most of all to our youth! We hope they make you smile, too!

On behalf of all of us at OYE, thank you! We hope you continue this journey with us.

Rocío Mendoza
Executive Director
EDUCATE

I always wanted to be a doctor, but medicine is one of the most expensive areas of study in Honduras. My scholarship from OYE, and my family's support and encouragement, made my dream possible.

Amílcar, OYE scholar from 2008 to 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2005, the Adelante Jóvenes Scholarship Program has supported 340 disadvantaged youth to continue their educational journeys through high school and university. OYE scholars typically come from single-parent households with an average monthly income of less than $200, and live in some of El Progreso’s most marginal neighborhoods. Nearly all of our scholars are first generation high school graduates, let alone university students and graduates. Beyond economic support, our scholars receive additional support services, including academic and career advising, tutoring, and counseling.

In 2017, OYE (re)welcomed 117 new and returning scholars. By the end of the year, 17 had graduated from high school, 15 from an 18-month university-level English (for call center work) diploma program, and 2 from university.

340
OYE scholars since 2005

98%
OYE scholars graduate from high school

80%
OYE high school graduates pursue higher education
OYE paved the way for me to empower myself and shaped my ability to lead and create empowering spaces for my peers, especially other girls and young women. Mentoring girls through the "Let Girls Lead" project has been a highlight of my time in OYE.

Keyla, OYE scholar since 2014

LEADERSHIP & LIFE SKILLS

Through dynamic, participatory workshops facilitated by youth and professionals alike, OYE seeks to empower young people to make smart and healthy decisions for their futures.

Over the past year, we have systematized our youth leadership and life skills development curriculum into eight modules, divided into three levels, on the topics of:

- Self-Esteem & Values
- Sexual Health
- Family, School & Community Leadership
- Civic Participation
- Personal & Community Projects
- Professionalism & Entrepreneurship
- Technology & Social Media

Beyond these workshops, we encourage young people to pursue local, national and regional training opportunities on topics from communications to political advocacy. In recent years, OYE scholars have been selected to participate in the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung year-long socio-political advocacy training program *Agentes de Cambio* and Promundo’s intensive regional course on masculinity and gender equality, among other programs.
YOUTH PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT
*Youth-Led Programs in the Arts, Graphic Design, Communications Media & Sports*
**Partner** | Inter-American Foundation

We believe that active and engaged young people are the key to building stronger, more resilient communities. OYE’s core youth-led programs create spaces for youth to engage with each other, develop skills, and give back to their communities through the arts, graphic design, communications media and sports.

Our participatory, youth-led approach ensures our programs respond to the realities of the youth we engage and creates opportunities for them to develop and practice leadership and life skills, including creative and critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and effective communication. Furthermore, these programs offer opportunities for youth to participate in basic and advanced-level training opportunities related to their area(s) of interest.

In 2017, 170 children and youth were actively engaged in one or more of these core youth-led programs. Highlights include:

**ART**
Practiced piano, guitar and drumming with local music teacher. Painted murals at local home for street children.

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**
Practiced photography. Participated in Introduction to Graphic Design workshops.

**COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA**
Participated in video-editing and animation workshops. Wrote and produced short films.

**SPORTS**
Organized first marathon and annual community and city-wide soccer tournaments.
LEAD

CREA: CREATING FRIENDLY SPACES
Partners | Central America and Mexico Youth Fund | Global Fund for Children

Since 2015, the CREA project has sought to promote the implementation of integral sexual health education in local public schools. Youth facilitators have provided sexual health and masculinity workshops to 7th to 9th grade students, adapted the national curriculum to local needs and contexts, trained 38 teachers to use the adapted curriculum, and formed a multi-sectoral working group to write and present a public policy proposal to local authorities. In 2017, the project directly impacted 600 youth and indirectly reached nearly 3,000 people in seven local schools and organizations.

LET GIRLS LEAD
Partner | Public Health Institute | Rise Up

20 teen girls, mentored by a young female law student and OYE scholar, initiated advocacy efforts to promote the institutionalization of integral sexual education in local public schools. Highlights include participating in a public forum with local authorities and publishing a series of comics that reflect the tough decisions youth face and show how integral sexual education is necessary to provide youth with the knowledge and attitudes they need to make informed and healthy decisions for their futures.

CREER: CREATING RESTORATIVE SPACES
Partner | Strachan Foundation

Certified trainers from the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IRP) trained 70 teachers and counselors from El Progreso’s largest high school, Instituto Oficial Perla del Ulúa, to use restorative practices in and out of the classroom to prevent conflict, build community, and repair harm. OYE’s in-house psychologist provided weekly follow-up support and guidance to the school’s counselors, (co-)facilitating dialogue circles among them and with teachers and their students, directly impacting over 2,000 students.

PORTALS
Partners | Shared_Studios | National Autonomous University of Honduras

Shared_Studios’ Portals are gold spaces equipped with immersive audiovisual technology. When you enter a Portal, you come face-to-face with someone in a distant Portal live and full-body, as if in the same room. Launched in 2015, the Honduras Portal has connected hundreds of Honduran high school and university students to strangers across the globe in shared spaces to talk about anything and everything, including identity, culture, politics, daily life, and hopes for the future, among other topics.
FINANCIALS

This annual report would not be complete without recognizing our generous community of partners and donors across the globe. Together, we make these stories of transformation possible.

Youth, families, staff, board members, donors, and partners. We are all OYE. Todas y todos somos OYE.

![Circle Chart: 62% Foundations & International Partners, 32% USA Donors, 6% Local Donors & Partners]

**2017 REVENUE**

$ 295,535

![Circle Chart: 21% Administration & Support Services, 70% Programs & Projects, 9% Development & Fundraising]

**2017 EXPENSES**

$ 298,180

LOCAL PARTNERS

El Progreso Municipal Government | Azucarera del Norte (Azunosa) | El Progreso Chamber of Commerce | El Progreso Rotary Club | KM2 Solutions

FOUNDATIONS & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Inter-American Foundation | Central America and Mexico Youth Fund | Global Fund for Children
Strachan Foundation | Public Health Institute | Public Welfare Foundation | Shared_Studios
Ferrarini & Co. | American University | University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Organization for Youth Empowerment

For more information, visit us at
www.oyehonduras.org

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