



A CAMPAIGN FOR LIMITLESS HORIZONS IXIL: BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL FOR CHAJUL

"The schools in Chajul are not the same as in other places. My peers at university are more prepared academically and had better teachers and resources. I struggle in my classes, and need to work so much harder than the other students if I'm going to succeed."

– Mati Adalia Bate Telis, graduate of Limitless Horizons Ixil's Youth Development Program

MATI'S STORY: Mati is the first woman from Chajul, Guatemala, to study science in college and the first to embark on a career as a lab technician. She is also one of four children in a poverty-stricken home in an indigenous community recovering from Guatemala's violent civil war. Unlike many of her peers, Mati made it to college because Limitless Horizons Ixil provided her with scholarships to attend existing middle and high schools, tutoring, mentoring, life-skills workshops, college and scholarship application support, and career services.



Mati's success opens new doors of opportunity for our younger scholars by providing a role model and a path forward. She told us: *"It's important that girls study science so that we can stop depending on men to provide services like health care. In my community, men think women can't work in science, so choosing science as a career is also a way of breaking negative stereotypes."*

Still, Mati's hard work at local schools wasn't enough to prepare her fully for a university science program. Limitless Horizons Ixil's programs and services weren't enough, either.

We helped her get there. However, **for Chajul's youth to be successful, we must address a core issue in Chajul: the quality of education.**

Limitless Horizons Ixil has a plan to transform education in Chajul and prevent migration of Guatemalan youth to the US by creating a new school for youth like Mati. **But we can't do it alone.** We are mobilizing an international family of donors, volunteers, and advisors to join together and build the infrastructure for quality education in Chajul. You are part of our vision and critical to the success of this campaign. **Please join us in the movement to empower girls to change the world, one community at a time.**



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A NEW SCHOOL FOR CHAJUL

Limitless Horizons Ixil is starting **a new school and building the needed facilities to provide access to a high-quality, empowering, and holistic middle and high school education for indigenous youth in rural Guatemala.** We will bring culturally responsive, rigorous, and engaging academics to Chajul for the first time, while **opening doors for girls** like Mati to attend and thrive in school. In addition, about a third of students will be motivated boys who will become allies and leaders for women's empowerment in Chajul. Led by local women, our school will foster the skills youth need to effect change in their lives and community.

OUR VISION is a new generation of civic-minded youth who are academically prepared for university and well-paying careers, and who can bring economic security to their families without migrating to the U.S., **breaking the cycle of poverty in Chajul.** We will create a pipeline of **educated agents of change** to create solutions to local challenges. Our comprehensive approach will **strengthen families, promote a culture of gender equality, and improve educational quality** across the community, creating a positive **ripple effect in Chajul for generations to come.**



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THE CHALLENGE

CONTEXT: Chajul is located in the beautiful mountains of Quiché. It is one of the poorest regions of Guatemala, and was one of the hardest hit during the 36-year civil war. The war amounted to genocide against the indigenous people, who are still discriminated against today. With the majority of the population engaged in subsistence farming, **93% of Chajul's Maya Ixil population lives in poverty and 41% in extreme poverty.** The families we serve have an **average monthly income of just \$77**, far below the extreme poverty line. Nearly half of parents are illiterate and only 24% completed elementary school.



The recent spike in migration from Central America is reflected in Chajul, where people are desperate enough to leave everything to embark on a perilous journey in search of a brighter future. We are working to ensure that people in Chajul have what they need to stay, thrive, and build the community and country they love and call home, addressing a root cause of migration.

LACK OF ACCESS: Since Limitless Horizons Ixil's founding, demand for education has increased; **more youth than ever are enrolling in Chajul's middle schools and traveling hours from home to secure a high school education.** However, the local middle schools are underfunded and unequipped to absorb increased enrollment, with class sizes often surpassing 35 students and some reaching as many as 60. Furthermore, the school day is just 4.5 hours, limiting students' access to teachers and learning time.

LACK OF QUALITY, SAFETY, &

EMPOWERMENT: Student performance is suffering. **95% of high school graduates in Chajul failed the national exams** in reading and 99% in math in 2016. Teachers don't have access to the resources and training they need, and schools often lack proper bathroom facilities, clean water, and electricity. **Safety is of particular concern for girls**, as the teaching staff across Chajul is almost entirely male, and sexual and emotional abuse is far too common in Chajul's schools. Furthermore, indigenous girls in particular struggle to see themselves and their future in the standard curriculum. The vast majority of girls do not pursue high school or post-secondary education. Those who do, like Mati, tell us they are unprepared.

After several interventions to improve our existing partner school, including services for students and teachers, Limitless Horizons Ixil has observed continued problems which hinder youth success and limit our impact in the community. In many ways, we have been compensating for the school. The situation has become increasingly urgent as **class sizes have increased beyond what teachers can manage and youth report feeling unsafe and unsupported.** We have conducted extensive research on other local schools, and have been **unable to find a viable school partnership option.**

Limitless Horizons Ixil has been successful at increasing access to education over the last 15+ years.

In order for us to achieve our mission, we now must address the quality of that education.



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TRACK RECORD & CAPACITY TO SUCCEED

Limitless Horizons Ixil is uniquely positioned to build a successful school. Since our founding in 2004, our **Youth Development Program has made it possible for 226 youth, including Mati, to go to middle and high school** by providing them scholarships, wraparound support services for students and families, and access to our library.

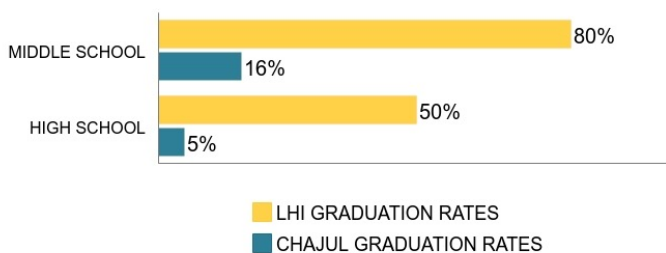
Two-thirds of Youth Development Program high school graduates are **working or studying** in university, which is significant in a community where less than 5% of households have a family member employed in the formal economy and less than 1% graduate from college. The program has helped to **delay the childbearing age**: 84% of our participants' mothers had children before age 23, compared with 19% of Youth Development Program alumnae.

Our new school is a community-driven initiative. Maya Ixil women from Chajul are the majority of Limitless Horizons Ixil's staff and serve as role models and trusted voices in the community. Our Chajulense staff members drive all of the organization's programs, and they have been working hard to turn their dream of a new school into reality. It is this team that will lead project design and management with support from partners and international experts.

We have established key **partnerships** to enable success. **Building Goodness Foundation and Design Develop LLC** are designing the building and will oversee local construction. Our long-term partner **MAIA** (formerly named Starfish), which runs a similar school in another part of Guatemala, is sharing their curriculum and assessments, training our staff, and coaching us along the way.

Through our experience partnering with local schools, we are familiar with the **limitations and opportunities** within the local educational landscape, and we know that our school will fill a critical gap in the community.

GRADUATION RATES: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM STUDENTS VS. CHAJUL'S YOUTH OVERALL





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PLANNING & DESIGN

The school, which will encompass our Youth Development Program serving 70 students, will serve **120 middle and high schoolers, and support graduates** to attain university and/or professional opportunities. In parallel with construction and accreditation paperwork, we will hire and train **female teachers from the Maya Ixil community** to provide an academic experience that is **empowering, physically and emotionally safe, and specifically designed for girls**. The curriculum will be designed to eliminate gender bias and develop students’:

- Academic excellence
- Career awareness
- Critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and communication skills
- Awareness of self, others, and community
- Agency over their own futures

Design building, hire leadership team, secure accreditation, build capacity, create high-level instructional & operational plans

2019

Prepare building site, finalize building plans, hire faculty, launch virtual teacher training institute, develop academic program

2020

Construct building, finalize instructional & operational plans, train teachers, select students, launch student preparation

2021

Launch middle school with first class of scholars

2022

Launch high school with first class of scholars

2025



Design Develop & Building Goodness Foundation



IMPACT

A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY: Elisa will arrive at school at 7:30 and greet her well-trained and supported teacher. She will join her 19 classmates for a day of rigorous and engaging learning. Elisa will receive meals so that she can concentrate on learning, and she'll benefit immensely from the additional hours of school and the extra attention from her teachers after being in a 35-person class the year before in a different school.



She will feel safe talking to her female teacher about her needs, being in class with her peer community, and using a secure bathroom. Her mentor will help her to navigate challenging situations at home, to develop her social-emotional skills and

self awareness, and to guide her in career planning and leadership development. At 3:30, she will go home to a family that is informed, involved, and an active part of her education.

She feels hopeful, motivated, and strong. Through their involvement in our family services, Elisa's parents have gained tools to help all of their children and have become community advocates for girls' education. Elisa is considering pursuing a university education in either civil engineering or business, which she can use to make a difference in Chajul.

RIPPLE EFFECT: In the long term, our school will be well-positioned to **catalyze educational improvements** across Chajul, and will offer opportunities for other local schools to learn from and with our staff. The **building** will house safe and productive student and teacher learning for the community for generations to come. Over time, graduates of our **teacher training** pipeline will work in several of Chajul's schools, train other indigenous women to teach effectively, and inspire indigenous youth to become teachers and school leaders in their own community.

Gender equality will benefit girls across Chajul and catalyze progress for the whole community, as women become leaders and wage earners in the community and guide the next generation to health and stability. Students' **academic and health outcomes** will improve, enabling them to persist and thrive in school and their careers, and to become **role models and strong, engaged parents**. The school will prepare Chajul's youth to attain careers which **bring economic security and sustainable development** to their families and communities, **alleviating the need to migrate to seek economic opportunity in the U.S.**

We are not just building a school. We are building the infrastructure needed to bring quality education to Chajul for generations to come.



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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES: We aim to prepare scholars to **have choice, reach their highest potential, and create opportunity for others.** Graduates will pursue one of the following career options as well as use their **voice and agency to be civic leaders and advocates for change.** If they need a college degree or vocational training after high school to reach their dreams, we will support them in applying for admission and scholarships.

Individual Career Options

Community Impact

Secure a job in Ixil region.

Jobs are available in education, healthcare, accounting, technology, business, and more. We expect most to choose this option.



- Strengthening local human capital pipeline to reduce the hiring of non-local applicants who currently have stronger skills
- Increase in female hiring and workplace diversity
- Reduction in hiring discrimination once graduates can hire others
- Strengthening and growing local businesses
- Reduction in income-motivated emigration from Chajul

Start a business in the Ixil region.



- Growing local businesses that create jobs, address local needs, and build economic opportunity
- Reduction in income-motivated emigration from Chajul

Secure a job elsewhere in Guatemala.

Jobs are available in more fields, and may pay higher wages.



- Sending funds home to support their families and community
- Sharing their career learning with youth in Chajul
- Reduction in income-motivated emigration from Guatemala

Create community change from home.

Women may make an intentional decision to not work outside the home.



- Delayed marriage and childbirth, and smaller families
- Women contributing to household decision-making and budgeting
- Increased investment in education and health of children
- Empowered daughters; promotion of gender equality in the home
- Next generation of leaders strengthened through informed parenting choices

Mati is working very hard to earn her college degree, become Chajul's first lab technician, and inspire girls to dream. However, Chajul's schools didn't adequately prepare her for college. Our school will better prepare Chajul's youth to follow Mati's lead.