Dear Friends,

2016 marked the final year of our 2014-2016 Strategic Plan, *Expanding the Bridge*. With your partnership and guided by comprehensive data evaluations, we furthered our strategy to offer the most relevant products and services to our nearly 20,000 clients to advance their individual growth along the Client Continuum (p.3).

Expanding the bridge through women’s preventive health services as well as the agriculture, artisan, and mentor programs, we specifically targeted high poverty areas of rural Guatemala. This year we implemented the *Women’s Agriculture & Credit* program in Quiché, and expanded the *Health for Life* program to Chimaltenango.

According to the impact data we have collected and analyzed, our *Microcredit Plus* program has the most impact on women who earn between $1.11 and $4.49 a day. We are working against the trend of increasing poverty in Guatemala, and our clients are among the few experiencing positive changes in income.

Understanding where our *Microcredit Plus* program can have maximum impact also led us to make the difficult decision to close a branch office this past year, since according to national statistics, Escuintla is less poor than other areas we serve in the Western Highlands. We reallocated its resources to our other seven branch offices, maintaining our target of a more poor and vulnerable population.

Through the years, Friendship Bridge has become a leader in our industry working on Women’s Empowerment, and we continue to break new ground. We know that the longer a client is in our *Microcredit Plus* program, the better off she and her family become. We’ve defined empowerment and validated that the Client Continuum Strategy is the right way forward for our organization to reach its goals. Reflecting on the learnings from our past, we are excited to roll out our new three year Strategic Plan, *A Path for Every Client*, that provides a refined roadmap for our important work. In the following pages you will read more about our financial and social performance in 2016, an important balance that we strive to maintain, because both are equally important.

Thank you for partnering with and believing in us. With your support, we are making progress toward empowering women in Guatemala and providing a path for every one of our inspiring clients.

The longer a client is in the *Microcredit Plus* program, the better off she and her family become.

**MISSION**

Creating opportunities that empower Guatemalan women to build a better life.

**VISION**

Empowered women choosing their own path.

---

KAREN LARSON  »  President & CEO  

LAURIE DOLIAN  »  Chair, Board of Directors
Our target market is women who live in households that earn between $1.11 and $4.49 a day. In 2016, 87% of our clients were within this range. Our data show that Friendship Bridge clients living in the “Poor” category as measured by the Progress out of Poverty Index® are experiencing the biggest positive movement out of poverty over a three-year period, reinforcing the importance of monitoring and serving our target market.1

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1 This is based upon the Progress out of Poverty Index® surveys collected by Facilitators (loan officers), and is meant to be a census. The valid number of surveys of single observation per client for 2016 is 11,620, which is 41% of clients served during 2016, 99% confidence level and confidence interval of +/-0.4% for the National Poverty Line.
OUR 2017 - 2019 STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUSES ON A PATH FOR EVERY CLIENT.

Our first goal is to provide products and services that meet our clients’ needs at their individual levels of development. This will help our clients advance through the Client Continuum which reflects our theory of change. We can understand this theory through the metaphor of a tree. The roots represent the various products and services we provide to our clients which build a foundation for their path to empowerment. The leaves of the tree represent the outcomes clients experience as they grow along the Client Continuum over time – on a path to grow from Dreamer to Entrepreneur and to Leader.

Loan Products

TRUST BANK LOAN

22,704 Trust Bank loans disbursed

This is our entry loan product, offered to individuals who form a Trust Bank (7 to 25 women) and co-guarantee each others’ loans as a form of social collateral. The average new Trust Bank loan is $318.

CREDISALUD LOAN

879 households with clean stoves

This loan supports clients’ investments in efficient, clean-burning stoves that replace open fires in their homes. These clients save an average of $37 per month by using less firewood, and they experience many health benefits from reduced smoke inhalation.

CREDIESCOLAR LOAN

2,028 CrediEscolar loans

This loan is for costs associated with school enrollment, such as uniforms and school fees.

RAPIDITO LOAN

982 Rapidito loans

This loan gives our clients quick access to loan capital that has a shorter repayment period than our other loan products. Clients often use Rapidito loans to pay for unexpected expenses or to take advantage of business opportunities in seasons of high sales.

SOLIDARITY LOAN

42 Solidarity loans

A smaller group loan (3 – 7 clients) for longer term, successful clients who have graduated from the Trust Bank model and qualify for a larger loan. Clients may only have one existing group loan either in a Trust Bank or in a Solidarity Group.

PARALELO LOAN

195 Paralelo loans

This loan is available to clients who have a good credit history and higher credit needs in order to grow their businesses.
HEALTH FOR LIFE

1,449 clients accessed preventive health services
2,400 clients accessed health education

This program combines health education with women’s preventive health services. We expanded to the Chimaltenango branch in 2016. (see p. 11)

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION (NFE)

174,753 hours of Non-Formal Education delivered

NFE is the backbone of our Microcredit Plus program. Delivered monthly during Trust Bank (loan repayment) meetings, NFE sessions cover topics related to health, women’s rights, family, and business. (see p. 5)

ADVANCED TRAINING

1,258 clients attended Advanced Training

Clients learn technical or advanced business skills to help them diversify their income. (see p. 5)

MENTOR

48 clients participated in business mentoring

Clients in this program have been identified as Leaders on our Client Continuum. This program cultivates their high potential for leadership, growth, entrepreneurship, and impact on their communities. (see p. 5)

ARTISAN MARKET ACCESS

Nearly $60,000 of client-made products were exported and sold to the U.S. market

In this program, artisans participate in technical and business trainings designed to help them enter new local, national, and export markets. (see p. 5)

WOMEN’S AGRICULTURE CREDIT & TRAINING

40 clients received technical training
$14,000 in loans disbursed to 33 clients

This pilot launched in 2016 to give our agriculture clients access to new markets through technical training and credit products that meet the unique needs in the agriculture sector. (see p. 8)
Non-Formal Education

Every month, our 59 Facilitators (loan officers) travel by foot, bus, boat, or motorbike throughout the Western Highlands of Guatemala to lead monthly Trust Bank meetings.

Monthly meetings feature a Non-Formal Education (NFE) session centered around one of four pillars: women, family, health, and business. Our clients say the NFE sessions are critical for personal development — improving self-esteem, valuing themselves and their health, supporting families, and improving business outcomes.

On average, each Facilitator works with 320 clients every month.

91% of clients attending Advanced Training report their income stabilized or increased.

9% higher client retention was found among clients participating in Advanced Training.

Advanced Training

In 2016, 1,258 clients participated in the Advanced Training program and learned new skills such as baking, piñata making, flower arranging, candle making, basket weaving, and sewing. Learning a new skill gives clients an immediate opportunity to diversify their income. In addition to learning something new, clients can network with other women, helping to build confidence and empowerment.

Artisan Market Access

In 2016, 40 artisan clients participated in workshops designed to ready them to access new local, national, and export markets. Trainings focused on product quality; cost and product pricing; buyer expectations; export requirements; and tastes and preferences of the North American market. Nearly $60,000 of client-made products were exported and sold to the U.S. market. Clients doubled their revenue and their number of employees.

Mentor

In 2016, 48 clients (Leaders on our Client Continuum) participated in the Mentor program. Clients learned about personal and business development through sessions with a mentor. Business results will be measured and reported in 2017.

SHOP OUR ARTISAN CLIENTS' PRODUCTS ONLINE! FRIENDSHIPBRIDGE.ORG/SHOP
“Friendship Bridge came to Guatemala and focused on helping women. They taught us that we can learn and improve and work. They’ve helped me with my family, my house, and even my business.”

—DOÑA OLGA, Single Mother, Artisan Client

CADA MES CLUB
Cada Mes means “each month” in Spanish. Our Cada Mes Club is a group of monthly donors who support our clients’ monthly Non-Formal Education sessions. Visit friendshipbridge.org to join our Cada Mes Club.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ADVISORS

Anna de la Cruz
Research and Evaluation Consultant

Cara Forster
Independent Consultant and Social Performance Task Force Secretariat Member

Maria Matilde Olazabal
Director of Alcance, Freedom from Hunger, Mexico

Julie Peachey
Director, Progress out of Poverty Index at Innovations for Poverty Action

Claire Simon
Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Consultant

Victor Moscoso
General Manager, ACADEMICS

Carmen Velasco
Co-Founder of Pro Mujer and Co-Chair, Truelift Executive Committee
“I’m happy because before Friendship Bridge, I only ate my food, but now with capital, I can invest in growing our food. Our Trust Bank meets the first Tuesday of the month and we laugh, learn, and share dreams. We’re hardworking women who are looking for a better future for our children.”

—DOÑA ISABEL, Agriculture Client
Women’s Agriculture

Credit & Training

Friendship Bridge currently serves over a thousand agriculture clients. Through surveys and research, we found that 25% of our clients are financially dependent on farming, they fall into the highest levels of poverty, and they are the most isolated geographically. Due to lack of market access, they sell their products through middlemen (coyotes) who take most of the profit.

To meet the unique needs of the agriculture sector, we designed a pilot program to give our clients access to new markets through specially designed credit products, technical training, risk mitigation services, business assistance, and access to value chain participants.

The long-term goals for this program are to bolster sustainable agriculture practices among small-scale farmers; include the women more strategically into the family business; raise income for rural, impoverished agrarian families; create self-reliant community agriculture groups; and drive economic development in entire communities using Friendship Bridge’s proven lending and education model.

Doña Isabel’s Story

Doña Isabel spends her days caring for her husband, children, and almost two acres of tomatoes and maize. “I’ve been with Friendship Bridge for five years,” said Doña Isabel. “I’m also a mother of five children. I married at 14 years old, and had my first son at 15.”

The only girl and the second oldest of nine, she never had the chance to attend school. Instead she left home at 8 years old to work domestic jobs in Guatemala City to help pay for food and the care of her younger brothers. Determined that her daughters not marry so young, Doña Isabel uses profits from her fields to pay for their school fees. “Before joining a [Friendship Bridge] Trust Bank, I didn’t have capital. If there’s no capital, you can’t work,” said Doña Isabel. “At the monthly meetings I began learning how to manage and reinvest money.”

With her loan, she bought the tools she needed and paid rent and irrigation costs for her farm. Now she and her husband have a crop to harvest and sell every three and a half months. “I’m happy because before Friendship Bridge, I only ate my food, but now with capital, I can invest in growing our food,” said Doña Isabel. She currently employs 3-4 workers. “Our Trust Bank meets the first Tuesday of the month and we laugh, learn, and share dreams,” said Doña Isabel. “We’re hardworking women who are looking for a better future for our children.”
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

### ASSETS 2016 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>1,140,490</td>
<td>1,156,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,758,106</td>
<td>1,737,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans receivable, net*</td>
<td>5,873,702</td>
<td>7,132,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan interest receivable</td>
<td>154,725</td>
<td>167,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and pledges receivable</td>
<td>1,635</td>
<td>27,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>171,660</td>
<td>119,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,100,318</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,341,648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property and Equipment</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>99,171</td>
<td>101,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and related equipment</td>
<td>238,782</td>
<td>231,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>58,658</td>
<td>73,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>27,773</td>
<td>23,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>-373,118</td>
<td>-359,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,072</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noncurrent Assets</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>16,762</td>
<td>16,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total noncurrent assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,762</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,212</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10,168,346</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,427,932</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Loans receivable amount is reduced by the loan loss reserve of $181,916 and $145,572 for 2016 and 2015, respectively. Loans receivable decreased YOY as a result of branch closure and sale of portfolio.

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 2016 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>2,706,919</td>
<td>1,427,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>1,195,660</td>
<td>1,296,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,902,579</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,724,271</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noncurrent Liabilities</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
<td>3,140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,452,579</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,864,271</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>4,461,325</td>
<td>4,307,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>153,442</td>
<td>155,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>101,000</td>
<td>101,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,715,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,563,661</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | **10,168,346** | **10,427,932** |

### CREDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE ADVISORS

- **Steve Ellis**
  Founder & President, Colorado Capital Management
- **Jackie Johnson**
  AWM First Vice President, Financial Advisor
- **Sousan Urroz-Korori**
  Founding Member of the Board at Boulder Institute of Microfinance
- **Humberto Olavarria**
  Senior Instructor & Marketing Manager Colombia & Chile of Genesis Corporation
- **Charlotte Wells**
  Retired Director of Compliance, Supreme Lending
- **Amy Kuark**
  Vice President Investor Relations - The Western Union Company

*Board of Directors and U.S. Staff*
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

### DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

### SOURCES OF REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan interest and fees</td>
<td>3,478,590</td>
<td>3,406,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions (including gifts in kind)</td>
<td>919,263</td>
<td>890,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising events and sales</td>
<td>126,980</td>
<td>116,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and investment income</td>
<td>129,677</td>
<td>85,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,654,510</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,498,937</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### USE OF FUNDS

- **Program services**: 74.7%
- **General & Administrative**: 12.3%
- **Fundraising**: 7.1%

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and women’s education program</td>
<td>3,369,103</td>
<td>3,566,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses’ education program*</td>
<td>27,009</td>
<td>976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Artisan and Health</td>
<td>221,790</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,617,902</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,567,151</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>321,079</td>
<td>210,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>551,230</td>
<td>382,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total support services</strong></td>
<td><strong>872,309</strong></td>
<td><strong>592,746</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency gain (loss)</td>
<td>100,533</td>
<td>-28,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on sale of loan portfolio</td>
<td>-112,726</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in net assets</td>
<td>152,106</td>
<td>310,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,563,661</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,253,470</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,715,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,563,661</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Nurses Education Program is a continuation of Friendship Bridge’s initial development activities in Vietnam, providing faculty support and training for a graduate level nurses education program. The program has been independently managed by volunteers and is no longer a program of Friendship Bridge. We serve as its fiscal sponsor.
Health for Life

Our model

The Health for Life program provides health education and services to Friendship Bridge clients, in partnership with Wuqu’ Kawaq (Maya Health Alliance). Culturally sensitive exams, consultations, and other services are offered by women nurses who are from the local communities and speak the clients’ indigenous languages. The program also provides mobile clinics that travel to the clients’ communities.

Clients participate in health specific education sessions during their monthly Trust Bank meetings and earn access to the preventive health services package as a benefit of being a Friendship Bridge client. The Health for Life pilot began in 2015 at the Sololá branch, and in 2016 expanded to the Chimaltenango branch. When complex health cases are discovered, clients are absorbed into Wuqu’ Kawaq’s complex care program.

Through surveys and interactions with our clients, we know health complications limit their potential of building a better future for themselves and their children. Some of the most common health complications in Guatemala are preventable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cervical cancer, and sexually transmitted infections. In Guatemala, misconceptions and lack of education about health care, as well as limited access to culturally appropriate services, result in high rates of these preventable diseases. We designed our Health for Life program to specifically address the preventive healthcare challenges that rural, indigenous women face in Guatemala.
I’ve been with Friendship Bridge for about 16 years. I trust them and their partners. I have diabetes, so I bought a health package, and now I don’t have to travel for care. Nurses come to my house once a month to check on me and my sugar levels. I feel good, now, and my glucose levels are stable. They even gave me a free pap smear and checked my uterus to make sure I’m healthy. I am!”

- DONA MARIA, 61

2016 Results

1,449 clients in Sololá and Chimaltenango received preventive health services

438 clients have participated in family planning methods

2,400 clients accessed health education

166 complex cases found

54% of clients with access to a mobile clinic chose to participate
Social Performance Management

Social Performance Management is a commitment to and measurement of progress toward our social mission. We are committed to balanced performance financially and socially, and this includes empowering both our clients and employees. 2016 activities included:

CLIENT CONTINUUM STRATEGY

- Committed to knowing our clients, 3,500 clients are now segmented into the categories of Dreamer, Entrepreneur, and Leader to better serve them (see p. 3).

- Our Client Advisory Committee met three times to help validate the mission of Friendship Bridge and identify a marketing message that motivates clients to participate and stay with Friendship Bridge.

- 31 staff members were certified as Facilitators and Non-Formal Education providers through our partner, Freedom from Hunger, now Grameen Foundation. The certification required 110 hours of training.

- According to a 2016 client focus group, clients want to work with Friendship Bridge because we care about each client and provide personalized service.

EMPLOYEE COMMITMENT

We remain committed to offering competitive employment opportunities and benefits for our 138 staff throughout Guatemala and the United States.

- Annual Employee satisfaction survey resulted in a score of 5.4 out of 6.

- Universidad Amistad (Friendship University) – employees received an average of 150 hours of training per person to support their professional growth.

- Tuition Reimbursement Program – 19 employees continued their education, some completing advanced degrees with Friendship Bridge paying the majority of their education expenses.

STAFF FEATURE

América Raquel Chiyal Morales
Artisan Coordinator

América began working at Friendship Bridge as a Facilitator (loan officer) in 2007. “I love working with women, and the fact that Friendship Bridge provides education, not just credit, captured my attention.” Eight years later, América helped start the Artisan Market Access program which provides technical and business education so artisans can access new markets. “Seeing our clients grow is so satisfying! I love working with them,” said América. In 2016, América helped train 40 artisan clients and today, several Friendship Bridge Leader clients export internationally and have doubled their employees to fill orders.

FEMALE STAFF 66%
INDIGENOUS STAFF 62%
FEMALE LEADERSHIP 55%
Social Performance Results 2016

The longer a client is with us, the better off she is.

Clients who applied *Advanced Training* increased their revenue by an average of $40 per month.

Clients in the *Artisan Market Access* program doubled their revenue and number of employees.

Clients who take advantage of additional credit and/or educational services experience a 2%-3% reduction in poverty.

Longer-term clients are more likely to participate in community groups and take on leadership roles, an indication of growing empowerment.

90% of clients provide more or better food for their families.

70% of clients increased their savings.
2014-2016 Strategic Plan Outcomes

The 2014 - 2016 Strategic Plan, Expanding the Bridge, reflected a strong commitment to our clients’ growth along our newly defined Client Continuum strategy (see p.3). We segmented our clients into Dreamers, Entrepreneurs, and Leaders, which allowed us to offer products and programs tailored to clients’ individual stages of development. This contributed to client improvements in three areas:

1. Reduced Household Vulnerability
2. Increased Empowerment, and

CLIENT OUTCOMES OVER THREE YEARS:

- 88% of clients feel their income has increased or stabilized since becoming a client
- 3,307 clients received health services
- 3% of clients rose above the National Poverty Line.

2017-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our new strategic plan, A Path for Every Client, provides a refined roadmap to offer opportunities that empower our clients and employees, ensures that we are innovative and client-centric, and emphasizes becoming more efficient and effective in our operations. In this plan, we will continue to understand our clients in order to best support their needs, and we will offer products and services in the most efficient and simple way.
Friendship Circles

Friendship Circles are dedicated groups of volunteers across the U.S. who educate, advocate, and fundraise to help Friendship Bridge fulfill its mission to empower impoverished Guatemalan women. In 2016, Friendship Circles had a historic year, raising $232,618 to benefit our clients in Guatemala.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE SUPPORT OF 11 CIRCLES IN 2016:

• Antelope Valley (CA)
• Bloomington (IN)
• Boulder (CO)
• Central Coast (CA)
• Chico (CA)
• Evergreen (CO)
• Foothills (CO)
• Genesee (CO)
• Mequon (WI)
• Oconomowoc (WI)
• Salida (CO)
• San Antonio (TX)
• San Gabriel (CA)

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2016 CIRCLE LEADERS:

• Jamie Alpert
• Roberta Bautista Armijo
• Sharon Barrett
• Joanne Baum
• Sue Benishak
• Rachel Bloombaum
• Jill Brashear
• Angelica Docog
• Connie Goscinski-Smith
• Paula Hock
• Connie Holzmiller
• Deborah Kramer
• Constancia Leshin
• Rebecca Medina
• Marty Musselman
• Rose Saucedo
• Diana Spencer
• Carolina Vasan

Many Circle members travel with us to Guatemala for a weeklong Insight Trip, an experience that deepens their bond with each other and with our clients. We host Insight Trips twice a year, in February and November, so our supporters can experience our work firsthand.

“I will never forget the women we were fortunate to visit and to hear how Friendship Bridge has improved not only their lives, but the lives of their families. I am inspired more than ever to get the word out about Friendship Bridge and help in every way I can. Before I went on this trip I didn’t fully understand what ‘empowering women’ meant. Now I absolutely do, and my life has truly been changed for the better because of it.”

—LAURA LAMBRECHT,
Boulder Circle Member
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Our deepest gratitude to in-kind donors, event attendees, and volunteers not listed here.

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Our Legacy Circle is a group of individuals who have directed a planned gift to Friendship Bridge, ensuring their impact extends beyond their lifetime.

MEMBERS:
Judy Snyder
Ardis & Michael Strieby*
Felicity Hannay & James Wood
Anonymous

* Indicates monthly donor in our Cada Mes Club

A special thank you to our volunteers who provide translation services: Penelope Curtis, Terry Gibson, Tonya Johnson, Claudia Kutz, Constancia Lashin, Lidiau Moreno, Adriana Obiols, Sarah Piedrasanta, Jennifer Rose, Samantha Valliere, and Carolina Vasan.
Our clients’ needs and feedback inform our decision-making and the products and services we offer. As a mechanism for receiving regular feedback, we formed a Client Advisory Committee in 2014 to advise our leadership team and Board of Directors. This committee is comprised of clients from the different regions where we operate, and the committee members represent different levels of empowerment and lengths of time in our program.