

# How Can You Help?

Name

Street Address

City

State Zip Code

Email

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_ Please add my name to SEPA's email list

\_\_\_\_ My donation of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, check made out to SEPA



## SEPA's Projects

### Human Rights

SEPA has supported numerous human rights monitors under the supervision of NISGUA.

### Teacher Support in Copal AA

Annual salary support for three middle school teachers, a director, and a bookkeeper.

### Scholarships for Students of Santa Elena

Helps students continue their education beyond sixth grade.

### Supplement Teacher Salaries in Santa Elena

Supplements cover professional travel and development.

### Construction of Infrastructure

SEPA gives monies for building projects, requested by the villages. Past projects include a health clinic, a school computer lab, music instruments for the school, road repair, and a Community kitchen.



Founded in 1997

[www.sepaoberlin.org](http://www.sepaoberlin.org)

[sepaoberlin@gmail.com](mailto:sepaoberlin@gmail.com)



Mailing Address:

SEPA c/o Treasurer  
206 Kendal Drive  
Oberlin, OH 44074



*Annual Guatemalan Dinner*

## SEPA Fundraising

SEPA hosts a dinner with traditional Guatemalan food, a dessert auction, a guest speaker, and sale of Guatemalan textiles.



*Solicitation of Donations  
from Individuals, Churches.  
and Community Groups*

The Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA) is a non-partisan, 501(c)3 charitable organization supporting human rights work, education, and infrastructure projects in the Maya communities of Santa Elena and CopalAA in Guatemala.

## History of SEPA

In 1981-82, at the height of the Guatemalan army's genocidal "scorched Earth campaign," families were forced to flee their lands and take refuge in Mexico.

After lengthy negotiations that involved the United Nations, the Guatemalan refugees and Guatemalan government, refugees returned to Guatemala and formed new returned refugee communities. Two of these communities are Santa Elena and Copal AA.

These returned refugee villages requested support from the international community at the time of fragile and uncertain peace.

The national organization, NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala), was formed in 1981 to link those with an interest in social justice in the United States with those in Guatemala.

SEPA was formed in 1997 and worked with NISGUA to provide human rights observers who lived in villages such as

Santa Elena and Copal AA to forestall violent human rights violations.

Since 1997, SEPA has fostered relationships with the communities of Santa Elena and Copal AA. As the political situation has changed, SEPA has remained flexible and has continued to raise funds to be used as determined *by the villages themselves*.

The committed relationships with these two indigenous refugee villages in northwestern Guatemala has helped to prevent human rights violations and has allowed these two communities to build a self-directed infrastructure.

SEPA, a completely volunteer-run organization, raises money through various fundraisers. In 2023, 96% of all funds raised directly supported projects in Guatemala.

Contact with the Guatemalan communities is maintained by SEPA board members and co-founder and community liaison John Gates.