



Over the past 20 years we have worked in Chajul, a rural mountainous Maya town of nearly 50,000 where most residents speak the indigenous Ixil language. This community was devastated by Guatemala's 36-year civil war during which targeted violence amounted to genocide. Our mission is to create opportunities for Chajul's indigenous youth, women, and families to develop the academic and professional skills needed to effect change in their lives and community.



© Nikki Ritcher

Our holistic programs serve the entire community and focus on empowering indigenous girls and women. Through our school Colegio Horizontes, Community Library, and Emerging Leaders Program, we work with children and youth, especially girls, and their families.

We are proud recipients of the 2021 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization) Literacy Prize!

COLEGIO HORIZONTES is the unique secondary school we opened in January 2022. It's led by local women and provides high-quality middle and high school education to indigenous youth. Colegio Horizontes brings culturally responsive, rigorous, and engaging academics to Chajul for the first time, opening doors for girls to attend and thrive in school along with a small group of boy allies. We provide extensive student and family psychosocial support through our mentorship program, and we combat high malnutrition rates by providing two healthy meals a day. With the first high school science lab in the region opening in 2025, and a central focus on providing high quality STEM education, students will be able to create solutions to local challenges, become future community leaders, and bring their families economic security without migrating to the US.



tinyurl.com/videoLHI

93% of Chajul's families live in poverty

3 in 5 residents of Chajul are illiterate

87% of girls in our program graduated high school vs. just 3.4% youth in Chajul

LEARN MORE: limitlesshorizonsixil.org | info@limitlesshorizonsixil.org



© Dirk Koster

SUPPORTING YOUNG LEARNERS: Limitless Knowledge Community Library

To inspire lifelong learning and literacy, we opened Chajul's first and only public library in 2010. Equipped with friendly librarians, computers, STEM and art activities and supplies, and 10,000+ books in Spanish, Ixil, and English, the library offers homework help, bilingual Ixil-Spanish story hours, book clubs, math and science classes, and more. Our librarians also broadcast bilingual story hours on the local radio, reaching thousands in Chajul and surrounding villages, far beyond the library members who can come in person!



DEVELOPING LEADERS: Emerging Leaders Program



In Chajul, less than 6% of adults are formally employed and less than 1% of youth graduate college. The Emerging Leaders Program deepens our investment in each of the youth who've participated in our Youth Development Program (the precursor to Colegio Horizontes). With our support high school graduates have better opportunities to obtain employment, start small businesses, and/or pursue further education. Our paid fellowship provides a few graduates each year with professional experience working with our programs, significant professional development and mentorship, and eligibility for a 5-year university scholarship.

EMPOWERING GIRLS & WOMEN

Our work is women led and our program participants are predominantly female. Decisions are made through a women's empowerment lens as we work to uplift the voices of Chajul's girls and women, offer opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have, provide strong female role models for the community of Chajul, and build all community members' understanding of the importance of gender equality. In addition, our Artisan Program has empowered women to use traditional weaving skills to earn fair wages, building their financial independence and thus decision-making power.



© Lindsay Michelle Williams



@limitlesshorizonsixil



@limitless_horizons_ixil



@limitless-horizons-ixil



youtube.com/c/LimitlessHorizonsixil