



HONNOLD
FOUNDATION

Impact Report
2025



**We believe that small,
deliberate steps can help us
achieve audacious goals**

The Honnold Foundation envisions a world where communities lead the transition to renewable energy, with the resources they need to adapt and thrive. We believe in solar as a proven, environmentally sound solution to global energy poverty, and we award grants to community organizations whose projects are innovative, equity-focused, and have the potential to shift the narrative on what's possible for energy access worldwide.

HF's mission and values are rooted in the true spirit of partnership, and our trust-based funding approach is intentionally designed to center the voices, expertise, and leadership of the communities we serve.



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Reaching New Heights



Alex
Alex Honnold,
Founder



Emily
Emily Teitsworth,
Executive Director

Dear HF Community,

Last year, we asked you to climb the mountain with us, and join a growing movement working to put people at the center of the transition to clean energy.

In 2025, you answered that call.

Together, the Honnold Foundation experienced our most consequential year yet. We started the year with an ambitious \$3.4 million grantmaking goal. But by late fall, we were on pace to far exceed our fundraising goals, in the midst of a difficult year for both our partner network and the climate and energy movement more broadly. We responded to the moment with focus and urgency, ultimately pledging **\$4.2 million in grants to more than 35 projects across 20 countries**, while raising **\$10 million** to directly invest in on-the-ground, community-led climate solutions.

Along the way, we've doubled down on what we've known all along: the transition to renewable energy works best when it's rooted in solutions created by local communities and frontline leadership. No one understands the challenge of affordable electricity more than the Navajo woman whose family grew up spending money they couldn't spare on diesel to power a generator. No one knows the impact of climate disaster better than the rural Mexican farmer whose town was swept away in the aftermath of unprecedented storms. No one demonstrates ingenuity like the Achuar of Ecuador, whose people have designed elegant, handcrafted boats to traverse the Amazon river for centuries. And no one shows more grit than a fourth-generation coal miner in Appalachia who establishes a career in solar when the coal dries up.

In addition to dramatically scaling our grantmaking, 2025 also marked an important milestone in *how* we support frontline community leadership. We launched our open-source nonprofit resource guide, hosted bilingual English-Spanish workshops on strategic planning, fundraising, and data management, and helped our grantee partners amplify their stories and solutions through major publications and events. That's because our job isn't just to fund solar installations – it's to build the long-term strength and visibility of the organizations driving this work.

One of the things climbing teaches us is that reaching one summit rarely means the journey is over. There's always the next challenge, and with it, a healthy dose of adventure. In many ways, the past decade has been about climbing HF's first mountain: demonstrating that community-led renewable energy solutions are powerful, scalable, and transformative. Alex likes to joke that this success to date is akin to summiting Mt. Denali. Now, we're setting our sights on the Himalayas.

Our next objective is undoubtedly bigger, and we're ready to face it alongside our community of supporters. **2026 will be our most ambitious year so far**—expanding our efforts to find, fund, and support community solar energy access with the urgency, courage, and commitment this moment demands.

Thank you for being part of this climb with us. When you're on a route, a thousand feet up, you trust your climbing partners. At HF, we place our trust in the local leaders who know best what their communities need. We are honored that you choose to place your trust in us.

With gratitude,
Alex Honnold, Founder, and **Emily Teitsworth**, Executive Director



Building Thriving, More Vibrant Communities

The Honnold Foundation builds trust-based partnerships with community organizations advancing solar energy access, so that people can thrive in the places they call home. No matter who you are, we believe that energy should be easy to access, affordable, and have a low impact on the natural world.

We partner with organizations whose work reduces environmental impact and increases social and economic equity, by providing funding, storytelling amplification, and capacity development.

All around the world, a growing community of supporters has joined us to make an impact: people who, like us, believe that there's power in taking small, deliberate steps, and that when we move forward together, we can achieve audacious goals. What started as a small group of individuals has turned into a global movement: **The Honnold Foundation represents nearly 8% of all community-direct solar funding globally.** And thanks to our community's support, our collective impact has continued to grow.



Our Growing Impact

2019-2025

Since 2019, we've:

Supported 135 partner projects in 33 countries, territories, and U.S. Tribal Lands with \$12.5M in grant funding.

Expanded solar access to 650,000+ people, creating 1,200+ jobs and economic opportunities for 100,000+.

Protected 15M acres of biodiverse Amazon forests in partnership with Indigenous communities, funders, and activists.

Helped communities install 4+ mW of solar, avoiding ~13,000 tons of CO₂, 500 tons of waste, and saving 400M tons of water.



Strengthened 50+ BIPOC-majority organizations through capacity building, leadership development, remote workshops and coaching.

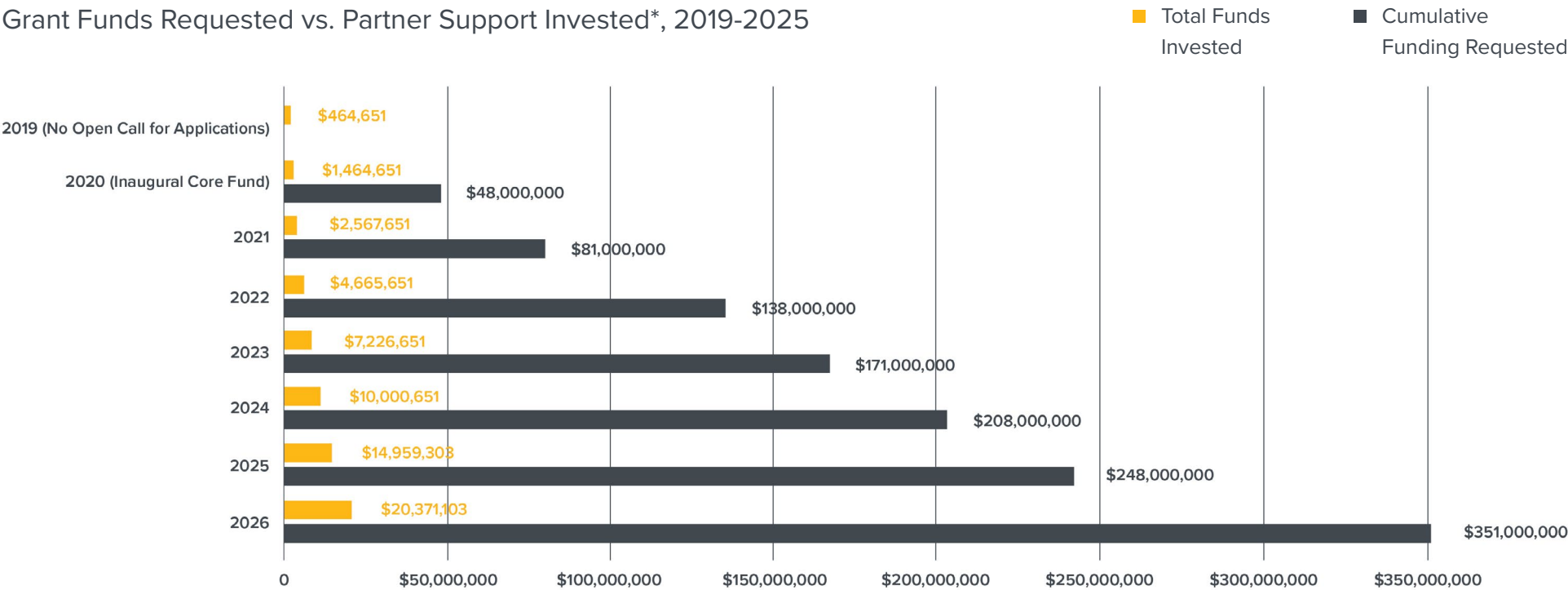
Secured global media coverage across major outlets including The New York Times, TIME, Bloomberg, and The Guardian.

Produced award-winning community short films, including *River of Spirits*, *Our Children's River*, *Keep the Lights On*, and *How to Change the World* (2026).



Our Pipeline

Grant Funds Requested vs. Partner Support Invested*, 2019-2025



**“Partner Support Investments” represents grant awards and direct spending on partners’ support, and is presented on an accrual basis beginning in 2024.*

Since 2019, we’ve invested more than \$15M in solar energy projects and the organizations championing them. Last year was our most impactful yet, with \$4.3M invested across 40 projects, including \$4.25M in grants, between our grantmaking and partner support programs. And yet, amidst growing gaps in federal funding, the demand for this work has continued to grow.

In early 2026, we received more than 1200 applications from over 100 countries, representing \$103M in requested funding. After an initial review, our team has identified 96 projects, totalling over \$11M in potential investments, that we will champion over the next 18 months.



What \$15M per year could deliver

If the Honnold Foundation increased our funding to \$15M per year, we could achieve the following, and more:

- Solar energy access for up to 1.8M people living in energy poverty
- 13MW of solar capacity, 7.9 GWh energy produced annually, and 380 thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide avoided over the solar systems' useful lives
- Preventing climate migration for hundreds of communities, and tens of thousands of people
- Conservation for more than 2.5M acres of land
- Disaster preparedness for over 250,000 people
- 1,500 jobs and economic opportunity for 100,000 people

Thank you to all those who believe in the power of community-led solar energy access. To those waiting on the sidelines: [join us.](#)



Knowledge, Learning, and Trust

“What else do you need?”

This is the guiding question behind the Honnold Foundation’s work. “Capacity building” is a classic nonprofit buzzword, and not all capacity building initiatives are created equal. Some measures are thinly veiled vehicles to exert control over grantee partners or program participants. Others are time-intensive learning opportunities that represent just another task on nonprofit leaders’ long to-do lists.

At HF, we’re not interested in just saying the right words. We’re invested in doing right by our Partners. Consequently, our capacity development programs are rooted in our Partners’ expressed needs. Our goal is to meet partners where they are, so that together, we can build resilient, locally-led models at scale.



The Lake Clinic Cambodia. Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia



Native Renewables & Honnold Foundation event.
NYC Climate Week

Our programs create a constellation of support around our grantee partners. Flexible, multi-year funding with streamlined reporting requirements provides space for organizations to deploy solar with speed, while focusing on serving their communities. Our storytelling and amplification programs ensure that our Partners have access to the conference rooms, screens, and media opportunities where their voices can spark change. And our capacity building meets partners where they are, providing virtual workshops, on-demand executive leadership coaching, bespoke needs-based communications support, database consultation, and earned media opportunities.

Our goal is simple: to equip grassroots leaders with the tools, resources, and access they ask for—on their terms.

In 2025, we supported our Partners with:

- An open-sourced nonprofit resource guide covering the fundamentals for building and sustaining an impactful nonprofit – available in English and Spanish.
- Three workshops, attended by 95 participants, delving into storytelling, data, and fundraising.
- Bespoke communications support for eight Partners, including website design, logo creation, fundraising campaign support, print materials, and more.
- Responsive grantmaking to six partners to facilitate travel, conference participation, and learning opportunities.
- Best-in-class online solar installation training for 19 participants across 16 partners.
- 10+ mainstage opportunities for audiences of institutional funders, donors, and advocates.
- 2.5M+ impressions across web, socials, and earned media.



2025 Partners

Solar Energy, Worldwide

In 2025, we committed **\$4.25M** in grant funding across **37 Partners** around the world, making this our most significant year yet.

From solarizing an urban farm in Ohio, providing jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals in the process, to off-grid solar that supports Indigenous women defending their territory against mining in the Brazilian Amazon, solar helps people thrive in the places they call home.

The Lake Clinic Cambodia. Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia



Our New Partners

ASHIÑWAKA - Association of Sápara Women of Ecuador

Supporting the Sápara's efforts to protect their ancestral lands from fossil fuel exploitation and advance territorial autonomy through clean, community-owned energy solutions.

Associação de Mulheres Munduruku Wakoborun

Expanding off-grid solar to support the leadership of Munduruku women and strengthen the Ipereğ Ayũ Munduruku Movement in defending their territory from large infrastructure and mining projects in Brazil.

Cheyenne River Youth Project

Building a 7,000-square-foot net-zero energy facility to expand its Waniyetu Wowapi (Winter Count) Art and Culture Institute, which offers programming in fine art, street art, and traditional Lakota arts.

E-Tech International

Partnering with Indigenous federations in the Peruvian Amazon to pilot solar-powered canoes, strengthening energy sovereignty and land protection, while expanding access to essential services and building youth capacity.

Fundamental Needs Inc.

Bringing off-grid solar and battery storage to homes on the Navajo and Ute Mountain Ute Reservations, while training local youth and apprentices to build long-term energy and water sovereignty.

Girls and Women in Renewable Energy Academy - GAWIREA

Installing a hybrid solar-thermal system to power automated sago processing in rural Indonesia, advancing food security and creating income-generating opportunities for women through clean energy and technical training.



Instituto Pólis

Establishing a community-led solar collective in Brazil and powering a social housing complex through hands-on training for Black women in solar installation and management, advancing energy justice, economic opportunity, and climate resilience in underserved urban neighborhoods.

Kia Kotahi Ako Trust

Solar energy at a Māori immersion school to reduce emissions and energy costs, while integrating clean energy education, workforce pathways, and solar literacy into community and youth development.

Lowlander Center

Supporting Indigenous-led climate adaptation in coastal Louisiana through modular solar units, hands-on training, and community resilience strategies.

Malagasy Mamafy Fahombiazana Iraisana - MAMAFI

Establishing a solar-powered Community Information Center in a remote village in Madagascar, providing women and young people with access to digital tools, literacy programs, and training.

Negrosanon Initiative for Climate and the Environment Inc. - NICE

Deploying solar energy in an off-grid fishing village on Matabas Island to support cold storage, community resilience, and women's livelihoods in the face of climate disruption.

North End Community Improvement Collaborative

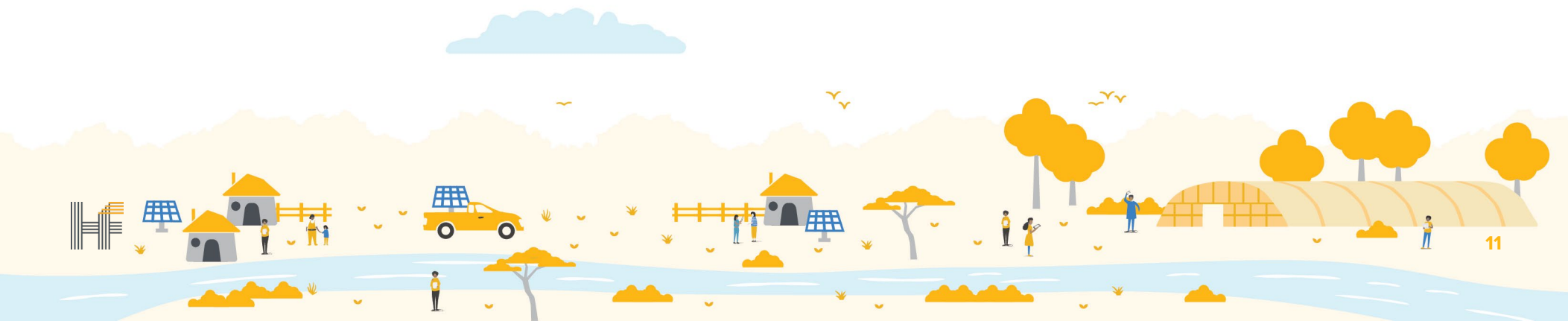
Solarizing an urban farm and launching one of Ohio's first agrivoltaic initiatives, while training incarcerated individuals for careers in clean energy.

Organización Ecológica Sol y Verde

Off-grid solar to power classrooms, kitchens, and living spaces near a Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala, transforming a community center into a hub for workshops and advancing energy access, Indigenous women's empowerment, and environmental justice.

Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña - OFRANEH

Expanding solar energy in Vallecito to power agroforestry, food production, and Garífuna education, advancing cultural sovereignty and energy justice for Afro-Indigenous communities in Honduras.



Piatua Resiste

Bringing solar-powered electricity, internet, and water access to three remote Kichwa communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon to advance self-determination, territorial defense, and Indigenous-led education.

Smokehouse Collective (Native Movement)

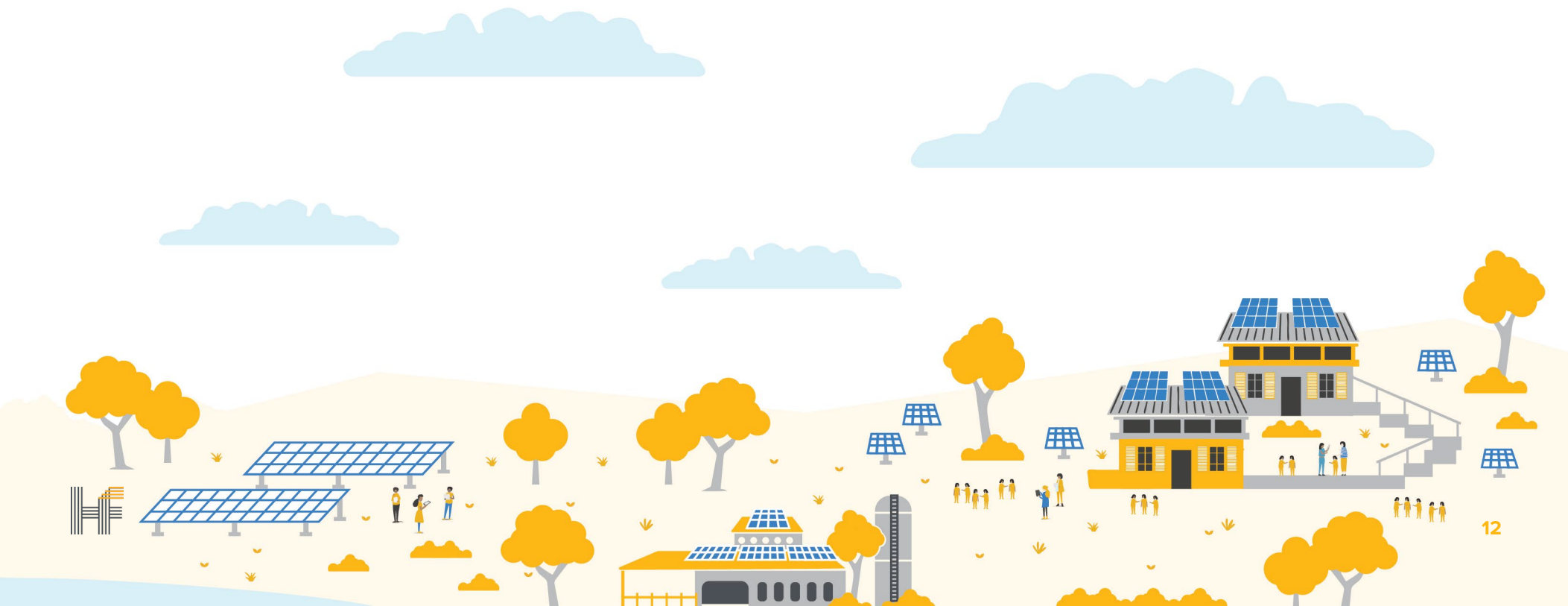
Piloting community-owned solar in rural Alaska to power food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and climate resilience in Bristol Bay.

Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing, Inc. - SMASH

Solarizing land trust homes, building a replicable model of community-owned renewable energy, and advancing housing and climate justice with hands-on education led by Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ communities in Miami-Dade county, Florida.

Tierra Nativa / Fundación Amigos de la Tierra Argentina

Advancing grassroots climate action, clean energy education, and territorial defense in Argentina's rural Paraná River delta by installing solar power in a women-led, community-run space on Isla Esperanza.



Our Continuing Partners

Each year, in addition to new funding, we continue our partnerships with organizations that have a vision to continue scaling solar energy access in their communities. These multi-year grants build organizational capacity and fund additional solar infrastructure.

Alianza Ceibo

Solar energy for remote indigenous communities in Ecuador fighting to protect their ancestral ways of life alongside some of the most biodiverse rainforests on the planet.

Amigos de Santa Cruz

Reliable, clean power for a vocational training program, and solar for a local preschool and elementary school serving a Mayan Indigenous community on the shore of Lake Atitlán, Guatemala.

Asociación Fénix

Creating solar-powered food systems and sustainable production models for families across Lake Nicaragua.

Asociación Natün

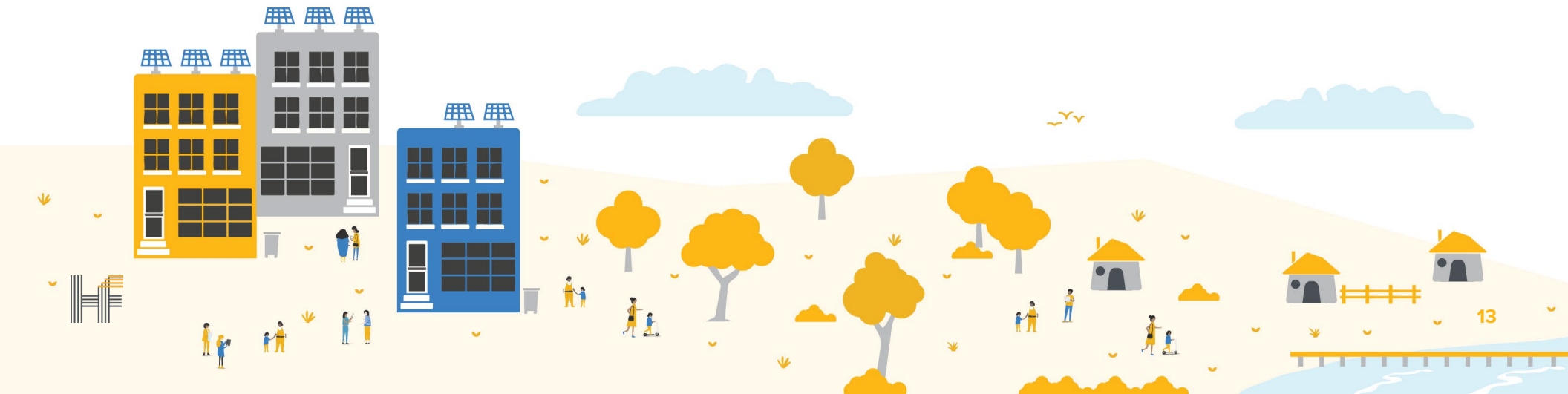
Strengthening Indigenous-led environmental and development initiatives and addressing urgent community priorities in Western Guatemala.

Barefoot College Madagascar

Using the expertise of recently graduated female solar installers to increase access to energy across four rural communities in Madagascar.

BK ROT, Inc.

Empowering young people of color in New York City by creating green jobs and transforming food waste into high-quality compost.



CLIMA Fund

Investing in grassroots climate change movements around the world to steward cultural and ecological diversity.

Education - Developpement - Environnement Naturel

Expanding energy and water access in drought-affected communities in Madagascar while training youth technicians, forming local solar management groups, and advancing women-led climate resilience.

Fundación Kara Solar

Scaling solar transport and energy infrastructure for Indigenous territorial defense and sustainable livelihoods in the Amazon.

Hoʻāhu Energy Cooperative Molokai

Providing affordable energy access and job training for Native Hawaiians through a community-owned nanogrid.

Indigenized Energy

Solar and storage in five US tribal communities to build energy sovereignty and resilience, while training local installers, addressing infrastructure needs, and laying the groundwork for future systems.

Limitless Horizons Ixil

Rooftop solar and STEM learning opportunities for a school for indigenous girls in Chajul, Guatemala.

Love For Life

Supporting solar systems, workforce development, and technical training programs for Indigenous communities across the Costa Rican and Panamanian rainforests.

Sage Development

Supporting solar installations and building energy sovereignty across the Standing Rock Nation.

Sovereign Energy

Agrivoltaics guided by traditional Native agricultural practices to support economic development and Indigenous leadership in solar energy across New Mexico.

The Lake Clinic Cambodia

Upgrading solar systems across five floating clinics to provide free health care across Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake.



Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program

Electrifying health centers, schools, and coffee-processing sites, improving access to essential services, boosting local incomes, and advancing forest conservation across the Indigenous-led YUS Conservation Area in Papua New Guinea.

U Yich Lu'um

Promoting the use of traditional agricultural techniques for Mayan youth and preserving cultural knowledge in the Mexican Yucatán.

VOC Rural Development Centre - VOCRDC

Expanding clean energy access for Dalit communities in Tamil Nadu, India while advancing job training, education, and community resilience through a holistic, women-led development approach.

Women for Biodiversity Foundation

Solar energy access, education, and jobs for Colombian Indigenous communities.



Our Grantee Partners

United States of America: Tribal Nations, 18 States, and Puerto Rico

Mexico and Central America: Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

South America & The Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela

Africa: Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia

Asia: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, The Philippines

Oceania: Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu



Since 2019, we've partnered with **86 community organizations across 135 grants**, representing 33 countries and territories. Around the world, our Partners use solar energy to build equity, **on their terms.**



What Our Partners Say

"The Honnold Foundation has literally kept the lights on and kept people safe over the last week. Our 5 active digital resource centers powered by HF solar have served as emergency hubs for emergency responders, families desperate to communicate with relatives, youth seeking to reach their parents, and citizens coordinating community aid."

The PSYDEH Team, Mexico

"The light did more than illuminate homes. It created safety. It extended study hours for children. It supported women's economic activities. It allowed families to gather at night without fear. Clean energy strengthened the community while protecting the forest that sustains them."

Community Member

Association of Sápara Women of Ecuador, Ecuadorian Amazon

"We are fast-tracking food sovereignty so our people never go hungry again. We've built gardens, raised bison, and created jobs that connect our youth to the land. For the first time in recent memory, Red Lake elders were served meals made entirely from food we grew, harvested, and raised ourselves. This is what true sovereignty looks like."

Cherilyn Spears, Director of Agriculture
Red Lake Nation

TESTIMONIALS

“Seeing children play safely after sunset and women feeling more secure at night reminds us why this project matters. Solar energy is not just about electricity it’s about dignity, safety, and opportunity for our community.”

Zainal, Project Coordinator
Natural Aceh, Indonesia

“After 13 years without electricity, having light in my home has been a huge change. Before, I had to walk to the nearest neighbor just to blend food or charge our cell phones. Now, thanks to the solar system, we are more independent and live with greater comfort. This project not only brought energy, it also brought dignity and hope to our families.”

Milvia Arriola, Program Participant
ARCAS, Guatemala

“It’s time we take energy matters into our own hands. Sockeye Solar builds self-sufficiency while helping Smokehouse Collective allocate its resources toward the healing work we are trying to do around food sovereignty.”

Maria Liliana Dosal, Co-Director
Smokehouse Collective, Alaska



Kara Solar. Amazon River Basin, Ecuador-Perú



Impact Snapshots: Savo Island Solar, KOPPESDA, and Coalfield Development

Honnold Foundation Core Fund Partners have been lighting up the world since 2020 – and we're only just beginning to fully understand their catalytic, long-term impact. We checked in with three partners—Savo Island Solar, Sumba Sustainable Solutions, and Coalfield Development—to see where their communities are now, years after completing their projects. We also developed in-depth case studies highlighting Mexico-based partners PSYDEH and U Yich Lu'um.



Savo Island Solar Initiative. Savo Island, Solomon Islands



Savo Island Solar

In 2020, the Savo Solar Initiative in the Solomon Islands navigated COVID-19 to install a 10 kW rooftop solar array with battery storage at Sunset Lodge, Savo's only private employer and an economic anchor for Kuila village. The system replaced diesel that had consumed over half of the Lodge's monthly revenue, reducing fuel use to occasional backup only. Reliable solar power enabled new investments, including a fridge, ice machine, and community water pump – all of which are now used by surrounding community members.

Thanks to the solar install, first time access to freezers has facilitated a regional fish selling business, allowing local fishers to catch more than their daily needs, and make a modest income on the surplus catch. In addition to selling to residents and tourists, traders come to Savo to collect frozen fish, with some even being exported to the larger regional island hub of Vanuatu.

With extra income, 50 households have been able to transition to a new energy service on the island, shifting from kerosene lighting to solar kits and batteries, which is sustained through a low-cost tariff. For Savo Island, the transition to solar has built economic resilience by unlocking new income opportunities, while simultaneously reducing reliance on costly, polluting diesel energy.



Sumba Sustainable Solutions - KOPPESDA

In the province of East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, over 600,000 households rely exclusively on kerosene, candles, and diesel for power and light. Twenty-three percent of residents live below the poverty line, on just US\$17 a month per household. Sumba Sustainable Solutions works with rural communities on Sumba Island, the southernmost island in East Nusa Tenggara, where poverty rates are even higher.

In 2020, the Honnold Foundation partnered with Sumba Sustainable Solutions to bring small solar and battery systems to nearly 1,500 residents of Sumba Island. Previously, community leaders had trouble getting solar to stick. Older solar systems had been donated without regard for community capacity or training, and local government only offered systems that required complex contracts, monthly fees, no battery storage, and little training on system maintenance. At night, farmers would do what they'd always done: light a candle or power up a costly diesel generator. Sooner than later, systems wound up in the landfill.

In partnership with community leaders, KOPPESDA shifted this model towards something more culturally relevant: a social enterprise model where farmers could pay for systems with non-cash payments. In return? A battery backed, 20 year warrantied system designed to stay on homes, medical centers, and small businesses, and out of the local dump.



KOPPESDA Foundation. East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

Better yet? The batteries are made from up-cycled e-waste.

Five years later, the solar systems are still serving the community. Meanwhile, the model has begun to scale regionally. Prior to solar, the seaside village of Tarmingbang depended on just three diesel generators, which cost 10 times more than renewable

power to operate. Now, an additional 40 solar installations have been deployed across the community, serving 200 people. Local shops now stay open late, kids can study after dark, and the whole community has embraced a more expansive, sustainable way of life.

KOPPESDA Foundation. East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia



Coalfield Development

West Virginia is the top coal-producing state in Appalachia; in 2024, coal-fired power plants accounted for ~90% of West Virginia's electricity. And yet, West Virginian communities are struggling as the coal industry requires fewer skilled workers and the federal government pulls back from previous renewable energy commitments.

Coalfield Development was built by and for West Virginians in response to generational disinvestment across coal country. A community-based social enterprise, the organization invests in neighborhoods facing barriers to prosperity through workforce development, community-led construction projects, and entrepreneurship. At their West Edge facility in Huntington, WV, they're creating jobs for out-of-work coal miners and coal-impacted families. Their end goal? Rebuild the Appalachian economy from the ground up.

"For centuries, our people have had to break our bodies and our mountains mining coal. Now we can begin to heal both by mining the sun."

**Jacob Hannah, Executive Director
Coalfield Development**



Coalfield Development. West Virginia, USA

In 2020, the Honnold Foundation funded a 122.2 kW solar array for Coalfield Development's West Edge community facility, and supported a comprehensive solar job training program through their social enterprise partners, Solar Holler. The solar installation is the largest non-profit-owned rooftop solar system in West Virginia, and meets the entire West Edge facility's energy needs, saving \$120,000 per year and demonstrating the viability and promise of a solar-powered Appalachia.

In 2022, Coalfield Development set their sights on a new goal: pioneering solar on mountaintop mine sites in the "billion-dollar coalfield" of West Virginia. They've envisioned a series of installations that could sit on top of the scarred landscape from coal mines and build energy resilience across the region. Honnold Foundation funding helped power a proof-of-concept

project to help Coalfield Development land a \$125M Solar For All grant to replicate the project across the state.

Since then, federal funding cuts have delayed the project, but Coalfield Development is continuing to embrace "Appalachian Ingenuity" to keep their dream alive. 76 coal-impacted people have received solar technical training certification, creating a pipeline for four flourishing local solar companies. And with HF's continued narrative and amplification support, Coalfield's story is being shared far and wide, including in an upcoming short film produced by HF.

Coal Country in West Virginia is embracing a new, solar-powered future, one job, panel, and story at a time.



Case Study:

PSYDEH

Impact Overview

For nearly 20 years, PSYDEH has partnered with Indigenous women in Hidalgo, Mexico to build social, economic, and gender equity. Since 2022, the Honnold Foundation has supported this work with funding and capacity building focused on rural solar energy and digital access. The project is installing 20 kW of solar and 100 kWh of battery storage to power electricity and satellite internet for 11 digital resource centers, replacing diesel and unreliable grid power, expanding access across 19 communities (including five previously un-electrified), and benefiting approximately 5,000 people. The initiative has also incubated four women-led co-ops and strengthened local businesses through the Sierra Madre online marketplace.

PSYDEH's Story

Gazing out the car window, Doña Rosa guides us down winding mountain roads that snake through the jagged folds of the Sierra Madre Oriental. A bumpy, four-hour drive northeast of Mexico City, San Pablo el Grande emerges suddenly from the mist: a tight cluster of red-tiled roofs nestled into the hillside, framed by dense forest, unpaved switchbacks, and thick cloud cover.





PSYDEH, Hidalgo, Mexico

For generations, rural Indigenous communities like San Pablo have faced systemic neglect. Roads remain unpaved, health clinics underfunded, and basic services like electricity and internet irregular at best. Gender-based discrimination is widespread, compounded by corruption and a lack of educational pathways.

Once inside Doña Rosa's home, her son Diego adjusts the position of a blinking router as Marcelina, a longtime friend, settles in beside us. The three form part of the *Tierra de Bordadoras* ("Land of Embroiderers") cooperative, a small embroidery cooperative that specializes in the vibrant, hand-stitched Tenango style native to the region. The idea came through PSYDEH, a Hidalgo-based nonprofit that partners with women across the state to confront systemic marginalization by building local leadership, strengthening community networks, and fostering economic self-determination through cooperative models.

Doña Rosa says simply: "These embroideries are the only way we move forward. It's our only income. That's how we support ourselves." In a community where formal employment is nearly nonexistent, the co-op offers a pathway to both economic survival and personal dignity.

Through PSYDEH's workshops on production costs and pricing, the co-op has learned to calculate material, time, and labor, and how to value their work accordingly. "Now we know what to charge...I remember once selling a pair of embroidered cushions for 200 pesos, just because I needed the money," Rosa tells us. "Now, I can sell that same set for 1,500. That's a real income."

As the cooperative has grown, so have its needs. Coordinating orders, sharing updates with clients, and accessing virtual workshops all depend on something San Pablo historically lacked: stable electricity and internet. "Before, the power would go out for days at a time—sometimes even a week," Doña Rosa recalls. "We had no light...We couldn't communicate. We didn't know anything."

That reality changed after PSYDEH, in partnership with the Honnold Foundation, installed off-grid solar panels and a shared antenna in San Pablo as part of their *Tec Para Tod@s* (“Tech for Everyone”) initiative. For the first time, the cooperative and the broader community could rely on a stable signal. “Now, even if the power goes out, we can still send messages,” says Doña Rosa. “We can still be in touch.”

Connectivity has also opened new doors. With stable internet and regular workshops from PSYDEH, the women have grown more confident using cellphones and have built digital skills many never imagined they might need. And the changes brought by solar and digital access have stretched far beyond the technical. They’ve reshaped daily routines, relationships, and how the women see themselves. “We used to be afraid,” Marcelina says. “We weren’t used to going out. There were people—there still are—who are very *machista*. And out of fear of being scolded, we’d just stay home.” With each workshop and each new skill, that fear has softened. “Now even our husbands know where we go. Sometimes, they join the events too.”

Communication has become a bridge to family, to clients, and to the outside world. “If I need to reach our coordinator in Tenango to confirm a delivery, I can,” says Doña Rosa. “Even if the power’s out, the antenna still works. That’s the difference solar has made.” For women who once felt cut off by geography, by machismo, and by technology, the ability to stay connected has become a source of agency.

Leveraging their newfound digital connectivity, *Tierra de Bordadoras* now runs an online store, enabling embroidery sales across the country, and soon, internationally. What began as a modest embroidery collective has grown into something far more powerful: a space for self-determination, mutual care, and quiet resilience. Through their stitches and their stories, Doña Rosa, Marcelina, and Diego have claimed visibility in a place long overlooked. With solar infrastructure powering their work and workshops guiding their growth, they’ve gained tools not only to earn a living, but to stay connected, informed, and in control. “Now we can learn,” Marcelina says. “Now we can decide for ourselves.”



Case Study:

U Yich Lu'um

Impact Overview

U Yich Lu'um (UYL) is a Maya-led organization advancing Indigenous culture, biocultural restoration, and traditional agriculture through its bilingual (Spanish–Maya) Escuela Agroecológica Decolonizante, which supports women beekeepers, farmers, and youth in sharing ancestral knowledge. Since 2023, the Honnold Foundation has partnered with UYL to expand solar energy access, installing 12 kW of solar to power five water pumps and a training center, plus 5.76 kWh of battery storage for a community kitchen and hall. The project provides reliable, solar-powered water access across eight municipalities, benefiting approximately 275 people, strengthening drought resilience, enabling year-round food and livestock production, reducing fuel costs, and revitalizing Maya language and farming traditions.

U Yich Lu'um's Story

It's a busy Thursday at the *Centro Agroecológico*, but the mid-morning Yucatán heat hasn't slowed anyone down. Children dart through the trees in a never-ending game of tag, while adults gather under a shaded pavilion. Nearby, a pot of *caldo de hierbas* simmers over a wood-fired stove, its herbaceous aroma—chaya, epazote, and other native greens freshly harvested—mixing with the smoke. At the heart of it all is U Yich Lu'um, a grassroots Maya-led organization, where the recent installation of solar panels power more than just infrastructure; they sustain an *apuesta de vida* (a life commitment): a vision of autonomy, cultural renewal, and dignified life rooted in reclaimed land and Maya identity.



“For years this land was violated, with everything set aside for chile monoculture,” explains Sara Oliveros López, co-founder of U Yich Lu’um. Before the center was established, the land had been deemed suitable only for export-oriented production and subjected to extractive agricultural practices. Chile, the crop of choice, consumed vast amounts of groundwater, stripped soil nutrients, and spurred dependence on heavy chemical fertilizers.

Now, in a sustained effort to restore the land, U Yich Lu’um has turned to traditional agroecological knowledge, reviving ancestral practices rooted in the region for millennia. Central to this effort is the *milpa*, a traditional polyculture system that involves two years of cultivation followed by eight years of fallow, rejecting extractive logic in favor of interdependence and allowing the land to rest and regenerate. This model now sustains dozens of distinct varieties of maize, beans, and squash. The fields double as a seed bank and a living archive of knowledge, offering local farmers not only a buffer in times of drought, but the freedom to grow, adapt, and experiment. “This land was tired,” says Cinthia Guadalupe Pacheco Moo, a U Yich Lu’um coordinator. “But we’re learning how to care for it again. And in doing so, we’re learning to care for ourselves.”

These time-tested practices are now being challenged by a changing climate: longer dry seasons, erratic rains, and deepening droughts have made water access increasingly unreliable. Without water, it becomes nearly impossible to sustain agriculture, forcing many to abandon their fields and migrate elsewhere in search of work. For U Yich Lu’um, the lesson was clear: any path toward lasting autonomy had to begin with water. And securing water meant harnessing the power of the sun.





U Yich Lu'um, Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

In 2023, with support from the Honnold Foundation, U Yich Lu'um installed solar-powered water pump systems at their community center and five family farms in Sanahcat and the nearby village of Polabán. These off-grid solar systems power electric pumps drawing water from wells and cenotes, enabling year-round irrigation for crops and access to water for animals. As a result, for the first time ever, families can reliably grow vegetables outside the shortened rainy season, improving their food security and resilience to drought.

Community members describe the solar project as “bringing water to our dreams.” Solar technology has become a tool for self-sufficiency, allowing families to stay on their land and make it productive. “It means a lot,” says Rodolfo, a local farmer. “I feel that now we have a chance to move forward, to work and build something better.”

At U Yich Lu'um's agroecological center, solar energy is now the driving force behind daily life. The center's solar array powers an electric pump that irrigates the gardens and tree nursery, a solar-powered electric fence that protects livestock, and lighting for the training hall and pavilion.

Central to U Yich Lu'um's solar success has been its community-centered implementation. Rather than relying entirely on outside contractors, U Yich Lu'um embraced a do-it-ourselves approach, transforming installations into hands-on learning sites. At a time when early vendors were pushing overpriced, oversized systems, this collaborative approach helped avoid waste and reduce costs.

The installations themselves also became practical training opportunities. From experienced electricians to grandmothers who had never touched a wire before, community members gained the skills and confidence to maintain their own systems. The result was not only functioning infrastructure, but a shared sense of ownership and a growing local network of solar-literate stewards. That training paid off. When the center's pump burned out during a dry spell, the team assessed the issue, consulted with trusted technicians, and were able to replace the part themselves.



For the U Yich Lu'um community, solar energy has strengthened solidarity and practical problem-solving. As Sara puts it, this project has demonstrated that renewable energy, once seen as only for the wealthy, can be adopted and harnessed by local communities. “If we build our capacities and overcome fear,” she says, “we see that solar energy is completely viable.” These experiences serve as the base of a powerful mindset shift: a boost in collective agency. Villagers who once doubted their ability to adapt to such technology now say “*yo sí puedo*”: yes, I can.

For Rodolfo, the transformation is deeply personal. He used to work construction jobs in the city of Mérida, spending most of the week commuting in and out, and returning only on weekends to tend his land. The prospect of hauling water to keep his crops alive made consistent farming untenable, especially during the dry season. But with the arrival of the solar pump, everything changed. He no longer has to shuttle water by motorbike and container. His parcel is more productive than ever, providing enough to feed his household and reduce his reliance on outside work. What the solar pump delivers is more than water; it's continuity, a reason for the next generation to stay, and a future rooted in memory and dignity.

Rodolfo's story is just one thread in a much deeper struggle. For U Yich Lu'um, defending the land is inseparable from defending who they are. Centuries of colonial violence, dispossession, and cultural erasure sought to sever Maya people from their territory and traditions. Today, that legacy continues in subtler but equally extractive forms: the unchecked exploitation of groundwater by industry, the pressures of labor migration, and an enduring belief that rural life has no future.



U Yich Lu'um. Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico



U Yich Lu'um, Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

For U Yich Lu'um, real autonomy means more than producing food and energy. It means reclaiming the right to be Maya, on Maya terms. The organization's vision extends beyond the boundaries of any one piece of land. As they deepen local autonomy, they are also weaving a broader web of solidarity, strengthening alliances across the Yucatán and connecting with Indigenous and grassroots movements throughout Latin America.

Their work unfolds amid growing global threats: land expropriation, climate-driven displacement, and the continued sidelining of Indigenous voices from international policymaking. U Yich Lu'um is insisting that they be part of those conversations, not as passive recipients of outside solutions, but as land stewards, educators, and strategists with knowledge to share. And this *apuesta de vida* is taking root, seed by seed.

Financials

REVENUE

Individuals	\$6,810,298.03
Corporations & Foundations	\$3,321,105.09
Interest	\$64,619.21
In-Kind Contributions	\$22,141.88
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,218,164.21

EXPENSES

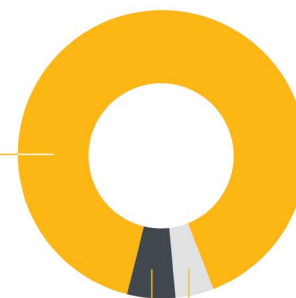
Programs:

Grants Awards & Disbursements	\$4,869,284.22
Other Grantee Support	\$89,368.58
Program Operations	\$539,228.13
Total programs	\$5,497,880.93

Supporting Services:

Fundraising	\$334,497.40
Administration	\$265,915.22
Total Supporting Services	\$600,412.62
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,098,293.55

EXPENSES SUMMARY



4.36%
ADMINISTRATION

5.49%
FUNDRAISING

90.15%
PROGRAMS



Our Values

The Honnold Foundation's approach is grounded in principles of justice and equity, and we are committed to fostering an organizational culture that encourages diversity of perspective, respectful dissent, and continuous learning. The communities we serve, including communities of color, Indigenous communities, and economically excluded communities, have experienced systematic oppression, and continue to shoulder the burden of environmental pollution and climate change. Seeking out, funding, and advocating for organizations from these communities is at the heart of what we do.



GAWIREA. Samurukie, Papua

Our core values include:

Partnership

Trust-based partnerships are at the core of HF's approach. We acknowledge and work to rebalance traditional power dynamics so that we can build open, mutually accountable relationships.

Action

We believe that small, deliberate steps can help us reach big, audacious goals. Solving a problem like climate change requires urgent action, creativity, and patience. We give ourselves and our partners permission to fail, learn, adapt, and grow.

Authenticity

We mean what we say, and we say what we mean. We are straightforward and genuine with ourselves, our partners, and the broader community.

Self-Determination

"Do what you think is best" is something Alex says to people he trusts. We say the same thing to each other, and to our partners. Our partners are the experts in their communities, and our team is here to support their vision for a brighter future.

Our Team

2025 STAFF

Brian Williams, *Senior Manager of Operations and Finance*

Cynthia Arellano, *Senior Program Manager*

Emily Teitsworth, *Executive Director*

Kate Trujillo, *Deputy Director*

Kau'i Nichols, *Data and Evaluation Manager*

Seun Owolabi, *Donor Engagement and Events Manager*

Peter Walle, *Director of Partnerships*

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Our team extends a special thanks to Kate Trujillo, outgoing Deputy Director, for her six and a half years of leadership at the Honnold Foundation. Kate led the launch and expansion of the Core Fund, built deep partnerships with community leaders around the world, and created an organizational ethos rooted in trust.

Thank you, Kate!



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Thank you, supporters!

In 2025, our Partners continued to light up the world, and we couldn't have done it without our community of supporters and volunteers. To all those around the world who believe in and support our mission: **thank you.**

"Working with the Honnold Foundation is a reminder that hope is built through action and impact. The Foundation's commitment to community-led solutions reflects a deep respect for local knowledge, a belief in practical progress, and an understanding that dignity and kindness amplify impact. The age-old adage 'it's not just what you do, it's how you do it' lives and breathes with this team. In a moment when the challenges are vast, the Honnold Foundation shows us what is possible."

Jamie Bechtel, CEO, Kito Impact Foundation



ASHIÑWAKA. Sápara Indigenous Community, Ecuador



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Learn more at
honnoldfoundation.org