



**ATZIN DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO, A. C.
ATZIN CANADA**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- program operations continued in Tlamacazapa with support from office staff in Cuernavaca, focusing on continuing education of promoters, scholarships, special needs, 28 household gardens, women's health;
- intensive training of promoters was done via in-person workshops conducted in Cuernavaca and in Tlamacazapa, and frequent videoconferencing;
- increased technical and planning support was provided by Atzin to the promoters' civil association, *Yotlakat Non Siwatl*, focusing on development of agendas, workplans, monitoring, reporting;
- move of our hub, Atzin House, in April to a more secure location in Cuernavaca was completed;
- 2025 financial report was balanced;
- annual general meetings held for Board Directors of Atzin Canada and of Atzin in Mexico.

PROGRAMS IN TLAMACAZAPA

TRAINING. Atzin did a total of 17 days of intensive training in Cuernavaca for 9 promoters in three workshops (6-days in May; 6-days in October; 5-days in November), delving into several main themes: emotions and communication; indigenous identity; investigation of major diseases like insulin resistance, diabetes, hypertension, and toxic exposures; and prenatal care and women's health, with facilitation by Susan and Nacho Torres (President of Atzin in Mexico). Additionally, further training consisted of 7 days of classes over 4 months on: the use of computers, basic administration and accounting taught by Ana and Martha of the Atzin office in our Centre in Tlamacazapa, with continued weekly distance coaching by Ana until August.

Writing any report is a new skill for the two local program coordinators based in Tlamacazapa and therefore, time-consuming. The key is to only ask for essential reports, control the number expected, and use fill-in forms as much as possible.

During 2025: Office staff (Ana, Martha and/or Susan, with a return volunteer, Jutta) spent a total of 29 days working on program development on-site in Tlamacazapa (plus additional trips to store furniture and supplies in the Atzin workshop during April). Each round-trip now costs approximately C\$100 with a hired driver, because of the higher costs of tolls and gasoline. Susan spent 4.5 months at the Atzin House in Cuernavaca, making two return flights (April and September), and during the remaining months, worked remotely from Canada.

SCHOLARSHIPS – 2001-2025. For the first time, we added up all the scholarships awarded by Atzin to individuals from Tlamacazapa from 2001 to 2025. The sum was higher than we anticipated: a total of 277 scholarships to 94 individuals. Most recipients received a scholarship for several years as they worked their way through junior high or high school.

As of Dec 2025, full scholarships for four young women are in progress: Clara finished year three of the intercultural health program at the Intercultural University in San Felipe, Mexico State. Ana Laura passed her entrance exam and was accepted into the Sustainable Development Program at the Intercultural University in San Felipe, Mexico State, and the two share a rented 2-bedroom apartment in walking distance to the university. Tonantzin completed grade nine and began grade ten in high school in August at Don Bosco in Cuernavaca. Nahomi started grade one, also at Don Bosco, having graduated from preschool. A summary report in Spanish and English is available.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SANITATION. Green Project. During 2025, six household gardens of the 14 gardens actively being worked were doubled in size and planted; by year end, 14 new gardens were installed and seeded in the yards of newly participating families, for a total of 28 active gardens. Seed purchases from different places had low germination; we are now testing seeds ordered online from a coop business based in Mexico. During the rainy season, there is no shortage of water for the gardens. It is a different situation during the dry season, with experimentation of recycling of grey water still needed. Promoters on the Green team held two meetings with two teachers and the director of one primary school to discuss the development of two small gardens and hands-on classes for students in grade four. The school has open areas suitable for gardens, is fenced, and has a 17,000-litre tank for rainwater catchment (built by Atzin in much earlier days!). However, while the two teachers were keen, the principal was very reluctant due to their workloads, and the discussions stalled.

Sanitation. In 2023 in response to a deplorable drainage system that was only half-installed by a state-municipal public work, Atzin and promoters organized a petition signed by 650 villagers and prepared eleven information packages completed with revealing photographs of the broken pipes and “sewage in the streets” situation. These packages were delivered to State officials in various departments in Chilpancingo, and provoked numerous visits to the village and meeting by government officials and engineers. Repairs are currently in progress (in our non-professional observations, all of which seem to be more of the same with a woefully inadequate budget). Two promoters were asked to volunteer on the local project committee and rather reluctantly accepted. This is not an easy position for them as they have responsibility but no real authority as is typically the case in government projects (i.e., they will be blamed by other villagers if the project doesn’t improve the drainage).

SPECIAL NEEDS (31 adults and 19 children registered). Besides attending to individuals with chronic conditions on our list with visits and provision of medications, promoters and office staff gave special attention to four people with very different health problems. Each case was time-consuming and often needed expensive lab work and medications, but sometimes managed with a cost-share arrangement depending on family income.

Special cases: In May 12-year-old Maria Fernanda got a green light at her follow-up appointment post-scoliosis surgery in 2024 at the Shriners Hospital in Mexico City. After considerable searching by David Swann, two specialists in Monterrey began treatments for 11-year-old Valeria for a congenital lip vascular malformation that was followed by plastic surgery on 25 November, with fundraising organized by Phil Cox via GoFundMe 2025 and personal appeals.

Death Registry. In 2025 promoters continued making condolence visits to families with a death. Two promoters visit the family, giving 2-3 kg of food to assist with the mourning period and inquiring about the person and the cause of death. These visits are seen as providing social value for the cost as the majority of families welcome the attention during their time of grief. This information as reported by the family allows an accurate registry of all deaths (the only one in the village). Atzin has prepared mortality graphs (recording numbers, sex, age, occupation, cause, history of alcohol use) from 2017-2024 with 2025 soon to be completed. Death from diabetes and circulatory problems are clearly rising.

WOMEN'S HEALTH – Midwifery. Victoria, the Atzin midwife, continues to see pregnant and newly delivered women and newborns every week, providing traditional care to between 20-25 women on her roster. Most but not all of these women deliver in hospital as per state expectations and also attend at the health centre. Victoria is always supported by a promoter who does the report writing and technical aspects of blood pressures, weights, hemoglobin reading.

YOTLAKAT NON SIWATL (YNS). Ongoing training focused on strengthening the civil association made up of promoters, called Yotlakat Non Siwatl (YNS, a woman re-born). This allows Atzin to move to an ever-greater role of provision of technical assistance and remote support. YNS held monthly meetings, complete with agendas, minutes, and workplans, and weekly reports of “HECHOS” (done) and “PENDIENTES” (pending). While this might sound straightforward, it actually involves considerable mentoring and coaching.

YNS's constitution was legally renewed in May, and naming a new slate of directors. Nine YNS meetings were held throughout the year.

ATZIN HOUSE IN CUERNAVACA. There were two moves of Atzin House in Cuernavaca, in the space of 5 months (on 12 Nov 2024 to colonia Acapantzingo from colonia San Anton. and on 15 abril 2025). Seven women worked on each move, each was a tremendous amount of work sorting, recycling and discarding, with a moving truck hired each time for one day. The second move was unavoidable because of unresolvable voltage and water problems that were known but undisclosed by the owner (a municipal judge) of the property in Acapantzingo, and who did not return the security deposit despite signing off on the house conditions when we vacated. We now operate from a much safer neighbourhood with decent electricity, clean water and an honest landlady. Our longstanding office phone number 777 310 5577 is no longer available and we are using a digital landline number and the ubiquitous WhatsApp messages and videoconferencing.

ATZIN BOARDS. Atzin Mexico: the five board members had one meeting on April 27th 2025, focusing on the logistics and costs of the moves and planned training, and the annual general meeting on December 1st, 2005, reviewing all programs and activities. We have re-installed a motion-activated light at the house entrance, and 4 cameras with a monitor (all purchased while on Nogales Street). Estella Roman Gonzalez (board member) and her husband, Alejandro Aranda, attended many meetings with NPH and then DIF Cuernavaca, with multiple interviews to gain legal custody of Tonantzin.

Atzin Canada: the annual general meeting was held on 30 December 2025 at PlanNET, with three people in attendance in Calgary and 3 on Zoom, reviewing programs, priorities and plans. During 2025, newsletters were e-mailed in English to donors and supporters in February, July, October and November, with 2 fundraising appeals in December, and then posted on atzin.org.

2024 Financial Report. The 2025 Financial Report for Atzin Mexico was completed by Martha, and then double-checked by a volunteer who worked with Martha and Susan, and balanced. Board attention was

drawn to the costs of: 2 house moves; the days of training; and need for continued security. In response to financial constraints, cuts were made in Cuernavaca: the office assistant/intern was not replaced after May; a part-time driver/maintenance person was not hired in 2025; fewer trips were made by office staff to Tlamacazapa compared to previous years (also influenced by cartel occupation of the village); and the program coordinator position was not filled for 4 months, September to December, following Ana's departure for university.

VILLAGE SECURITY. Each week promoters note any changes in village conditions. These are used for ongoing risk assessment and influence our decisions about program activities and travel plans. The continued daily presence of armed men, with patrols conducted on occasion by the military and police, have meant that education programs involving children have remained on hold. We use a four-colour risk assessment tool: minimal (green); low (yellow); moderate (orange); high risk (red). Following a low level of risk (yellow) during the summer months, it rose back up to orange in October as armed men re-occupied the local *comisario* (mayor) office; and increased their surveillance activities of flying drones and doing street patrols on most evenings, forcing all shops to shut at nightfall (6pm) in order to empty the streets, and as a new activity, threatening small shopkeepers and gaining control of the sale of basic food items in addition to drinks, such as sugar, beans, milk, bread. While this control has just started in Tlama, it is being reported recently in other towns in the northern region of Guerrero.

JUSTICE FOR XOCHITL The two federal appeals finally were heard after months of waiting. The magistrates in the first appeal held on 8th May 2025 overturned the state judge's decision made in 2023, and allowed admission of all evidence presented by Xochitl's defense lawyers. Her second appeal held on 3rd July 2025 challenged the denial of house arrest, and again overturned the state judge's decision made in 2023 shortly after she was charged. Since 4 July 2025, Xochitl is living in her apartment with her son on house arrest and confined to the housing complex. House arrest has given Xochitl time to regain her health that was severely compromised during her two years in prison.

The same two lawyers from the Mexican Institute of Human Rights and Democracy based in Mexico City now continue with her defense that started on 12 January 2026. Beforehand, they prepared three promoters who are witnesses in Xochitl's case on court proceedings and the types of questions that they can anticipate.