



ANNUAL report 2019

Partnering
with
grassroots
organizations



Message from the Natic team



Natic means “we plant” in Tz’utujil Maya in Guatemala, and it means “our home” in Tsotsil, Tzeltal, and Chol, three of the many Mayan languages spoken in Chiapas, Mexico. Esperanza means “hope” in Spanish.

In 2019, we dug deep to aerate and nourish the soil, and decided which seeds to cultivate in our gardens. In our homes, the windows were cleaned for greater transparency, and our foundations were reinforced for expansion.

Natic’s work is upstream from the migration story in the United States. We bear witness to the push factors of poverty and violence, and don’t judge those who feel they must go somewhere else.

The good news is that you’ve joined Natic in the narrative of a different type of story. Your support of the extraordinary women and men who are building culturally-aligned infrastructures in Guatemala and Mexico helps counter some of the causes of migration through education and economic opportunities. Natic and our partners cultivate entrepreneurial ventures that match our missions and capacities. Our goal is to generate income and subsidize overhead. These activities also teach creativity, resourcefulness, resilience, adaptability, and tenacity, which are skills that can’t be learned in a classroom! Natic’s partnerships are collaborative, always and all ways. Trust is a delicate flower that requires constant tending. In addition to scheduled meetings and formal reports, our partners know we are available whenever something needs to be processed immediately.

You’ve been with us every step of the way. Your love provides us strength. Your loyalty inspires our courage.

We look forward to continuing to plant hope with you in 2020,

Anita Smart, Deborah Colvin, and Berenice Zebadúa

Consolidation and Strengthening

Institutional Strengthening and Increased Transparency

We reinforced programming and reporting to expand impact on all levels. Increased impact means more scholarships and remedial education programs, more schools for the traveling library, and more families with culturally-aligned income. It also means more entrepreneurial projects that subsidize programs. As our partners become more independent, we are working toward adding partners.

In 2019 we increased our transparency and capacity for communicating impact by transitioning to the electronic interface of an online donor management system and financial reporting platform. We also changed our mailing address from a P.O. box to a street address. We are especially grateful for your patience and understanding during this time of transition. The good news is that those transitions are now complete.

In 2019, Natic's team members expanded our networking potential through volunteer work in other organizations. Executive Director Anita Smart was elected secretary of the Association of Academic Programs in Latin America (AAPLAC). Deputy Director Deborah Colvin was invited to join the 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.



Consolidation and Strengthening



Building Cultural Bridges

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

We ran two academic immersions in 2019. The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work Latinx Certificate is for students who will work with immigrants, and therefore focused on some of the circumstances that contribute to migration. The course included rigorous preparation and final projects that shared lessons from the field when the students returned to the U.S. For the fourth year in a row, the Jesuit High School of Sacramento California visited Chiapas for an Immersion that featured working with our partners to reforest a mountainside overlooking Zinacantán.

We had two Global Citizen Immersions; one in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala in the spring, and another during the fall celebrations of Day of the Dead in Chiapas, Mexico. This is the Day of the Dead video!

These immersions generate income for Natik and the outstanding organizations that provide professional expertise and accompaniment. The immersions also contribute to our goal of educating the global community about the culture and history of our partner communities through personal experience. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, all 2020 immersions have been suspended. When the travel and distance restrictions have been lifted, we look forward to resuming our immersions.

Consolidation and Strengthening

“So Many Stories to Tell”

In 2020, our primary goal is to improve communication. You deserve to know more about the people whose lives have been transformed because of your generosity, and our partners deserve to share their stories directly with you. Therefore, we've been working with our partners to help them capture and compose their stories of challenge and change through email, social media, and video. Additionally, your curiosity about grassroots work has inspired us to share some of our behind-the-scenes trials and triumphs.

**There is much to be done,
and together we are the change we want to see in the world!**



Natik supports partnerships beyond the grant

Platinum level of Guidestar attained

1 New partner

2 New fiscal sponsorships--13 Batz and NAYELI

2 New Board members

17% Increase in organizational donations

\$100.7K Total funds raised

Natik Partners Get More Than Financial Support

New theory of change developed

60 Hours site visits and co-evaluations

60 Hours coaching in strategic planning and program development

60 Hours grant writing support

120 Hours budget development, leadership workshops and partner exchanges

150 Hours communication and fundraising support

300 Hours intern support for curriculum design for the Traveling Library and Yo'onik

Our Partners Transform Support into Results

- 3 Mobile Libraries were funded for the Traveling Library program of Puerta Abierta
- 3 Ruk'ux scholars continued to university studies
- 4 Partners participated in an international learning exchange
- 5 Ruk'ux and Yo'onik scholars graduated from high school
- 6 Yo'onik scholars tutored over 35 students every week
- 10 Ruk'ux scholars led a Reading Project with special needs children
- 25 ANADESA artisans were able to sell their work in the USA
- 35 Students from 13 Batz participated in weaving and cultural preservation classes
- 60 MSV artisans received the Premio Coatlicue for cultural preservation
- 80% Completion of the MSV building expansion for their artisans' workspace
- 100+ Children attended the Yo'onik Summer program
- 1000+ Trees planted by Yo'onik students and their families

Natik is building cultural bridges for better understanding

- 10 Donors participated in site visits and cultural celebrations with our partners
- 13 Participants in immersions had fundraising events for our partners
- 15 Presentations were organized or given by Natik staff
- 18 Allied organizations were financially supported through the immersions
- 24 Participants in 2 Academic Critical Service Learning Immersions

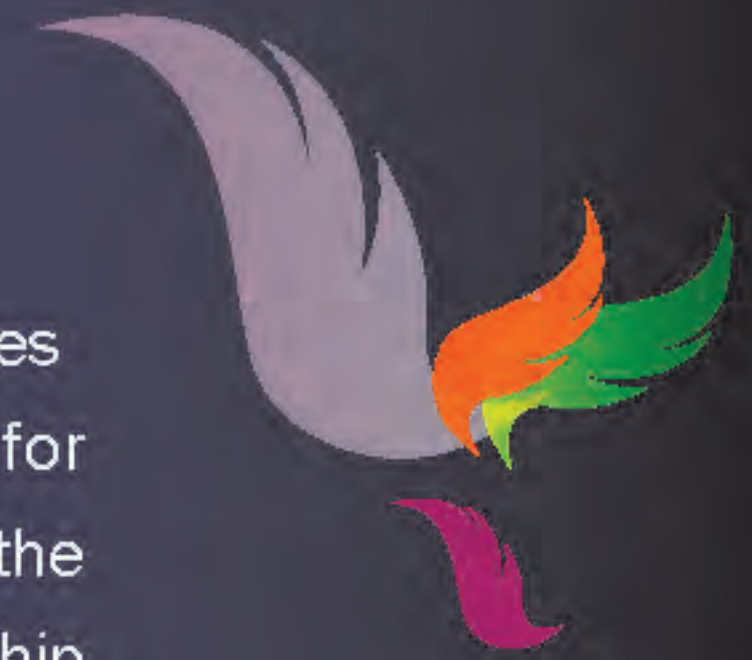
Guatemala Partner Accomplishments

“We recognize that we are working hard, gaining self-confidence and learning that we all have something to give back to our community.” Ruk’ux youth leader.

Ruk’ux



Junior high, high school and university students work hard to be the first in their families to study beyond primary school. Their Language and Cultural Immersion program for international volunteers and interns is now more independent and compensated the students for their participation, as well as contributing a small amount into the scholarship fund. The students exercised their entrepreneurial skills by promoting their services to tourists who are passing through Santiago Atitlán. The 7-9th graders, along with the older students as their mentors, set up a literacy program at the local special needs school as part of their community leadership training. The older students collaborated on the script and filming the scholarship program video.



The Traveling Library

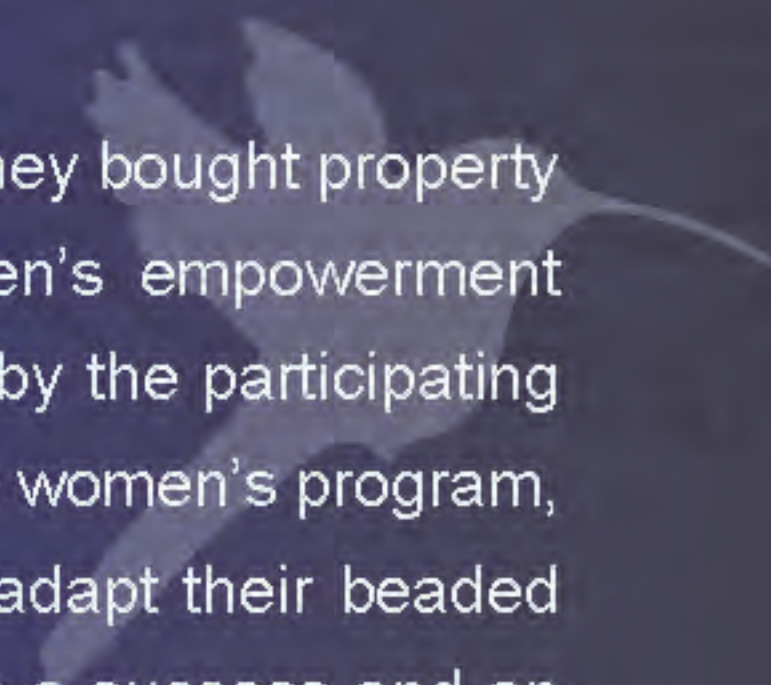


Is a dynamic literacy program that visits nine local public schools that often have few (if any) books. The program includes guided story hours, sharing book kits and leading creative activities. The Puerta Abierta school is in the process of buying a beautiful building that will become their permanent home. We know that when Puerta Abierta is strong, the Traveling Library is strong! A Natic intern from the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work contributed to the completion of the second phase of curriculum development for the Traveling Library.

ANADESA



Asociación Nuevo Amanecer Santiago Atitlán is our newest partner. They bought property in a nearby village for their expanded youth education and women’s empowerment programs. This year they incorporated community projects designed by the participating families into their activities. You can view their video on Facebook. The women’s program, “Mujeres Proactivos”, responded instantly when we suggested they adapt their beaded key chains into holiday ornaments for sale in the US. The sales were a success and an inspiration to continue to innovate. The ornaments are available on Etsy.



Chiapas Mexico Partner Accomplishments

“Each child is different... celebrating childhood is living life with them.

” Yoli Hernández, Co-Director of Yo'onik

Yo'onik



Has been steadily building their capacity to serve the community. In 2019, they organized their library and began solidifying their after school remedial education program. The scholars supported by Natick are responsible for organizing and giving the remedial classes to over 35 children weekly. Giving back to the community has always been a pillar of their work and this year was no different. The students and their families planted over 1000 trees as part of a reforestation project. The summer program was also a big success. Yo'onik collaborated with their volunteer English teachers to offer an expanded summer program that had more than 100 students every day. The program has solid community support and Yo'onik is in the process of diversifying their funding with a vision towards being able to teach what they have learned to other surrounding communities. (Yo'onik video.)



Mujeres Sembrando la Vida



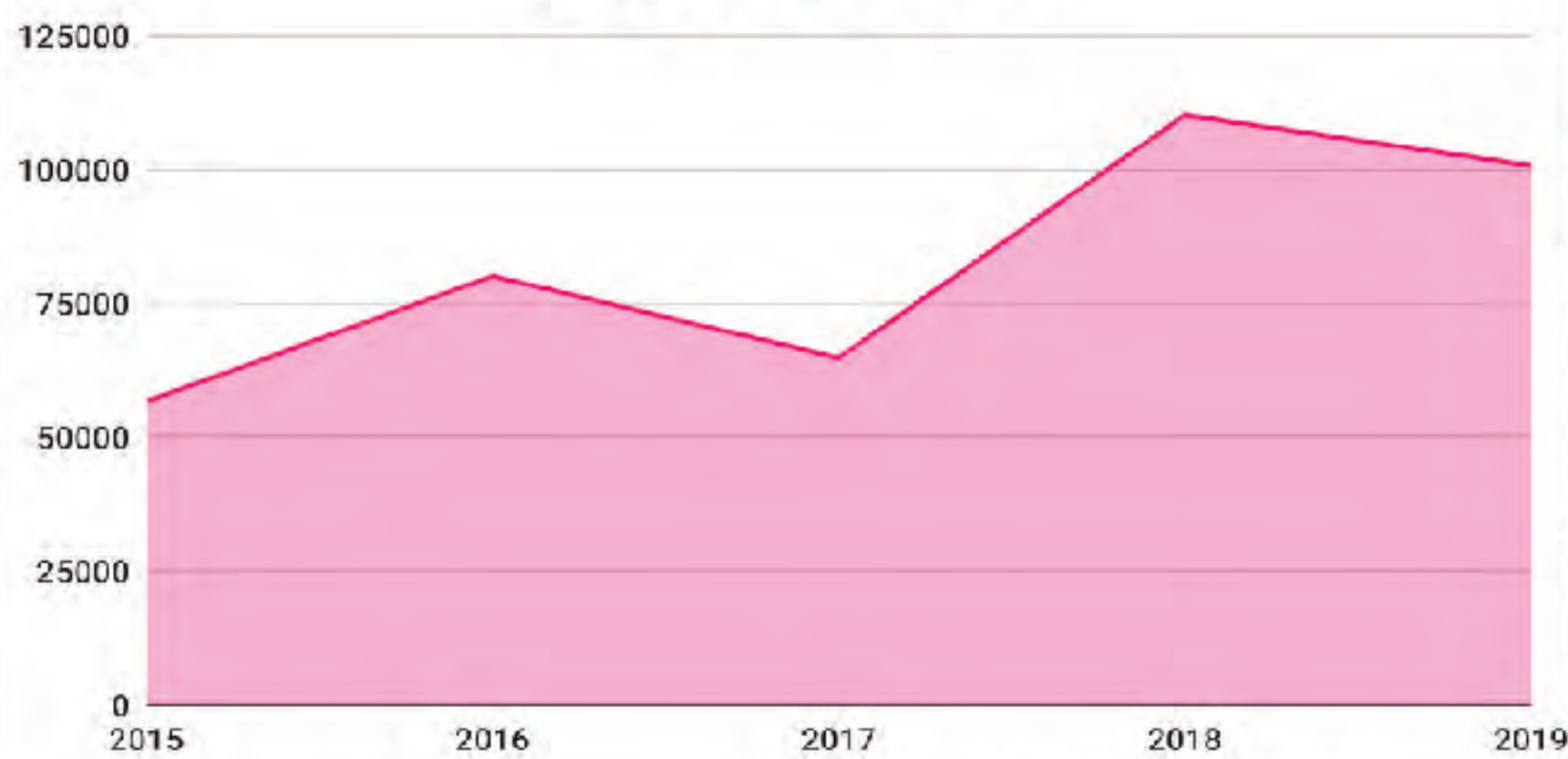
Artisan Cooperative was awarded recognition by the prestigious Premio Coatlicue for twenty years of integrating traditional textile techniques and designs into products for a modern global market with artisans in and around Zinacantán. They are continually expanding and experimenting, including the introduction of some of the ancestral patterns and colors from the past. They have been very active in the effort to draw attention to the issue of cultural appropriation by major designers, and the need for indigenous artisans to protect their creative rights in the global market. Their products are available on MSV Facebook and Etsy. Watch this video to learn about their history.



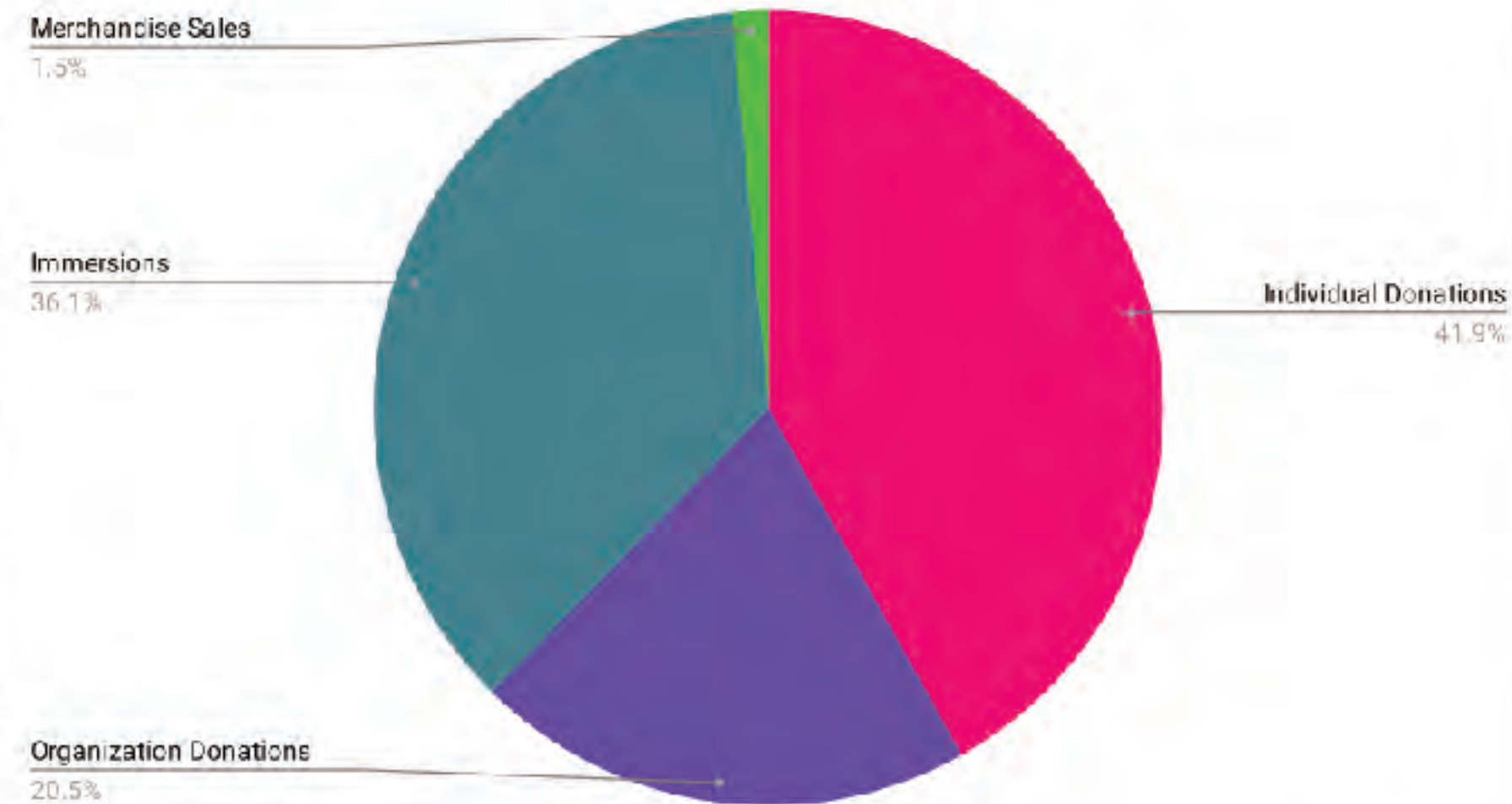
Financials

Natik is pleased to report that we continued our trend from 2018 and finished 2019 strong. By diversifying our funding sources, we were able to reach more organizations than ever and increase the time and money devoted to program services. We finished the year with net assets of more than \$37K, thus assuring a solid funding base for our partners in 2020.

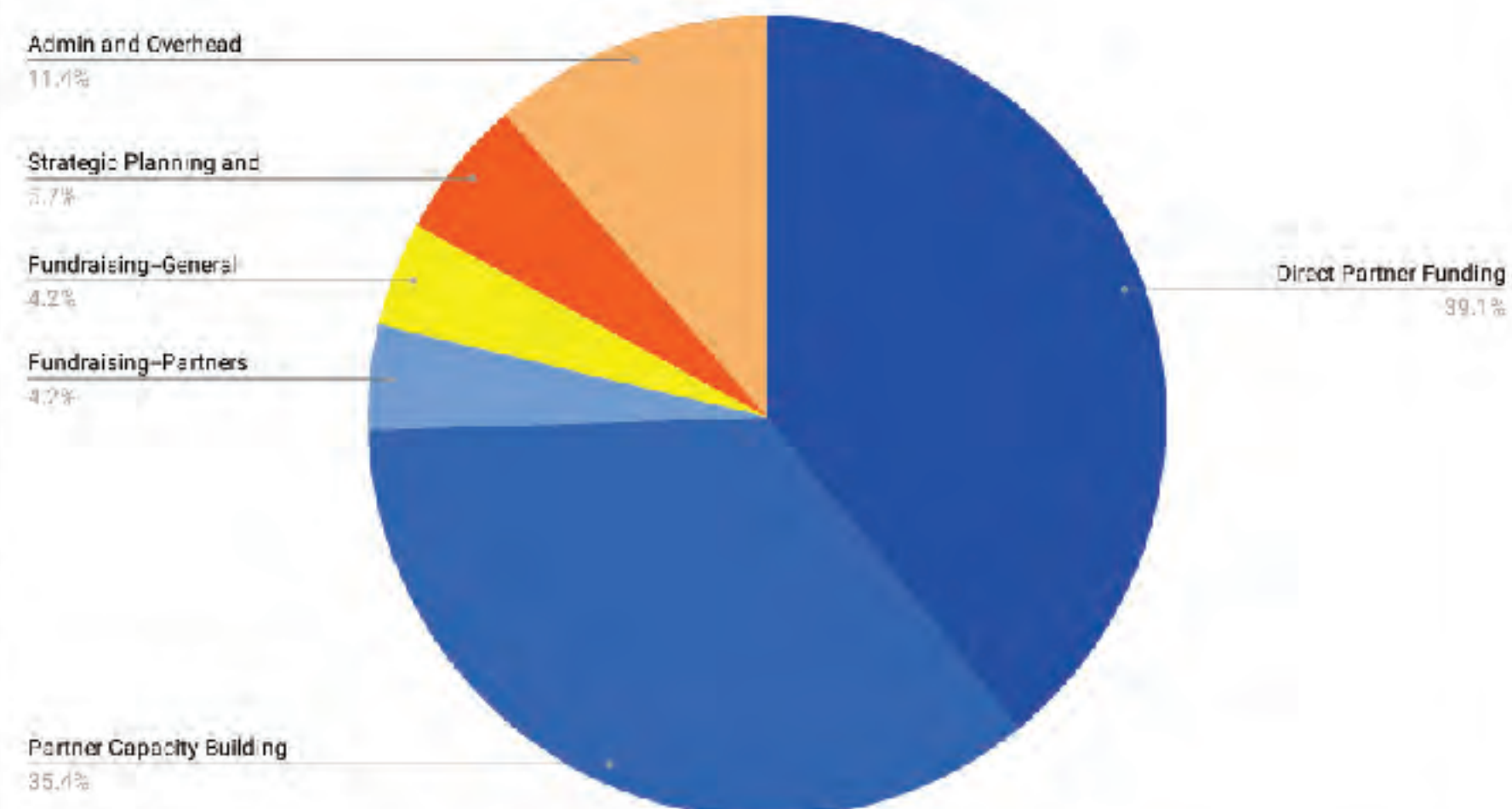
5 Year Funding Trend



Revenues 2019



Expenses 2019



How you can help:

Together we are transforming the narrative of hundreds of lives, and 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. Donate online here
2. Write a check and mail it to: 2700 Mayan Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
3. Donate your stock here
4. Contact Anita Smart to talk about your legacy plan for Natic:
anita.smart@natic.org



Donor Recognition List

Heartfelt thanks for your generosity

Alison Abbott

John and Brenda Adair

Alfred Arrivee

Larry Boll

Family Bornholdt

Jamie Brown

Ann Conway

Steven Core

Andrianna Cortez

David Coulson

Brittany Cowan

Jeff Denson

Cecile Dent

Ippolita Di Paola

Ellyce Di Paola

Jean Duffy

Kitty Emery

Pablo and Patricia Farias

Julie and Jon Feuerbach

David Feuerbach

Joanne Fischer

Linda and Davis Fischer

Deborah Flynn

Rebecca and Dan Galemba

Joan Galles

Jean Gerich

Garth Gideon

Leslie Gabel

Caitlin and Devin Graves

Kris Guest

Cory Gunderson

Daniel Hassouni

Maria Heberling

Susanna Hedenstrom

Eric Hoffman

Katherine Smith

Trevor Jensen

Nancy Johns

Chris Kane

James and Christine Kell

Marjorie King

Marcia Lee

Sarah Lesniewski

Suzanne Levy

Tina Lucas

Nancy Mauro

Ryan and Heidi McAnnally-Linz

Mary Ann McClure

Alice and John Meiners

Nancy Meister

Barbara and Michael Meyers

Nancy Middlebrook

Marjorie Mlodzik

Katherine Molinet

Cheryl Nace

Libby O'Kane

Turner Odell

Nancy and David Orr

Dave and Lyn Pentecost

Brooke Pike

Christine Ramsey

Vicki Reitenauer

Ginny Robertson

Carole Robledo

JP Rondeau

Charles Rosenberg

Glenn and Kiang Rotton

Patricia Rumer

John and Mary Sather

Lorna Scanga

Elliott Schwartz

Darius Sheik

Thomas Sherman

Bill and Diane Smart

Silvia Smart

Evelyn Stewart

Kedron Thomas

Jennifer Pauline Vogler

Antonio Welty

Bruce Wiley

Debra Will

Lauren Williams

David Wisdom

Aaron Woolrich

Adobe Inc.

Church by the Sea

Community Church of Douglaston

Community Impact Fund

Elm City Vineyard Church

Jesuit High School, Sacramento

Sacred Fire Foundation

University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work

If you have donated to Natik and are not listed here, please let us know, and accept our sincerest apologies for the omission.

Our Team 2019

Board of Directors

Vicki Reitenauer: President

Bill Harvey: Vice President

Paul Linz: Treasurer

Libby O'Kane: Secretary

Ian Ramsy: President Emeritus

David Feurerbach

Jean Duffy

Devin Graves

Natik Field Team 2019

Anita Smart: Executive Director

Deborah Colvin: Deputy Director

Berenice Zebadúa: Communication Director

Will Kell: Outreach Officer

Advisors

Carolina Bown

Ann Conway

Pablo Farias

David Orr

Points of Contact

Mailing address: 2700 Mayan Drive Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

Email address: contact@natik.org

Website: natik.org

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

Paul Linz: With gratitude and affection, a special recognition.

Paul has the distinction of being the longest volunteer contributor to Natik: twelve years! In 2008 he was asked to clean up some financial complications of the fledgling IHF, and continued with monthly financial reports and the annual IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit filing. He served as Treasurer of the Board from 2014 through 2019, and officially retired in March 2020. His departing gift was a year-long process of transferring our financial reports from his laptop to an online platform. It was a digital saga of legendary proportions that included dragons, gremlins, and ghost-busters. Paul's final act of chivalry was to train Libby O'Kane, Natik's new treasurer. Natik will forever be in his debt. We'll miss his generosity, solid advice, and quirky sense of humor. Paul will be haunted by random text messages at inconvenient times for the rest of his life because — Natik for life!