



# WINGS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

IT ALL BEGINS WITH REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



# WORDS FROM OUR LEADERS

Dear Friends,

2017 was filled with strategic changes for WINGS, all of them undertaken with the aim of streamlining services to further our reach while becoming even more cost-effective. Based on client demand, we down-sized our office in Alta Verapaz, focused our reach to 10 departments, and cultivated new partnerships with other non-governmental organizations. By focusing on patient-centered, rights-based care, WINGS has positioned itself as the provider of choice for many women and men in the rural, under-served areas where we work.

Organizational highlights from 2017 include a 92% increase in tubal ligations and a 49% increase in vasectomies from 2016. In a country where access to these life-changing permanent operations can be challenging, both in terms of finding a provider and in receiving comprehensive, non-coercive information, we are proud that we continue to expand our coverage of these procedures.

According to the Child Rights Observatory (Observatorio de los Derechos de la Niñez), 90,899 Guatemalan girls between the ages of 10 and 19 were pregnant in 2017. There is obviously so much work to be done on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention. WINGS' Youth Leaders helped us reach 9,078 youth in 2017 with comprehensive reproductive health education focused on pregnancy prevention, gender equality, and referrals to services. We rely on these young people to help us shift the traditional cultural paradigm away from a reality which finds young girls isolated and vulnerable to one that is more empowering for girls and women, especially in indigenous communities.

In addition to strengthening our rights-based care provision, we have focused on continued quality improvements in service delivery. This report provides you with more information on specific aspects of our strategies.

As WINGS continues to improve, our emphasis moving forward will remain laser-focused on rights-based care. We aim to protect our clients, no matter their race, color, religion, national origin, physical ability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, or employment.

With your support and the support of partnering foundations, WINGS reached 23,771 Guatemalan youth, women, and men with vital sexual and reproductive health services in 2017, on a budget of \$880,551. Your generosity is absolutely vital to our success and we could not exist without you. We hope you will continue to champion the reproductive rights of youth, women, and men in Guatemala and spread the word about WINGS, which is making a real difference in the lives of Guatemala's most vulnerable people.

Our sincerest thanks for your support,



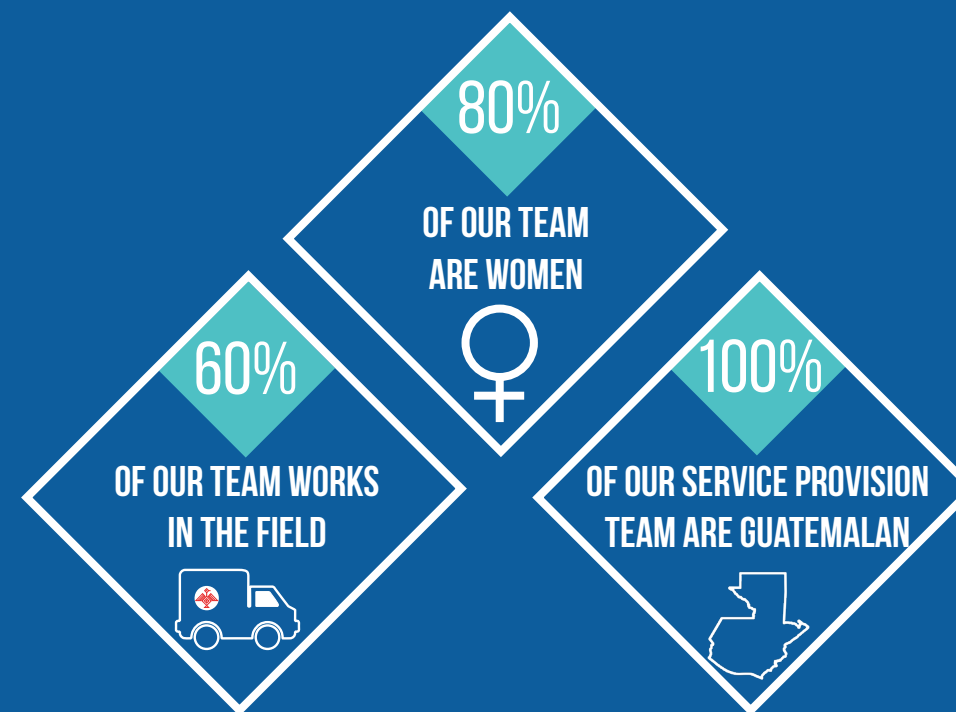
Holly Myers  
President of the Board of Directors



Rodrigo Barillas  
Executive Director

# ABOUT WINGS

Founded in 2001, WINGS provides quality reproductive health education and services to underserved, primarily rural Guatemalan youth, women, and men. We take a holistic approach to reproductive health that recognizes the diverse barriers to exercising rights at the local level and engages community members, including indigenous women and girls, to secure reproductive rights and bring their voices to the forefront of the decision-making process. Working in 10 predominately rural, indigenous, and low-income departments in Guatemala we provide education and services through a network of youth leaders, local volunteer health promoters, mobile units, and stationary clinics.





# OUR 2017 COVERAGE

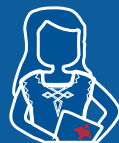
2 MOBILE UNITS



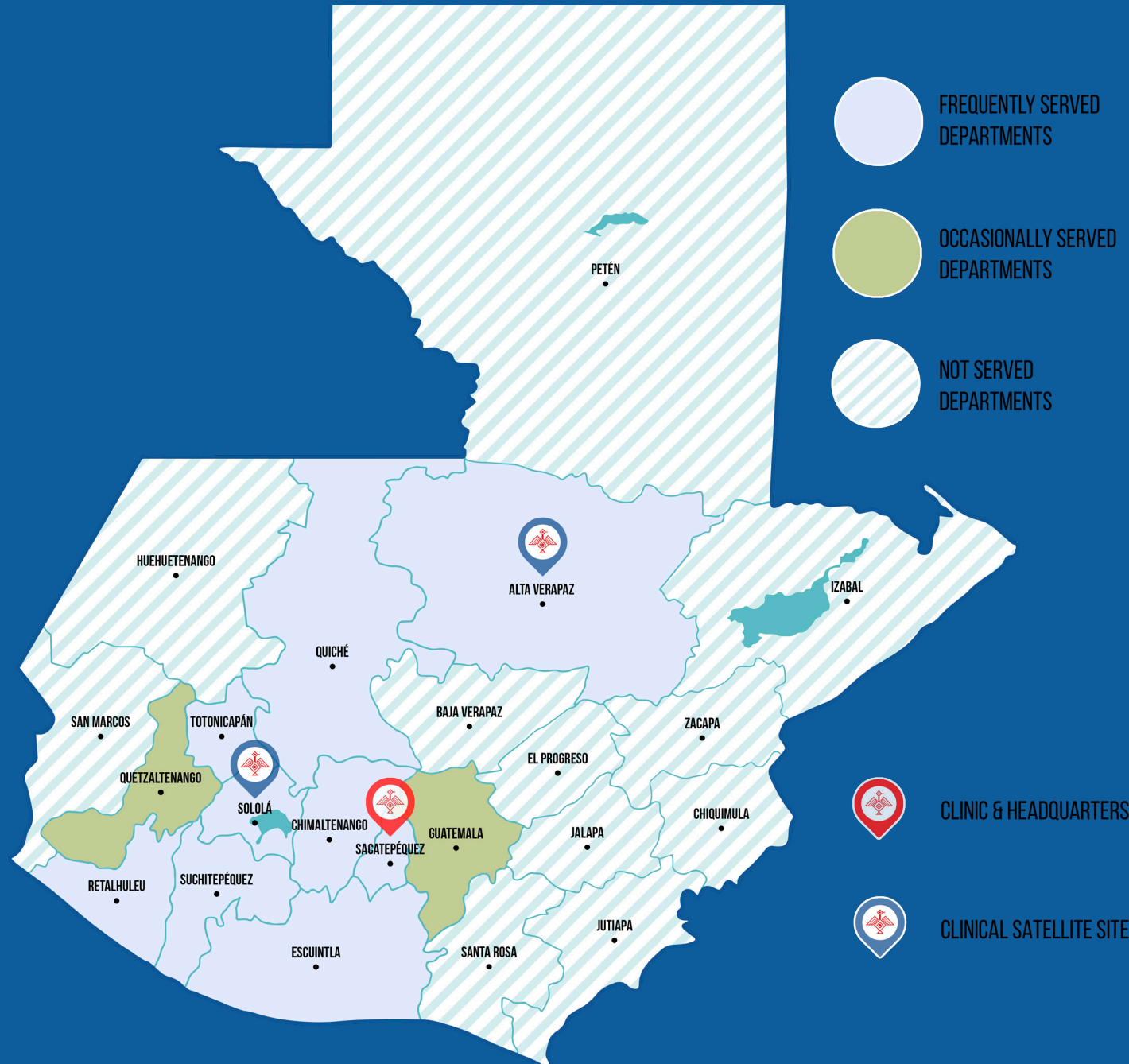
SERVING 162 COMMUNITIES  
IN 10 DEPARTMENTS



50 VOLUNTEER HEALTH  
PROMOTERS



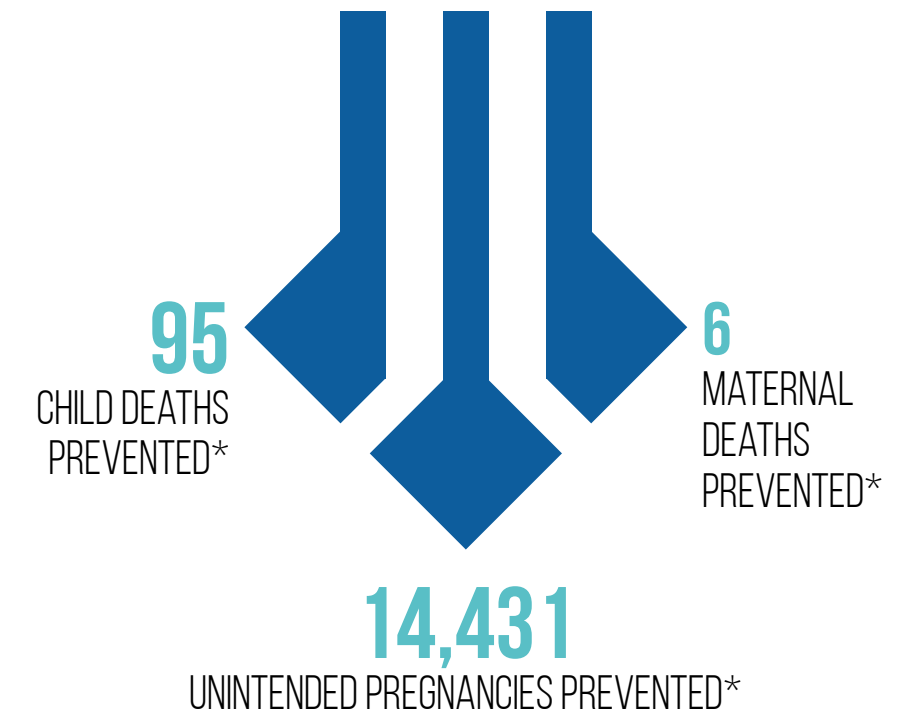
SERVING 50 COMMUNITIES  
IN 5 DEPARTMENTS



# OUR 2017 IMPACT

23,771

YOUTH, WOMEN, AND MEN REACHED THROUGH  
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH  
INFORMATION AND SERVICES



\*Estimated using the Marie Stopes  
International Impact 2 model.



# RIGHTS-BASED CARE

WINGS is working toward becoming a leader in rights-based care in Central America. We are guided by best-practice and global experts, including Family Planning 2020 (FP 2020) which asserts that “rights-based family planning turns the focus to the rights of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of children with quality sexual/reproductive health information and services to do so without facing discrimination or inequality.”

For WINGS, the practical implementation of rights-based care means that we treat every client in a non-judgmental, non-coercive manner that provides ample education for each individual to make well-informed decisions. You can see examples in various aspects of our service provision.

We provide a Youth-Friendly Space within our clinic to attend anyone age 19 or under. This space is staffed by our Youth Program team, who are trained and skilled at communicating with youth who then provide a ‘warm hand-off’ to our clinical staff if the youth decides to get a contraceptive method. We offer all services for free to anyone under age 19.

Our clinical team uses techniques to protect privacy and invite clients to ask honest questions before, during, and after any clinical intervention. Each client receives comprehensive information about available contraceptive methods before they choose which one is right for them and can opt out at any moment if they change their mind. This is important in a context where not everyone has been informed of their rights in past medical treatments or other facets of their lives.





# GEIDI MORALES DEL CID

WINGS PATIENT, 23 YEARS OLD



When I was 18 years old, I got pregnant. I don't regret having my son at all, but now I think what would have happened if I had used contraception – I think about that a lot. I would love to study law and travel, but I can't. I only earn minimum wage – I have to pay my rent and I have no time for those things. I have a kid.

I am from Sanarate, in El Progreso. Nobody told me about contraception before my son. In my school, we had 3 sex ed classes and it was just about condoms and little else. In my home town, you see lots of teen moms. One of my cousins had her first child when she was 15 years old, and now she is 23 and already has 3 children. Women are seen as the only ones responsible for bringing kids into the world. Around Guatemala, you see such huge families. Contraceptive methods are seen by some as something that improves your quality of life, but there are still so many people who think that contraception is against life or that it is just a way to promote promiscuity.

Five years ago I moved to Antigua with the father of my son. We moved in together just 2 months after knowing each other because we were both living alone, and just a few months later I was pregnant. I never used contraception before my son. The fact that I never got pregnant before was just luck. Nobody told me to protect myself against pregnancy. We wanted to have children together, but nobody told me what it really meant to have a child. I thought I was prepared because it is common to be a young mom here.

I'm no longer with my son's father but I have a new boyfriend. I'm terrified to have another child since we don't have money or time for another child. A friend told me about the subdermal hormonal implant but I was afraid because I've heard such awful stories about contraception. A friend told me she got her implant from WINGS and that they took great care of her. I went to the WINGS clinic and it surprised me because it didn't look like a regular health center. Everything felt clean and safe. The nurse explained to me all the options and I opted for a Copper Intrauterine Device. They even offered me a free cervical cancer screening and I'm so glad I had it done – I had never had a screening before. I recommend contraception and WINGS every time I have a chance because now that I have an IUD I feel freedom in my life and I am no longer afraid that I will get pregnant.



# SERVICE PROVISION

## PROFILE OF OUR VOLUNTARY SURGICAL CONTRACEPTION PATIENTS

AVERAGE AGE

**31** < **18** YOUNGEST PATIENT  
**53** OLDEST PATIENT

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

**3** < **0** MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
**10** MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN

## PROFILE OF OUR CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS PATIENTS

AVERAGE AGE

**25** < **13** YOUNGEST PATIENT  
**49** OLDEST PATIENT

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

**2** < **0** MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
**11** MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN

VOLUNTARY SURGICAL  
CONTRACEPTION

**1,335**  
TUBAL LIGATIONS

**164**  
VASECTOMIES

**500**  
COPPER INTRAUTERINE  
DEVICES (IUD)

**2,284**  
SUBDERMAL HORMONAL IMPLANTS

LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE  
CONTRACEPTION





## SHORT-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTION

**6,466**  
QUARTERLY INJECTIONS



**3,568**  
MONTHLY INJECTIONS



**1,350**  
PILLS



**12,850**  
CONDOMS



TOTALLING  
**4,267** PATIENTS

## CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION

**3,345**  
CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS



**135**  
POSITIVE CASES

**84**  
CRYOTHERAPY TREATMENTS



**872**  
WOMEN SCREENED FOR  
THE FIRST TIME

# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Since early in its history, WINGS has included ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation in all aspects of our programming as we continually work towards measurable improvement in health care services. In 2017, our Quality Improvement (QI) projects concentrated on the health interventions provided by our Service Provision staff and our Volunteer Promoter Network.

## SERVICE PROVISION STAFF

During 2017, 3 external medical auditors from PASMO (Pan American Social Marketing Organization) completed an external quality audit of the WINGS medical staff.

### STRENGTHS IDENTIFIED

- ◆ Logistical organization in the pop-up clinics (staff prepared, capable, and friendly)
- ◆ Clinical history included verbal pregnancy screening and medical eligibility criteria
- ◆ Informed consents completed
- ◆ Material and supplies in sufficient quantity and optimum conditions
- ◆ Correct insertion techniques
- ◆ Correct post-insertion and follow-up recommendations provided

### TECHNICAL COMPETENCY

- ◆ 100% of staff evaluated achieved scores above the average considered acceptable by PASMO
- ◆ Average score of 80-89 points is considered very good; WINGS' team achieved an average of 93 points
- ◆ All providers completed the critical steps of insertion of intrauterine devices and hormonal implants without significant deficiencies – the opportunities for improvement detected were not in critical steps



## VOLUNTEER PROMOTER NETWORK

One of WINGS' longest-standing programs is our network of 50 Volunteer Health Promoters: community leaders identified within underserved rural areas to be a local point of service. Through their intimate linguistic and cultural knowledge of the communities they serve, they are able to provide quality contraceptive counselling, low-cost short-acting methods (injectables, pills, and condoms), and referrals to WINGS medical clinics for additional services.

In order to professionalize our Volunteer Promoter Network and to improve quality assurance of the services offered through this network, WINGS completed an internal audit of a sample of active promoters in March and October 2017. Issues identified in March were used as training opportunities at the July session. The purpose of the audit was specifically to observe and rate promoters' abilities related to: technical ability, patient safety, informed decision-making, privacy & confidentiality, and continuity of care.

The audit helped us identify some network-wide challenges like incomplete LARC First counselling and discussion of rare but serious warning signs. As hoped for, we saw that by the October audit, our promoters excelled at injection techniques and confidential, non-judgmental counselling. We continue to work through challenges at our quarterly VPN training sessions.



# YOUTH PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

YOUTH BENEFICIARIES IN 2017



YOUTH USING LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTION IN 2017



# 48

YOUTH LEADERS PARTICIPATED IN THE YOUTH PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM GIVING

# 1,082

INFORMAL TALKS AND

# 144

FORMAL TALKS



Raising 9 children isn't easy. My father had to work hard to give me, my 3 brothers and 5 sisters an education. Now just 3 of us are living with my parents. My other siblings have graduated and help my parents with finances so we can all graduate from college. My father is a farmer and my mom used to be a midwife, but mostly spent her life taking care of us. We are from Saxoc, a small village 35 minutes from Cobán, in Alta Verapaz. We are not an uncommonly large family in Saxoc. Most of the families are large and some of my classmates have 10 or 11 siblings.

In 2014 WINGS came to my community for a pop-up clinic and, as my mom was a recognized midwife, they invited her to be a Volunteer Health Promoter. With her experience as a midwife and with the knowledge that she gained as a WINGS promoter, she was able to pass all that information on to us. My entire family supports contraception – all my sisters use long-term contraceptive methods. The Youth Peer Education Program came to Cobán in 2015 and my mom asked me to join it, as they were looking for Youth Leaders. At the beginning I wasn't interested – it didn't catch my attention at all. But then I went to a meeting and I changed my mind.

A few years ago, it was normal to see pregnant teens in my community. But slowly this is changing. In 2015 the WINGS Youth Peer Education Program organized each Youth Leader to be in charge of a small group of teenagers to train them in sex ed. It really helped because a lot of youth started using contraception after that and helped spread the word even further. When I joined WINGS, it was difficult to reach young people since they were not interested in contraception and a lot of people thought that contraception was a sin. The COCODE (community leaders) helped me grab their attention and by the end, I had a permanent group of 19 youth using contraception because of me.

For me, family planning is the key to the transformation of Guatemala. When all Guatemalans know about contraception, there will be more rights and opportunities to have an equal education for all children. It is essential that access to education be the same for everyone. With many children, it is difficult for them to receive education and that has a huge impact in other areas such as the economy.

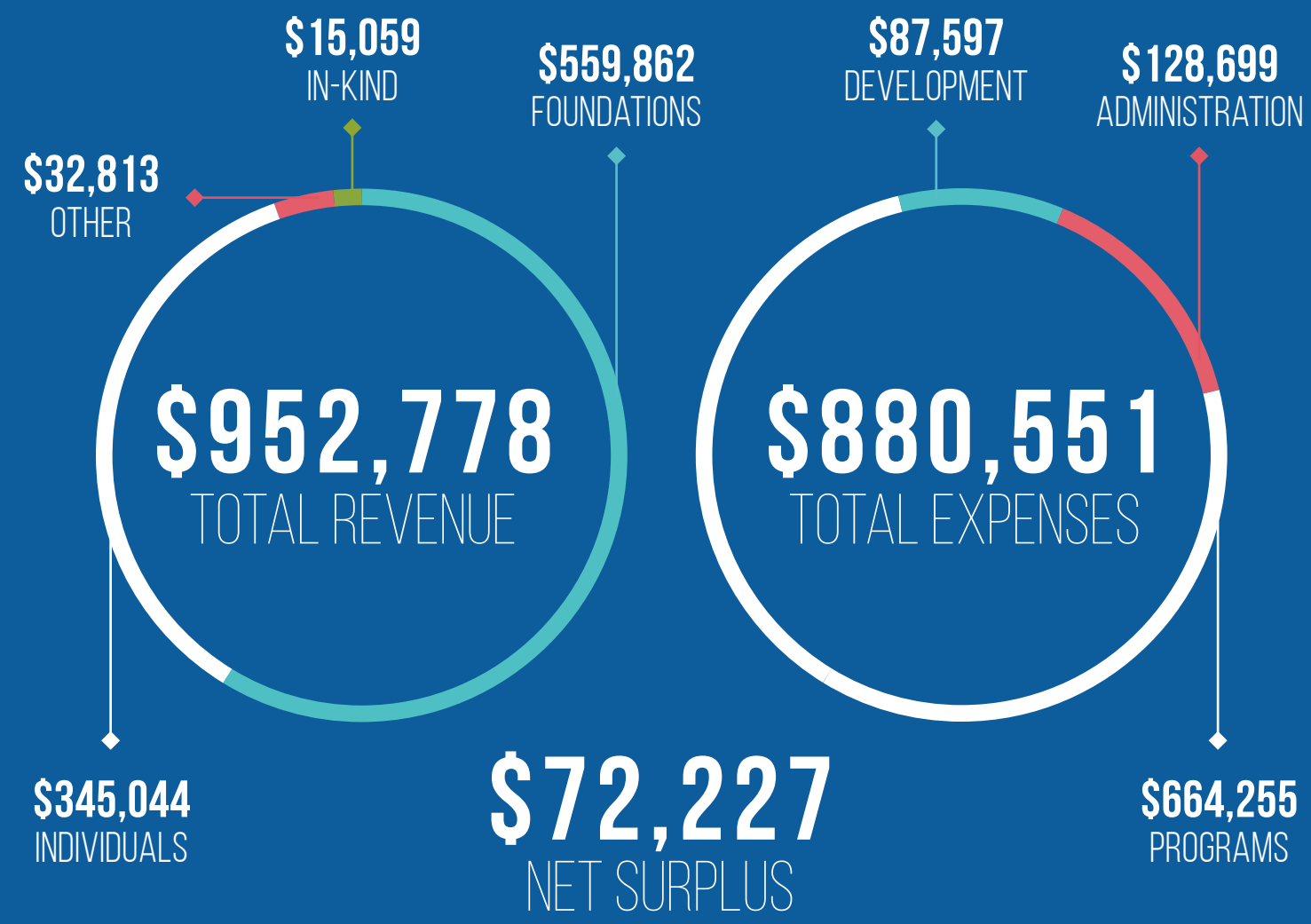
WINGS taught me a lot. Everything I learned in the past few years has helped to protect me, my family, and my community. Now, even though I have graduated from the youth program, the youth in my village keep asking me for advice and I am happy knowing that I am helping them.



**DUVAN ERAIMY QUIB**  
YOUTH LEADER, 20 YEARS OLD



# FINANCIAL RESULTS



2017 financial information reflects audited results. WINGS is a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2001 and is audited annually. For additional financial information, please visit our website at [www.wingsguate.org](http://www.wingsguate.org). Our tax identification number is 31-1759515.

# 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRONT ROW

Silvia Tum	Marilyn Edmunds	Jackie Verity	Holly Myers	Kate Flatley	Sue Patterson	Lynn Bakamjian
------------	-----------------	---------------	-------------	--------------	---------------	----------------

BACK ROW

Rodrigo Barillas	Theresa Weimerskirch	Tonia Papke	Joel Weinthal	Roger Duvivier	Richard Yankwich	Alejandra Colom
------------------	----------------------	-------------	---------------	----------------	------------------	-----------------

NOT PICTURED: Austin Anderson and Jennifer Benz  
BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS: Kathie Amble and Sue Wheeler







To the **653 individuals and organizations** around the world who made generous financial contributions to support our work;

To the **27 WINGS Sustainers** that chose to give monthly;

To the **289 new supporters** who have joined our cause; and

To the **countless advocates, allies, and volunteers** who believe in the power of reproductive rights to transform lives and make the effort to spread the word about WINGS,

# THANK YOU

## GUATEMALA

9a Calle Poniente No. 17  
Residenciales El Rosario No. 3  
La Antigua, Guatemala  
+(502) 7832-5130



[www.wingsguate.org](http://www.wingsguate.org)  
[info@wingsguate.org](mailto:info@wingsguate.org)

## USA

1043 Grand Ave #299  
St. Paul, MN 55105



©WINGS 2018