PROJECT DOCUMENTATION. All project documentation is in Spanish. Creando Mi Futuro has been in existence in its current form and site for more than seven years, under the auspices of an NGO in California – Doroteia Pathways Foundation. During this time, we primarily held Saturday art classes for the children of poor Maya Tz’utujil children of San Pedro la Laguna, with a nutritious meal in class, supported children in primary, middle and high school with fees and materials, and distributed foodstuffs via monthly baskets for each family. Parents participated in turn on the Parent Board and conducting the weekly classroom cleanup. All of these activities were funded by the sponsors for each of the families, donating to the tune of about $19,000 per year, and benefit events in California, arranged and managed by the Director.

Our motto is “Integrating the past; embracing the future.” Toward this goal we teach a traditional activity in this pueblo (cultivation in our Community Garden) with an organic and soil-regenerative approach (more “modern”.) We have offered classes to teach about the Mayan Calendar and the meaning of its glyphs, taught the kids the involved artwork, and taught the nutritive value of traditional herbs in this community, thru community teachers and speakers. We have also integrated computers into our “study-hall” during the week, and each child is now computer-literate, also able to use YouTube to look up beadwork patterns, and how to do other traditional crafts. We emphasize the importance of looking for ways to improve the mothers’ economic situation, while honoring the traditional ways of raising their children. We encourage the continued use of their native Tz’utujil during class and meetings, while giving the mothers and kids a chance to speak Spanish with an extranjero (the director and various volunteers) – which improves their capacity in the tourist industry. The director and chosen volunteers RESPECT and HONOR the local language and traditions and have found themselves re-introducing this honoring to the parents, who have suffered from centuries of denigration and disrespect (and worse) during the Colonization period and following years as second-class citizens.

In 2021, we began to require more participation from the parents and graduated the amount of food in their food baskets, accordingly (increasing total amount of the baskets). They can take part in the classroom cleaning, the Parent Board, the community garden, the weaving and beadwork classes, the literacy class and now a sewing class (on completion of which they can buy a sewing machine, if we get donations to cover 60% of cost). And they have found that more participation feels good, is even “social”. The mothers work and chit-chat, while the little kids play underfoot.

At the end of 2022, we registered legally as Community Association #755 in the pueblo of San Pedro la Laguna. This has required a number of changes; following all national payment requirements for employees, needing legal receipts (electronic “facturas”) for all expenses, and paying taxes to the national tax board, where appropriate. We have had to hire an Accountant to handle all this for us, whereas up until now all accounting could be done by the Director with a simple spreadsheet and archive of receipts.

The Director is now 88 years old and while she wants to continue to be part of the program as long as possible, it makes sense to hire a part-time Director to handle all the legal requirements. For this reason, and to fund all the youth and parent classes in this program -- which are not funded by our family sponsors -- we are seeking funding via donations to Global Giving.