



2022

ANNUAL

REPORT



"19 years ago, I only planted a seed, but thanks to the unwavering support from our team, teachers, parents, the community, our two boards of directors, partners, foundations, and donors, this seed has flourished into the thriving school it is today. Together, we have provided the essential elements of water, sun, and an abundance of love to nurture its growth."

Dear friends and supporters,

2022 was certainly a year to remember. I am filled with a sense of awe and gratitude for the incredible community of people that make our work possible and came together to build and launch *Colegio Horizontes*. **It is an honor to work alongside all of you, and I am humbled every day by the generosity and kindness that you bring to our shared mission.**

This past year was one of the most transformative and exciting in our organization's history, and I am so proud of what we accomplished. **The highlight, of course, was the opening of our very own school, *Colegio Horizontes*.** I wish that I could fully convey the deep emotion and pure joy in the air as we celebrated the school's grand opening in July. It was a momentous occasion, full of motivational speeches, traditional music, dance, laughter, and tears of joy.

2022 showed us what **access to a high-quality, safe, and engaging education** can do in a community that never before had access to these resources. In spite of **beginning middle school with an average of a 1st or 2nd grade reading level and being too shy to speak, our students rapidly progressed throughout the school year.** By the middle of the year, they were falling

out of their seats to participate in their highly interactive classes. Our first class of students has been incredibly engaged, open, curious, and genuinely excited about the opportunity to receive a quality education. Quite honestly, we are completely blown away by their progress, which has been a guiding light, and far greater than we thought possible.

But the impact of your support goes beyond the *Colegio Horizontes* classrooms. **Your contributions are what enable us to continue to provide scholarships, tutoring, and mentoring** to Chajul's students, as well as strengthen our library programming and expand our literacy efforts. Additionally, **you help our graduates succeed, as they access jobs and continued education opportunities,** on their way to creating a more gender-equitable community. Our commitment to making a **lasting impact on the lives of our students, families, and the Chajul community** is as strong as ever. Thank you for being part of our work and for allowing Chajul's youth to have access to never before seen opportunities to help their families escape poverty through education.

With deep appreciation,

Kati Momen
Founder & Executive Director



COLEGIO

HORIZONTES

After six years of planning and anticipation, *Colegio Horizontes* officially began classes on January 24, 2022. Although the consequences of the pandemic were still with us, and the new building was not yet ready, we were determined to hold in-person classes. We knew our students did not have the necessary resources at home to thrive in virtual classes, and after two years of challenging remote learning, we needed to get them into the classroom.

After careful consideration and in compliance with strict COVID regulations, we divided our first class of 24 students into two groups, which we housed in a temporary space while we were in the final stages of our school construction. Their classes included math, science, social science, Spanish, English, Ixil, physical education, entrepreneurship, and art.

In our first year, our students had an exceptional average daily attendance rate of nearly 100%, reflecting a strong commitment to their education. Furthermore, they truly excelled in their courses, with 37% achieving outstanding results, 58% getting good grades, and the remaining 4% successfully passing all their courses. An impressive testament to their dedication and hard work, they ended



**First
classroom**



**First
orientation**

the year with an average of 83% across all subjects, surpassing our strategic target of 75%.

In preparation for our 2023 rising 7th graders, we held 138 hours of Expanding Horizons preparation classes in 2022. These classes focus on the most challenging subjects, while also preparing students for the culture and expectations of *Colegio Horizontes*, setting them up for success in middle school. The prep classes include Spanish, math, school culture, and mentorship.



“When teachers ask questions in class, I am not afraid to use my empowered voice to share my thoughts and ideas.”

-Estefany, Colegio Horizontes student

“I want to open a business so I can provide job opportunities for women who weren’t able to study so that I can help them and my community.”

- Joselina, Colegio Horizontes student



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

At Colegio Horizontes, our commitment to our students' growth, well-being, and academic success has driven our development of a highly comprehensive mentorship program. Our mentorship team provides both individual and group sessions, addressing essential and timely topics such as reproductive health, emotional well-being, gender equality, and leadership skills.

Recognizing the pivotal role of parental involvement in education and well-being, we actively engage parents in our school. In 2022, our mentors organized four School for Parents workshops, each covering a specific topic including health, hygiene, reproductive health, and gender equity.



Mentorship home visits

As part of our student and family support services, our mentorship team pays four visits a year to each home, increasing the frequency to monthly visits for students going through challenging times. This allows us to address the unique needs of each student and family and provide personalized support to ensure that all needs are being met, thus allowing students to succeed academically. In 2022, our mentors conducted 118 home visits to our 7th graders' homes, held 150 individual mentorship sessions with students at school, and taught 83 hours of mentorship class.



Our first group of 24 students is...

71% female

100% indigenous Ixil from Chajul

100% living in conditions of poverty



Students take 11 hours of STEM classes per week, compared to an average of 6.25 hours at other middle schools in Chajul.



Two local women cook nutritious and delicious meals for students twice each day.

100% OF OUR FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS PASSED 7TH GRADE!





CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

Construction at *Colegio Horizontes* continued at full speed in 2022 and remarkable progress was made in the first half of the year. By February, we had installed all of the electrical wiring, plumbing and water systems (including a rainwater catchment system and four water tanks on the roof), and the floors were finished. Additionally, **solar panels were installed, making *Colegio Horizontes* 100% powered by solar energy.** This was made possible through a partnership with the Honnold Foundation, which supports solar energy projects worldwide to improve lives and reduce environmental impact.

In our remote community, **power outages are frequent and electricity is unreliable and costly for our families.** Solar allows for uninterrupted learning at school, enabling students to focus on their studies. Furthermore, the solar-powered system supports various electrical needs in the school such as ceiling fans, projectors, Wi-Fi routers,



Water tanks and solar panels

computers, kitchen appliances, and water pumps. We also incorporated lessons on solar into our school curriculum, allowing for hands-on STEM learning opportunities for students while setting a positive example of sustainable energy for the community.

In 2022 we also **completed the construction of our CommUNITY Pavilion**, a vibrant, multipurpose sports court. This structure has become a hub for students, staff, and families to come together and enjoy sports, communal activities, and educational events. The finishing touches were completed on the CommUNITY Pavilion in December, when we installed basketball hoops, making it fully equipped for our PE class and all large group or at a minimum school activities.

As the construction neared completion, we turned our attention to enhancing the beauty of our school campus through landscaping. Our team and students take pride in their beautiful raised-bed vegetable gardens that serve as a valuable resource for our science classes and school meals. **By making the *Colegio Horizontes* campus welcoming, functional, and colorful, our students are genuinely eager to be at school, oftentimes visiting during vacations to water the vegetable gardens, and staying late or arriving early for classes.**



Students learning about solar



Outdoor class in the garden



Our CommUNITY Pavilion

CAPITAL

CAMPAIGN

RECAP



More than

\$1.8 million

was raised from

493 donors

over a period of

4 years

When we began planning for our new school, we were unsure if we could raise even half of our goal, let alone surpass it. Our wonderful community rallied together to make this dream a reality, providing Chajul's youth with access to the high-quality education and facilities that they deserve.





GRAND OPENING

On July 20, 2022, we celebrated the Grand Opening of *Colegio Horizontes* with nearly 300 people joining from near and far. By that time, construction on our middle school and administration buildings was near complete.

As we prepared for the ceremony, we were thrilled to welcome our first visiting group to Chajul since pre-pandemic—donors, governing and advisory board members, and volunteer teacher coaches joined us to celebrate the school opening. We were also joined by our construction partners **Building Goodness Foundation** and **Design Develop**, critical program partners including **MAIA** and **UNESCO**, **Miracles in Action**, and **Ministry of Education** representatives, to all be part of this joyful celebration, which included student performances, speeches, a celebratory lunch for all, and the ribbon cutting.



Students during the inaugural act



UNESCO



Students performing



Cultural dance



MAIA



LHI board members



Building Goodness & Design Develop



Ministry of Education



LHI local board, advisory board, and friends



Katie's mom

Colegio Horizontes has been years in the making, and now it has come to fruition, forever changing the educational landscape in Chajul.

We did it!



STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT

Estefany joined our inaugural class of 7th graders in January 2022.

When Estefany walked through the doors of her Expanding Horizons prep classes in July 2021, she was extremely quiet and shy, struggling to even say her name in front of her classmates. While she was looking forward to attending *Colegio Horizontes*, adjusting to being in class all day was challenging for her. Her shyness and limited Spanish skills made it difficult to engage in group activities and make friends.



Estefany lives with her mother and younger sister in a small wooden house that is lent to them at the top of a big hill. Estefany's father abandoned the family, leaving them struggling both emotionally and financially. Her mom, Manuela, weaves for a living, making too little to adequately sustain her family as a single mom.

Estefany's life was forever changed when her older brother decided to migrate

to the United States in search of a better future but tragically died in a car accident, leaving his family devastated back in Chajul. The emotional toll, only made worse by debt incurred by her son's journey, pushed Manuela into a deep depression. Despite her own grief, Estefany knew she had to step up and care for her mother and sister. Through her participation in the *Colegio Horizontes* mentorship program, Estefany has

become equipped with valuable life skills that have helped her to cope with her challenging family situation while staying engaged in her studies. Additionally, regular home visits from our mentors have provided crucial support to Estefany and her family during such difficult times.

In spite of the challenges, Estefany has made it a priority to keep her education and goals central. She'd like to be a doctor when she grows up and is confident that one day she will have the means to support her family. While she recognizes that becoming a doctor is no easy feat, she's ready to take on the challenge.

Manuela is incredibly proud of her daughter. Recently, her spirits have improved, and together with Estefany's new financial literacy skills, they have taken time to analyze their finances. The two have become a powerful team, determined to overcome the odds stacked



Estefany in class at Colegio Horizontes

against them. Moreover, Estefany's commitment to her family extends to her younger sister, whom she enrolled in our *Saber sin Límites* (Limitless Knowledge) Community Library. Now, her sister regularly attends the library and aspires to follow in her big sister's footsteps towards further education.

Estefany's journey has not been easy, but her dedication and hard work have paid off. She has made impressive progress academically, consistently gets good grades, and actively participates in class. Art has played a crucial role in her personal growth, revealing a newfound sense of confidence and self-expression through painting.

Estefany gained so much in her first year as a *Colegio Horizontes* student, her resilience and perseverance have proven to be her greatest assets, and we can't wait to see her continue to follow her dreams.



Estefany and Manuela at their house

SABER SIN LÍMITES

(LIMITLESS KNOWLEDGE)



COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Our *Saber Sin Límites* (Limitless Knowledge) Community Library remains a vital support system for the community, providing access to resources and a safe learning space for educational exploration and homework assistance. **We are excited to share that in 2022, we welcomed 377 new members to the library, bringing our total count to 463.** On average, we had 60 children visiting our library daily. We were thrilled to finally have kids back in the library at a higher capacity, after two years of strict COVID restrictions.

Our library offers community members literacy programming, academic support with trained local librarians, access to a vast collection of 10,950 books, engaging STEM activities, and essential supplies. Additionally, our librarians facilitate structured,

age-appropriate group activities and classes, which are tailored to the needs of library members. These include in-person and radio broadcasted story hour, book club, intensive Spanish classes, and weekly Adventures in Math and Science activities.

Through these endeavors, in 2022 our library continued to play a unique role in empowering Chajul's children and youth, inspiring academic motivation through captivating learning experiences that fuel their dedication to their studies and future aspirations. As a result, **100% of library members not only reported that attending the library significantly contributed to their academic success in the past year, but they also expressed a firm commitment to pursuing further education in 2023.**



70 HOURS

of in-person story hour



40 HOURS

of language arts class
(From June to November)



50 HOURS

of STEM activities
(From March to November)



Library members that borrowed a book returned to borrow again.



Students in tutoring classes report that it helps them to perform better in school.



RADIO STORY HOUR

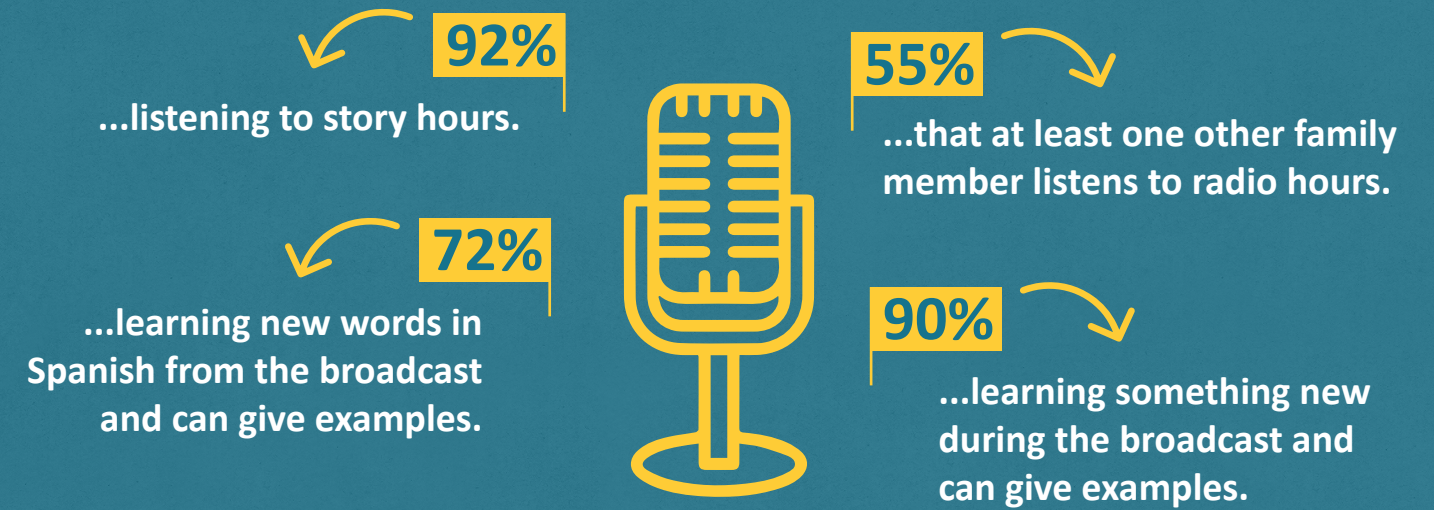
“I am learning words that I ask my parents about. Sometimes they know and sometimes I explain it to them.”

-Library member

In 2022, we continued to broadcast Bilingual Story Hour on the radio in Spanish and Ixil, **which won the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize in 2021.**

In an effort to extend our impact to a broader audience, **a total of 64 bilingual stories were read on the radio**, encompassing themes like vocal empowerment, gender equality, domestic violence, and women's rights. By sharing these bilingual stories, we are not only educating the community on important topics but also bridging language barriers and bringing our community together through the power of storytelling. We believe that it is essential for everyone to have access to literature in their native language, regardless of their level of literacy.

Our library members report...



Our librarians read **64 books on the radio** for a total of **36 hours of airtime.**

END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES

As the year drew to a close, our library staff organized a series of events aimed to bring the community together, while marking the holiday season and end-of-year celebrations. In 2022, **60 of our library members participated in these end-of-year activities**, which included painting, poetry contests, and STEM challenges. The most anticipated event was undoubtedly Field Day, a thrilling day



filled with physical activity and games. Luckily, the weather was on our side and we enjoyed a sunny day in Chajul flying kites, swimming, and playing basketball and soccer. **The day was a celebration of all the hard work put in throughout the year.**



EMERGING LEADERS

Our Emerging Leaders Program supports graduates in their transition to post-secondary employment and education. Upon completion of high school, program graduates become members of this program to maintain their relationship with Limitless Horizons Ixil and receive the support they need to access information about continued education or career opportunities. Despite the recent challenges caused by the pandemic, our Emerging Leaders have persevered, sought solutions, and shown tremendous resilience in their professional and educational goals.

In Chajul, **less than 6% of adults are formally employed, and less than 1% of youth graduate from university.** In 2022, we offered eight university scholarships and we extended the opportunity to two of our graduates to support our library programming as part of our fellowship program.

Our fellows receive mentoring from our staff who themselves followed similar paths, attend bimonthly professional development sessions, and they are paid to work 25 hours per week. Our 2022 fellows are now on their way to their next dreams, to go on to university, utilizing their scholarship from Limitless Horizons Ixil.

In July 2022, 52 of our Emerging Leaders joined us at *Colegio Horizontes* for a celebration to reaffirm their importance in the organization’s history and encourage their future involvement. It was a special opportunity for them to see the new school and meet our first class of students! We are committed to supporting our Emerging Leaders through frequent calls and workshops, during which time we always provide information on opportunities including jobs and scholarships, counseling on goals and next steps, and support with resumes and applications.

Through 2022, we have had...



65
female



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



27
male

**BY THE
NUMBERS**

Post-Secondary Education



42%

of our high school graduates have gone on to university thus far...
...compared to less than 1% of Chajul's population.

Employment and Careers



63%

of Emerging Leaders are working, studying, or doing a combination of the two...
...while the other 1/3 do informal work such as weaving or tending to their crops.

Family and Parenthood



30%

of Emerging Leaders Program participants had children before age 23...
...compared to 84% of their mothers.

2022 recipients of Limitless Horizons Ixil University Scholarships

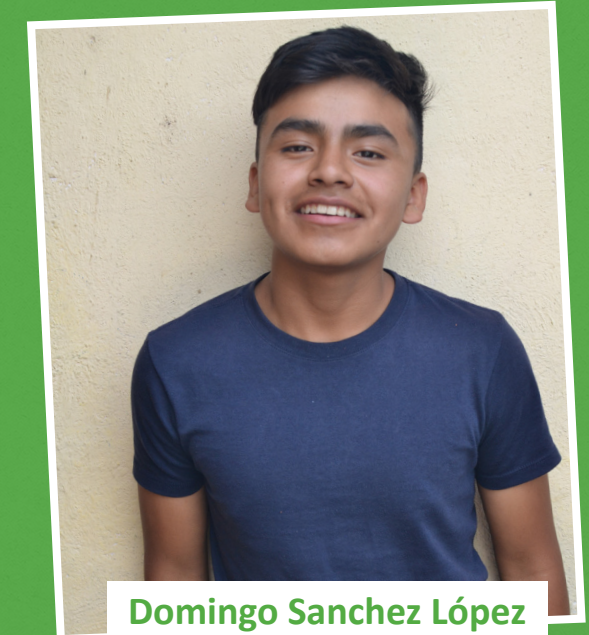
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Emerging Leaders and interns

3

Full-time staff members

**MEET OUR
2022 FELLOWS**



Domingo Sanchez López

Domingo joined us in 2022 as an Emerging Leader Fellow in the library. Prior to his fellowship, Domingo thought he would need to migrate to the United States in order to support his family, even attempting the journey but being forced to return to Chajul. This put Domingo on a new pathway, where he applied for our fellowship and since has also begun pursuing his dreams of further education, utilizing the scholarship he gained through his fellowship to begin his studies in Agricultural Engineering at San Carlos University in Nebaj.



Mariland Rivera Caba

Mariland had always been a very motivated student, and amidst the COVID-19 school closures when all learning was remote, she began her university studies in law. However, when Mariland's father fell ill, she was forced to stop studying so her family could focus their spending on his medical care. This put Mariland on the path to applying to our fellowship program, which she began in 2022 in the library. Now, Mariland is so excited to have a university scholarship through Limitless Horizons Ixil, allowing her to continue her studies in her pursuit to become a lawyer.

YOUTH



DEVELOPMENT



PROGRAM

While we are phasing out our Youth Development Program (YDP) as we integrate our holistic support model into our new school, **15 scholars were part of the program services in 2022.** We are committed to supporting our current scholars through their high school graduation, and beyond through our Emerging Leaders Program. Still impacted by the effects of the pandemic, the majority of our YDP scholars, many of whom attend school in other parts of Guatemala, stayed in Chajul attending virtual or hybrid classes.

Throughout the year, our scholars attended workshops with local healthcare professionals on hygiene, an educational specialist on the job search and application process, including creating a resume and interviewing, and they met with a local psychologist to discuss healthy emotional intelligence and regulation, and stress management. These workshops prioritize the holistic development and

well-being of our scholars. Additionally, 30 individual counseling sessions were held for YDP scholars with a local psychologist to help manage the challenges of COVID-19 and remote learning, while also enhancing their emotional intelligence, self-confidence, and ability to make sound choices. Scholars' parents also attended a training session on communication skills with adolescents, and strategies for incorporating love and compassion into their relationships.

Come November, our focus was on graduation and assisting our graduating scholars in planning their future paths. We held a special ceremony, attended by the families of our 8 graduates, to celebrate their accomplishments. To aid them in determining their next steps, we organized a workshop with a psychologist who spoke about the significance of higher education, motivated the scholars to delve deeper into their goals, and gave them useful career guidance.

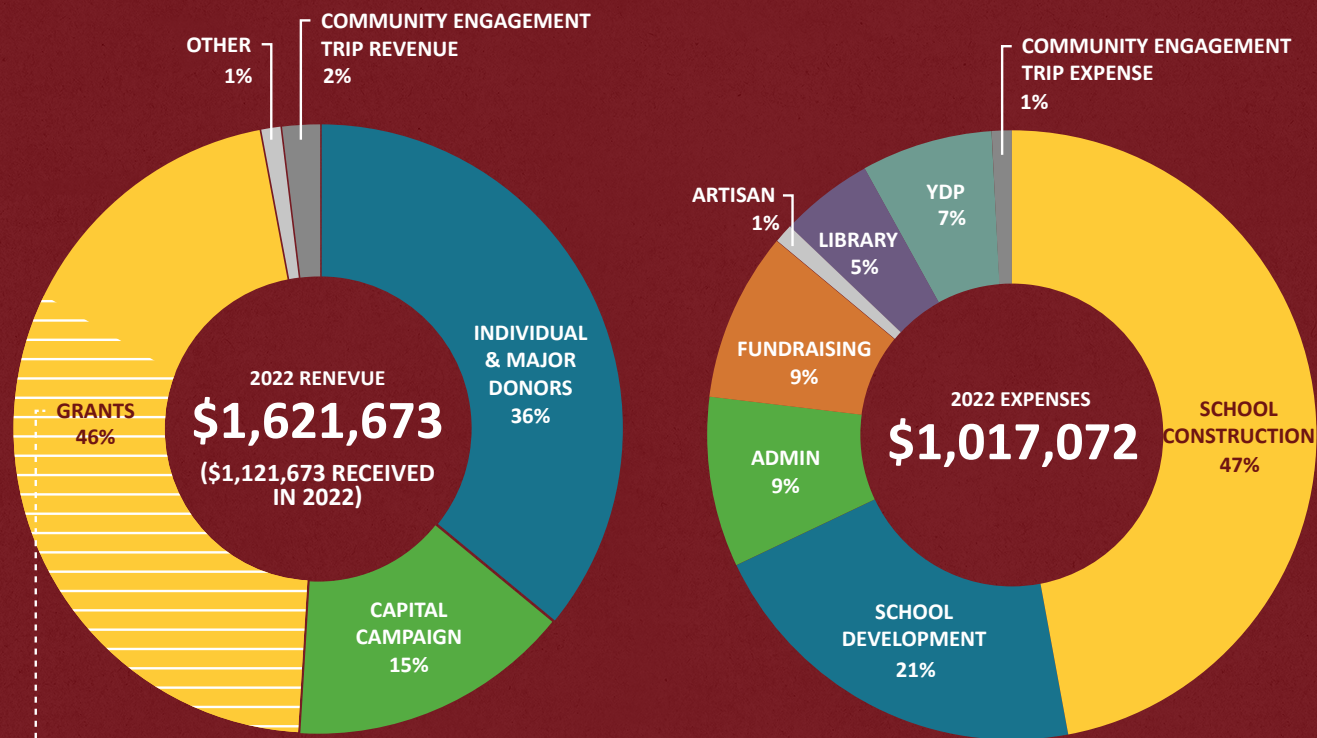
100% of our YPD scholars in their final year of high school **graduated in 2022.**



Many scholars attributed Limitless Horizons Ixil's social-emotional support as one of the most helpful aspects of their ability to stay motivated to persist in school.

2022 FINANCIALS

Limitless Horizons Ixil is a U.S.–registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with tax ID #26-4296182. Our growing organization prides itself on financial transparency and accountability to our donors.



\$500,000 was raised in 2022 but not received as it was part of a multi-year pledge. It will be distributed for use each year through 2026.





Thank you for supporting our work in 2022.
We can't wait to keep you updated as *Colegio Horizontes*
continues to grow!



@limitless_horizons_ixil



@LimitlessHorizonsIxil



@Limitless Horizons Ixil

Visit www.limitlesshorizonsixil.org or email info@limitlesshorizonsixil.org for more information.

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