



ANNUAL report 2020





natik

Partnering
with grassroots
organizations

Natik means we plant in Tz'utujil Maya in Guatemala, and it means our home in Tsotsil, Tseltal, and Chol, three of the many Mayan languages spoken in Chiapas, Mexico. Esperanza means hope in Spanish.

Natik's work is upstream from the migration story in the United States. We all bear witness to the poverty and violence in the region, which were both intensified during the 2020 pandemic. Our priority is working with visionary grassroots leaders to construct culturally aligned solutions that model local ways to address some of the underlying causes of migration through education, health, and economic opportunities. Planting the seeds of hope for the future is our collective motivation.

NATIK BOARD MESSAGE



When reflecting on 2020 with Natick, the year can be summed up in one word: resilience. We have had the privilege of seeing the resilience of the Natick staff and the community leaders we support through our work as they charted unknown waters during a global pandemic. COVID-19 made 2020 extremely challenging. In many parts of the world, the poorest and most disadvantaged families have been hurt the hardest, and Guatemala and Mexico are no exceptions. However, we have seen our community partners rise to the occasion and increase the ways in which they are able to support those most vulnerable.

We have also felt the love and support of our donors who have increased their support in the wake of the pandemic, allowing us to continue our community support during a time when it has never been more valuable.

As Board members, we were each drawn to Natick because of its unique approach to community work and sustainable development. We are strengthened in our conviction to support Natick as we have seen their community engagement model thrive under challenging circumstances. Together, we look forward to building upon the momentum of 2020 with an ever-increasing commitment to our partners.

Thank you for your loyal generosity to Natick and your support that enables us to continue collaborating with these wonderful communities in Mexico and Guatemala

Bill Harvey Libby O'Kane Addison Nace David Feuerbach Devin Graves

NATIK TEAM MESSAGE

Your donations give these extraordinary women and men confidence and resources to change the narrative of poverty and despair into one of collaboration, creativity, and hope for the future. In 2020 we improved our communication and intensified our relationships. All the back and forth in response to the challenges of the Pandemic resulted in refined self definitions and innovations.

The resilience of our partners was demonstrated through their adaptation to the lockdowns and other legal restrictions, and how each of them confronted fear and misinformation in their communities.

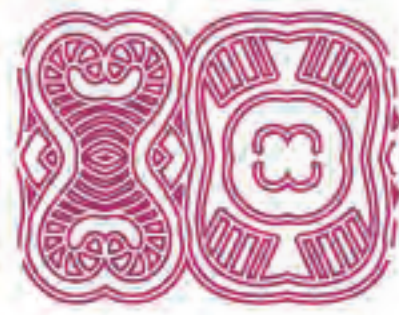
Natik's partnerships are reciprocal and transparent. We work collaboratively, and that requires trust. In addition to formal meetings and scheduled reports, our partners know we are always available for spontaneous processing when unexpected situations arise.

You've been with us every step of the way. Your generosity inspires us to dream of a better world. Together we are making a difference.

Here's to more and better in 2021,
Anita Smart, Deborah Colvin, and Berenice Zebadúa



Building Cultural Bridges



Natik facilitates two types of immersion experiences: Critical Service Learning Immersions with academic institutions, and the Global Citizen Immersions for our donors and the general public.

In 2020 we had to cancel five Immersions. That was both a financial blow and a radical shift in our capacity to connect our partners with groups of people from outside of Guatemala and Mexico. Throughout 2020 we maintained communication with our academic and global citizen alliances and look forward to resuming our immersions when travel restrictions have been lifted.

Even with new restrictions for in-person encounters, our partners never stopped interacting with the outside world. The Ruk'ux students exchanged dialogues in English and Spanish with four students from the University of Texas, San Antonio via GoogleMeet. Two 8-year-old Yo'onik students participated in an international robotics virtual workshop organized by an organization in Mexico City. The Puerta Abierta Traveling Librarians participated in a virtual Latin American Storytelling Event.

In 2020, Natik's team members continued our networking potential through volunteer work in other organizations. Executive Director Anita Smart is Secretary of the Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (AAPLAC). Deputy Director Deborah Colvin was on the 2020 Grant Review Committee of the Sacred Fire Foundation. Communication Director Berenice Zebadúa is the President of the Board of Directors of the organization Agua y Vida Mujeres Derechos y Ambiente AC.



Increasing our capacity to share our stories.

The challenge of creating and maintaining consistent messaging is a monumental undertaking for small grass-roots organizations focused on the daily responsibilities of managing their projects. The discipline of deciding on topics and regularly sharing experiences in public forums permits direct communication with supporters like you. Telling stories through social media involves skills that must be learned. Continually guessing what might be interesting to total strangers adds another layer of complexity to the exercise.



The extraordinary community leaders that Natik supports are primarily millennials. Their determination to be agents of change from within their communities can and should be more widely shared with their millennial counterparts outside of Guatemala and Mexico. Our goal for 2021 is to increase their capacity to capture the imagination and earn the loyalty of those who are equally determined to be generational agents of change in the world.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Natik Grows Stronger

- 1 New partnership initiated
- 1 New strategic priority added--Health
- 2 Fiscal sponsorships completed
- 53% Increase in donations
- \$112K Total funds raised

Natik Supports Partnerships Beyond The Grant

- 1 Virtual partnership support program developed
- 1 Partner Etsy artisan store renovated
- 100 Hours grant writing support
- 160 Hours budget development and realignment
- 180 Hours coaching in strategic planning and program development
- 500 Hours communication and fundraising support



Our Partners Transform Our Support Into Results

- 1 Community Learning Center building renovation begun by ANADESA
- 1 New building expansion inaugurated for MSV artisans' workspace and classes
- 1 New leadership program launched by NAYELI
- 5 Partners co-managed their own fundraising campaigns on our platform
- 5 Partners consolidated their social media presence
- 5 RUK'UX scholars participated in a virtual international learning exchange with university students
- 8 Months of virtual library programs implemented by the Puerta Abierta Traveling Library
- 10 RUK'UX scholars began new community service projects
- 17 Scholars in Guatemala and Mexico continued their studies remotely
- 35 Students from 13 BATZ completed weaving and cultural preservation classes
- 35+ Students every week supported for remote school learning by Yo'onik
- 50+ Families supported with emergency food by YO'ONIK and RUK'UX
- 60 MSV artisans invested in their first website and staff
- 120 Families received "Travelling Library Bags"

Natik Builds Cultural Bridges For Better Understanding

- 1 Collaboration in an international grant making organization
- 1 High School transformed their immersion experiences into fundraising events for our partners
- 1 Corporate volunteer program donated time and actions to support Natik partners
- 1 Leadership role in an international congress on academic immersions in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2 International student volunteers completed social service projects with Natik
- 4 University students participated in virtual cultural exchange activities with our partners
- 7 Alliances strengthened: Sacramento Jesuit High School, University of Denver, Church By the Sea, Elm City Vineyard Church, Adobe Volunteer and Giving Program, University Texas at SAN Antonio, and AAPLAC



Guatemala Partner Testimonies

ANADESA



For us, like many, the challenges were surprising and we were not prepared for the Pandemic. Our income was reduced with the loss of tourism in the area and our programs had to be adjusted for the new reality. We decided we needed to implement secure ways to continue to help students who were having trouble with virtual school. We used phone calls and other ways to give personal support to the women and children to continue their activities from home. With the funds from Natic we amplified and renovated an outdoor open space for our after-school program. Now we are able to have safe face- to-face workshops.

Puerta Abierta's Traveling Library



The biggest test for our program was the lockdown and school closures. Suddenly we were not able to travel to the communities that we normally serve. After training our teachers in the use of social media, we established a new methodology to reach more people with a virtual reading program using Facebook Live and YouTube as well as participating in a Virtual Storytelling Fair. With the funds from Natic we were able to buy new books and create "Travelling Book Bags" to bring reading to 120 families in rural communities that had no access to books in their homes or schools. Virtual reading is now an important part of our program going forward.

Ruk'ux



Our scholars responded immediately to the task of working together in new conditions. We had meetings with Natic and the student leaders to talk about our options. We developed new ways to continue our studies and community service. Some basic food gifts were given to all our students' families. The older students worked on videos for Public Service announcements on Facebook about how to care for yourself during the Pandemic. The younger students designed home animal husbandry projects with chickens to learn more about sustainability. We learned from other partners and did some storytelling on social media. Now we are going to put our experiences on paper and write a book about Ruk'ux!

Chiapas Mexico Partner Testimonies



Mujeres Sembrando la Vida



When the Pandemic hit, it was difficult for us to continue our artisan leadership workshops and sales dropped. Basic materials such as threads for our products became difficult to acquire. With the support of Natik, we learned more about how to better use Facebook and Instagram to reach our customers, renovated our Etsy store, and started the design of our first website. Thanks to Natik and other organizations we were able to invest in paid staff, industrial sewing machines, and the completion of our building. Our results have been positive and our sales are growing again!

Yo'onik Community Learning Center



Many families that use our Learning Center were hard hit by the pandemic. With the support of Natik we restructured our budget to meet the new demands. Our first priority was to be sure that families had basic food to get over the pressure of income loss. We added internet service to our Center so that our students could do their homework for their virtual classes. We saw that emotional well-being was an important aspect for developing resilience. By getting volunteers to help, we added special workshops such as art and yoga. Now we see emotional support as an important part of our program going forward.



13 Batz--Guatemala

Our school weaving and cultural program was funded by Sacred Fire Foundation with the support of Natik. The economic pressures affected some of our children and two young weavers dropped out to help their families. Although we attempted to coordinate with the schools to continue the weaving classes in their campuses it was not possible.

Fortunately, we have a multidisciplinary staff of elders and youth whose great wisdom and joy helped us develop a plan to continue our work in the outdoors in our garden with modifications. One thing that helped us maintain trust is our work is in our native language, Tz'utujil. We continue to promote each piece of weaving as a representation of our lives and a universal triumph of our community values.

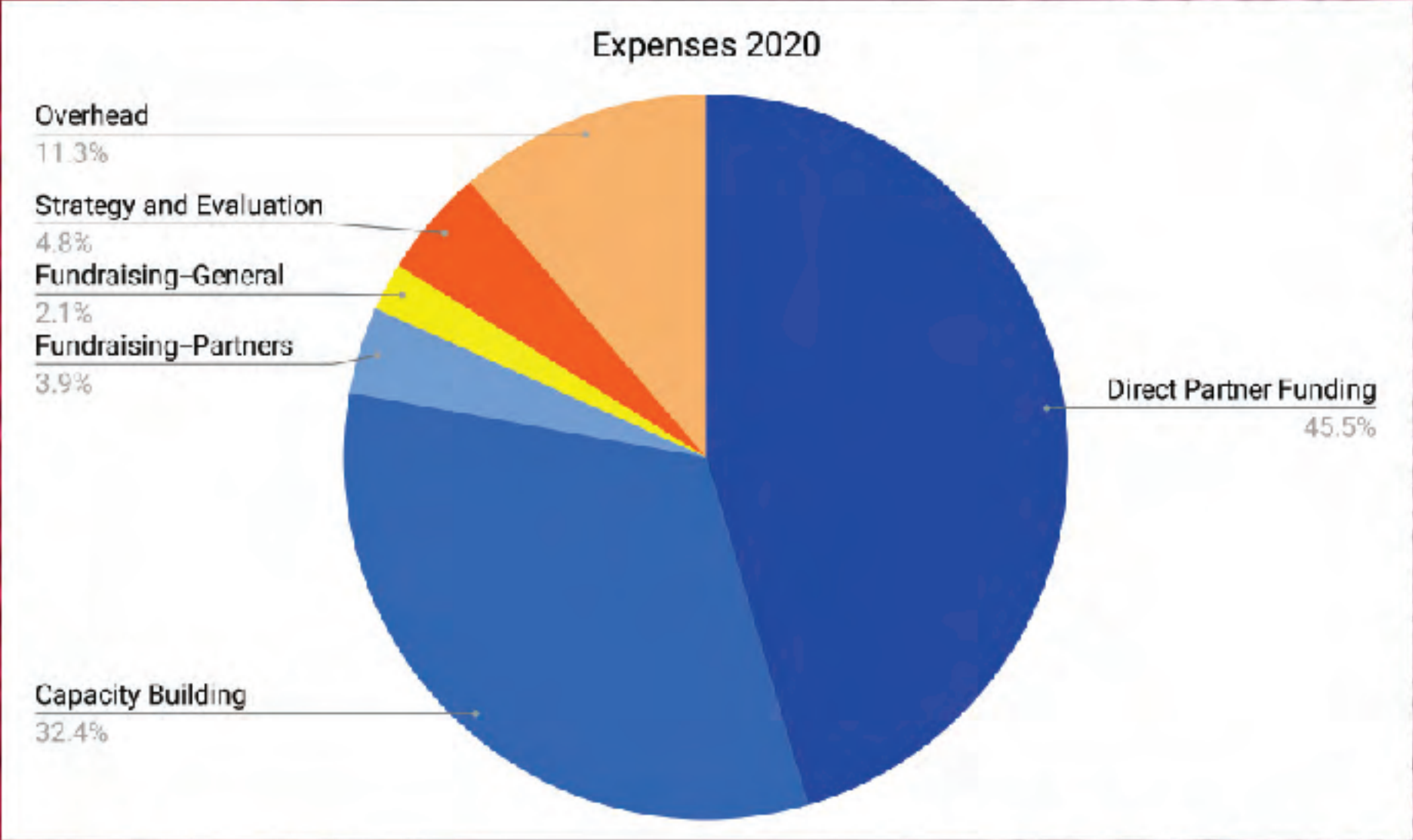
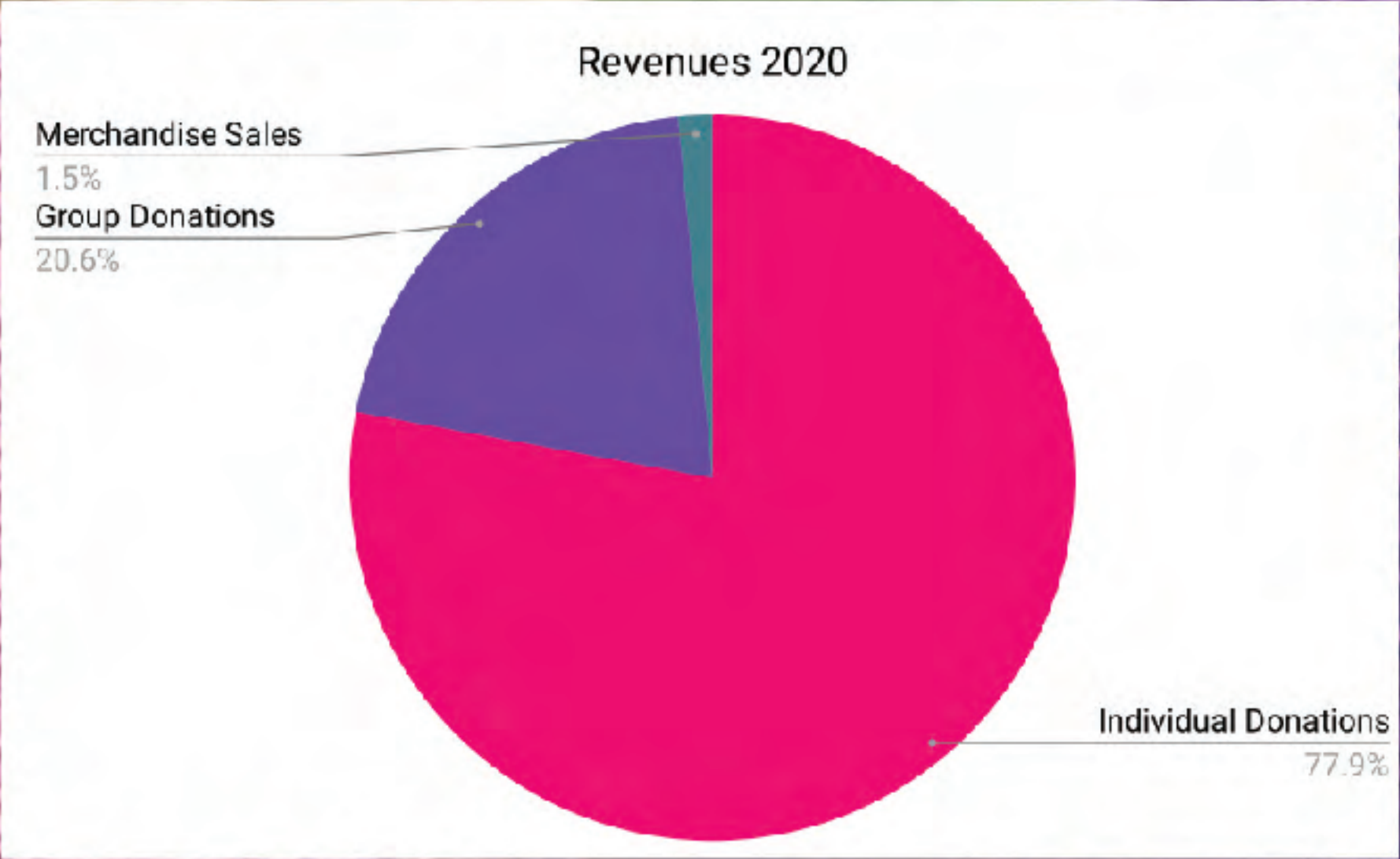
NAYELI--Mexico

Our program was just starting when we received funding through Natik. The principal challenge was the outbreak of Covid at the start of the year. Our organization went on standby mode for the first couple of months and we concentrated on program development. We continued to communicate with our communities to understand their needs. There are many lessons we can take and incorporate into a new strategic plan and project design for the organization, some include 1) observing how people in our different focus communities respond to emergencies, 2) seeing how access to communication technology impacts those responses, and 3) observing how the local & state governments respond to health emergencies.

FINANCIALS

Like many organizations in 2020, Natic had to recalibrate projected revenue and expenses to accommodate a constantly changing reality. We are so grateful that you helped make it possible to compensate for the loss of the revenue normally generated through our cultural and academic immersions. Through your generosity, individual and corporate donations increased by 53%. Our financial support to partners continued uninterrupted and we increased the time and money devoted to program services and virtual mentoring. We finished the year strong with assets of more than \$47K, thus assuring a solid funding base for our partners in 2021.







TOGETHER WE ARE TRANSFORMING THE NARRATIVE OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES

There are many ways to help!

1. Forward the annual report to friends and family with a personal note
2. Sign up for our newsletters if you haven't already
3. Like, share, and comment on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
4. Volunteer, Advise, Join our board
5. Participate in online fundraisers
6. Coordinate in-person fundraisers
7. Promote our Global Citizen Cultural Immersions
8. Introduce us to your contacts at high schools, universities, and graduate programs

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. Write a check and mail it to: 2700 Mayan Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
2. Donate online: www.natik.org
3. anita.smart@natik.org to talk about your legacy plan for Natik



Hummingbird Helper

\$10- \$99



Hummingbird Hero

\$100 - \$999



Hummingbird Humdinger

\$1000 and up!

Addison Nace
 Alec Feuerbach
 Ali Jones
 Alice Lepore
 Alison Abbott
 Alyssa Dodds
 Amanda Tegels
 Amy Alpine
 Ann Conway
 April Lewis
 Barry Westall
 Bornholdt Family
 Brenda Betz-Stoltz
 Brittany Burton Cowan
 Bruce Wiley
 Callie Hagemeister
 Carol Hartigan
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 Carson Gleberman
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 Chris Kane
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 Robert & Helen Gair
 Robert & Susan Phillips
 Shannon & Chad Zalman
 Silvia Smart & Jeff Denson

ADOBE - Benevity
 Church By the Sea
 Elm City Vineyard Church
 Microsoft - Benevity
 Rosemary Duffy Larson Trust
 United Way Sacramento

**Heartfelt thanks for
your loyal generosity!**

Board of Directors

Bill Harvey: President

Libby O’Kane: Treasurer

Addison Nace: Secretary

David Feurerbach: Member

Devin Graves: Member

Natik Field Team 2020

Anita Smart: Executive Director

Deborah Colvin: Deputy Director

Berenice Zebadúa: Communication Director

Natik Advisors

Pablo Farias: Strategic Development

Ann Conway: Project Development

David Orr: Strategic Planning

Sarah Daggett: Public Relations

Carolina Bown: Nonprofit Consultant

Points of Contact:

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natik.org <https://www.natik.org>

Natik Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/natikesperanza/>

Natik Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/natikesperanza/>

Natik Twitter <https://twitter.com/NatikEsperanza>

General information: contact@natik.org



**With gratitude and affection,
two very special recognitions.**

Vicki Reitenauer began her adventure with Natik in 2014, when she participated in a Guatemala Global Citizen Immersion in Santiago Atitlán. That was followed by addressing and stuffing the year-end letters. In mid 2015 she joined the board, and in 2017 she became Vice President. In 2017, she helped organize and host an in-person fundraiser. Despite intense personal and professional demands on her time, she was board president from August 2018 through the fall of 2020. A major accomplishment was stewarding the 2018 monthly meetings to develop Natik's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. We're grateful for her tactful facilitation of meetings and her gentle introduction of the consensus model, that continues to be our modus operandi. We miss her capacity for listening and interpreting, her sense of humor, and her philosophical approach to everything.

Jean Duffy initiated her relationship with Natik in 2013 at the invitation of her daughter, Roisin, who joined the board after a year-long Fellowship with Natik. Roisin set up the Natik Etsy site to promote the Mujeres Sembrando la Vida artisan products. She asked her mother to warehouse and ship the products. When Roisin finished law school and accepted a demanding job, she retired from the board and we invited Jean to join. Jean is an educator by vocation, and she brought those skills to her board membership from 2019 through 2020. Her networking resulted in new supporters, and her practical wisdom was always a welcome contribution at our meetings. Now that MSV has their own website, the tradition that Roisin and Jean began will continue with the Natik Etsy page offering products for future artisan start-ups that Natik supports.