

Ixim : Spirit of Solidarity

2020 Annual Report



In Solidarity

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Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity asks you to consider how you can help change lives in the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Huehuetenango. Help spread mission spirituality in your parish. Work to improve the lives of migrants. Support projects through your giving and prayers. Join us in our mission!



Our goals for 2021 include:
 Launch of home water filtration project in San Sebastian Coatan
 Continued support of the most vulnerable in Huehuetenango suffering from the economic and health effects of COVID-19
 Expanded spirituality and fellowship opportunities online and in-person
 A mission encounter retreat bringing Ixim's message of solidarity and mission to the faithful throughout the Archdiocese of Omaha
 Increased outreach programs to the migrant community in Omaha



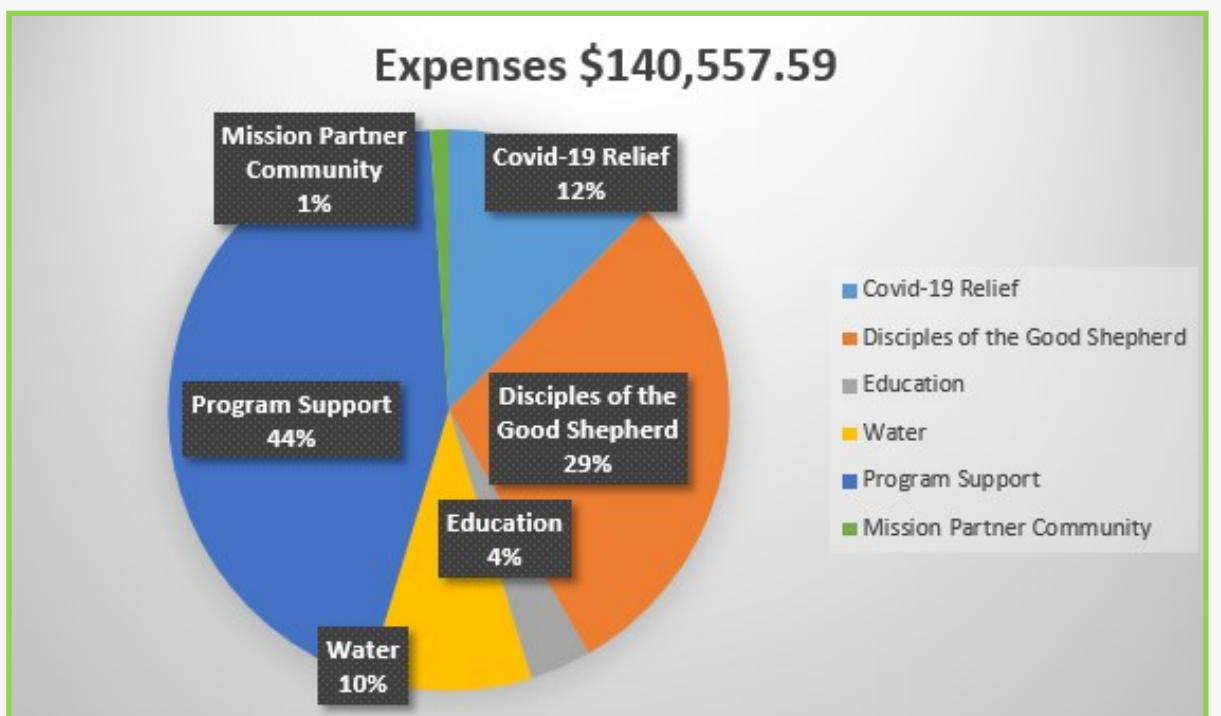
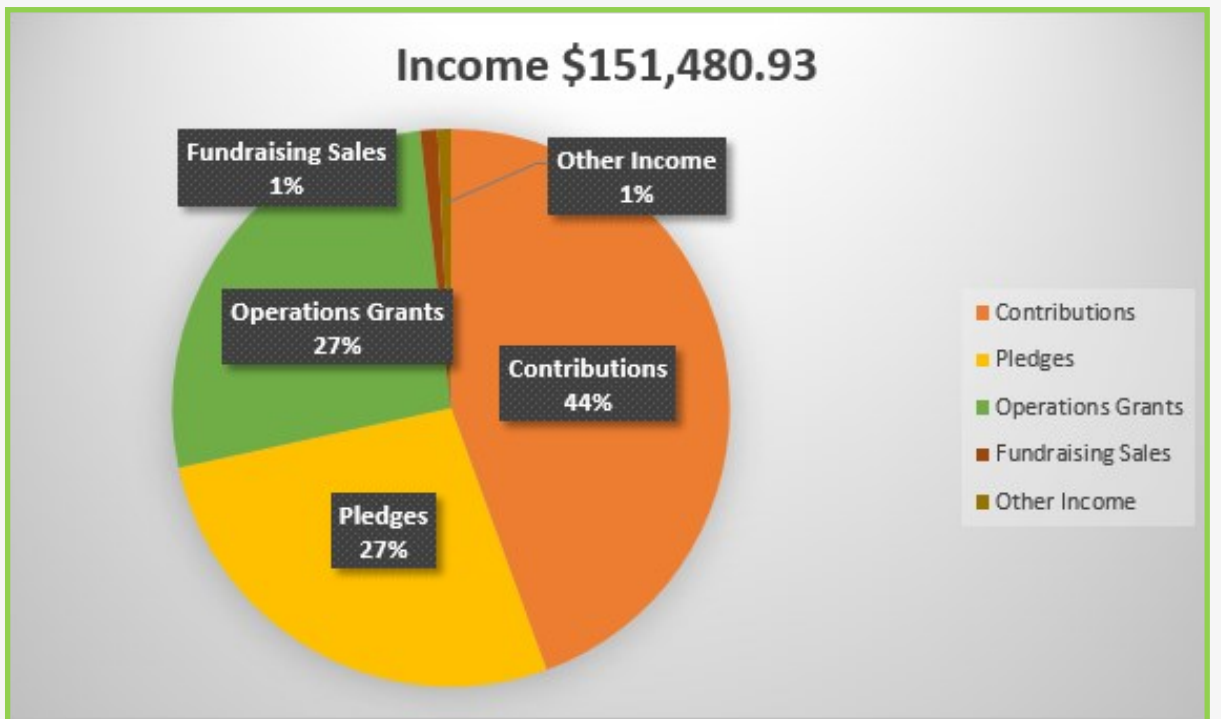
New Roads

Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report

Our gratitude for the support we received in the face of the challenges of 2020 is immense. We received more funds from contributions and pledges this year than we ever have before. This support allowed us to shift over 12% of our budget to address the needs of those affected by COVID-19 in Omaha and in Huehuetenango.

In May, Ixim asked for support for a two-pronged approach to helping those most vulnerable to the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in Omaha and Huehuetenango. Our May fundraiser and subsequent support generated \$15,000 used for direct food and medical assistance to nearly 100 families in Omaha and in Huehuetenango. These funds continued to be used in the second half of the 2020 calendar year to extend support to over 60 vulnerable families in Huehuetenango.

The Disciples of the Good Shepherd faced several hardships this year related to COVID-19. Many Disciples, particularly the young women in formation, have small jobs in parishes or in the diocese which provide a stipend to help pay for their studies in secondary and post-secondary schools. With parishes and diocesan offices closing for many months, the Disciples needed to find ways to make up for this budget shortfall. Ixim maintained its support of over \$40,000 per year for the Disciples. While the Disciples have not added new initiates this year, there are still a few sponsorships available. Contact Charlie to help sponsor a Disciple and the work of all their community.



Facing the Challenge

This pandemic made us even more aware of the importance of faith, fellowship, and solidarity. Both the United States and Guatemala faced the global challenges resulting from the health and economic effects of COVID-19. We're very grateful that volunteers in the United States, our partners in Huehuetenango, and all our supporters led Ixim's effort to make a difference in Omaha and in Huehuetenango.

We're also grateful for the new ways we've found to keep our special relationship vibrant through United in Prayer events, special liturgies, and weekly times for praying for one another.

Ixim didn't just overcome the challenges of the pandemic. We took advantage of eighteen years of love and solidarity to grow stronger than ever. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.



COVID Relief in Omaha

Iximeros made a huge difference across Omaha right as the effects of the pandemic started to be felt in communities across our area.

As part of our Safe Smiles program, volunteers made over 3,000 masks for children and adults. These masks were distributed by community partners including Mayan community groups, domestic violence shelters, and the Juan Diego Center's food pantry.

Ixim also provided direct assistance to families facing health or economic challenges due to the pandemic. Over a dozen families were helped with food, medicine, and medical supplies.



COVID Relief in Huehuetenango

Ixim assisted families in five different communities in Huehuetenango as those families struggled to provide basic necessities for their families due to the pandemic.

Our Huehuetenango team had these words to share with our supporters:

With immense happiness, we thank God for the opportunity given to us to help sixty families, who, without a doubt, have a heart filled with gratitude to God, the fellowship of Ixim, and the community of the Disciples of the Good Shepherd. Combining forces, these groups made this miracle of love possible, to make so many of our sisters and brothers smile to whom was given not just food for their bodies, but also for their souls.



Disciples of the Good Shepherd

The Disciples continued to find joy in their commitment to serve others by following Christ's model as the Good Shepherd despite the hardships they dealt with trying to support a growing community during the pandemic.

All the Disciples wish to thank their padrinos and all those supporting the COVID-19 relief efforts in Huehuetenango. Being able to serve others in such difficult times is a blessing for the Disciples. In their service, they received a special grace that helped them spread the love of God to others and experience that love themselves.



Water

Though the pandemic affected our ability to meet some of our goals for health and education this fiscal year, it did not stop continued enhancement to our various water projects across Huehuetenango.

The water plant in Huehuetenango received official government certification of a professional, commercial bottling plant.

Much needed upgrades and repairs were made to the water plant in San Miguel Acatan.

Communities which have been using home water filtration systems for over five years received new parts to ensure continued access to clean water in hundreds of households in several partner communities.



Spirituality

While separated due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, we remained united through prayer and fellowship.

Ixim's Spirituality Committee put together two regular opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth in 2020.

United in Prayer events happen quarterly as a gathering with Iximeros across the United States and partners in communities throughout Huehuetenango. We've had over 80 participants sing, pray, and reflect together through Zoom.

Our In Solidarity faith-sharing group meets monthly to renew our call to faith, fellowship, and solidarity by reflecting on scripture and Church teaching.