



ASAP EMPOWERS

A Self-Help Assistance Program
Tools for Empowerment



ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

ASAP Empowers USA
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A Letter from ASAP's Executive Director

Dear Friends of ASAP,

It's been a year like no other! Despite obvious obstacles, our program touched the lives of over 400 families in El Salvador. We didn't do it alone. The support and trust of our donors, partners and volunteers made our work possible. If 2020 has taught us anything, it was to never take our connection to one another for granted.

Since 1991 ASAP's mission has been to cultivate self-reliance for women and youth while fostering cross cultural understanding here in the US. By September 30, our nation was gripped by the isolation of COVID and the most divisive and toxic presidential election in US history. In this environment of fear and uncertainty we persevered in our mission.

With some adjustments for safety and a heavy reliance on our community, ASAP's year was a testimony to the human spirit. The foundations of our work remain steadfast and firmly focused on our mission: To empower women and youth to become self-reliant. As we continuously adapted to our COVID world, our three core values remain unchanged:

- 1. Self-determination:** The intrinsic motivation and nature of people to work together to help one another, their community and the world.
- 2. Integrity:** The quality of being honest. Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. It is through strong moral principles and moral uprightness that we are able to work together to achieve change.
- 3. Mushandirepamwe. An African word meaning 'We do it together':** Reminded that 'If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'. It is only through building partnerships based in trust that ASAP's compassion and drive has endured since 1991. We will continue to flourish with confidence through these uncharted waters.

Since our first grant in 1994 from the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, ASAP is proud that all of our funding partners have chosen to repeatedly fund our new ideas to cultivate self-reliance. This includes The International Foundation, The West Foundation, CORDAID, CRS and New Zealand Aid, just to name a few. Words cannot express our gratitude.

We are delighted that you remain with us on the journey. Together we'll work to redefine our post-COVID world. I hope you enjoy our 2019-20 Annual Report. We are grateful for your continued interest in our work.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Bara Arsenault

Executive Director

A Self-help Assistance Program

ASAP's Board of Directors consists of three empowered women:

Elizabeth Bara-Arsenault *President*

Elizabeth holds a BS in Biology, a certificate of Executive Leadership for Non-Profit Organizations from Emory University and is a certified Master Gardener.

Dorothy Ramsdell *Secretary/Treasurer*

Dorothy is an accountant and business analyst recently retired from Turner Broadcasting. She has a BA in History, MBA in Accounting and BBA in Computer Science.

April Adams *Board Member*

April is the Senior Director of Medical Affairs for Bristol Myers Squibb, a Doctor of Pharmacy from Mercer University and a breast cancer survivor.

Tools for Empowerment

Since 2014, ASAP's Tools For Empowerment (TFE) project has provided the tools for success for over 1,200 women and youth in Haiti, El Salvador and The Dominican Republic. TFE keeps valuable trade tools out of landfills and puts them directly into the hands of vocational school graduates, through our partnership with The Salesian Missions of Don Bosco. Donations of hand tools, power tools and equipment are always accepted at our tool recycling warehouse in Newnan GA, where they are refurbished by volunteers.

These tools help vocational school graduates - future auto mechanics, builders, carpenters, electricians, farmers, masons, metal fabricators, plumbers and seamstresses - become self-reliant. Quality refurbished hand tools are distributed to vocational students of mission schools in Central America and the Caribbean. Upon graduation, students are awarded tools for their specific trade. The recipients have the skills, but cannot afford to buy the tools they need in order to practice their trade. By receiving a simple quality tool kit, a person's life is radically shifted from living in poverty to being a productive part of their community.

Like the rest of the world, Tools for Empowerment charged ahead in October 2019, ready for the opportunities and prospects the new year would bring. Off to a fantastic start - a 20' container of refurbished trade tools set sail for El Salvador on October 15, and the groundwork laid for our new women's small business training project partnership in Peru.

Then the uncertainty of 2020 descended on the world. With an abundance of caution for the safety of our cherished volunteers, we offered fewer opportunities on-site. Yet, as people spent more time at home, tool donations continued to pour in.

Goals Achieved

Our ultimate goal is always to get the right tools into the hands of young trade school graduates, who are embarking on the path to a better and more self-sufficient life. Volunteers at Tools For Empowerment repair, clean, sort and pack donated tools into crates, by trade. The fruit of all this labor comes on the day we load a 20-foot shipping container and send it on its way to those in need. On October 15th, 2019 a 20' container, filled with nearly 5,800 tools, headed to the Salesian Missions Don Bosco in San Salvador. From there, they are sorted and distributed to their various trade schools throughout the country, where they will be best utilized. Our refurbished tools allow students to gain hands-on experience in the classroom. Then these young men and women are awarded the tools they need to begin a career upon graduation. This vital step ensures that these graduates have all they need to maintain their independence and provide for their families and communities. ASAP is humbled and honored to be a part of their journey towards self-reliance.



A very special thanks goes to Dave Main, Kevin Cheney, Jerome Mitchell and Edna Potash for their help on Oct 15 – when the refurbished tools set sail for El Salvador.

OUR CHERISHED

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND

We would not exist without their diligence in donating time, energy, and equipment. Our volunteers are absolutely our lifeblood and we take every opportunity to praise their efforts. 2020 required a more creative approach to volunteering, so ASAP focused on small groups from the same organizations (i.e., schools, families, or churches) and many of our long-time supporters performed repairs and other tasks from the safety of their own homes.



Innovative and industrious volunteers from Trinity Christian School bring much needed water closer to Tools For Empowerment

Trinity Christian School's National Honor Society

These innovative students addressed several areas of need around the workshop while social distancing. This included bringing much-needed water to our space! They created rain collection bins and rerouted available water elsewhere on site, making helping others a little easier.

The Central Education Center

The groundwork was laid for a new partnership with Tools For Empowerment and the Central Education Center. This nearby high school is where students learn real-world work skills - and are prepared for real jobs in real, local businesses. Here students get lessons tailored to fit the needs of local industry. Civic leaders, business execs, school officials and even the local technical college band together. Their efforts ensure that CEC graduates help meet the needs of local businesses and prepare young people seeking jobs and careers.

The Foundry High School



Volunteers from Foundry High School, where students learn hands-on skills. They get the job done!

The Foundry School adopted ASAP's workshop as their own this year. These brilliant and hardworking students restored not only tools but our headquarters as well! They were integral in starting our workshop garden and their excitement energized all of us.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Shirley Bara
 Josh Bellflower
 JT Bellflower
 Jordan Boyd
 Brianna Boyd
 Lili Bourque
 Mali Bourque
 Kara Joy Bragg
 Ashley Cannon
 John Capobianco Jr.
 Angela Carrasco
 Kevin Cheney
 Marcus Colson

Merit Cramer
 Micah Cramer
 Mark Cunningham
 Sam Cunningham
 Morgan Dodson
 Alexis Dudenhefer
 Jeffrey Dudenhefer
 Jacob Evans
 Gabriel Filmore
 Matt Fourman
 Kimmie Galka
 Ashlyn Gaines
 Shannon Gaines

John Geter
 John Gossett
 Beau Gregory
 Lily Gregory
 Celia Gwinn
 Gavin Harman
 Vivi Hukin
 Abigail Hullett
 Sarah Hurt
 Maddy Jakubowski
 Thomas James
 Jaden Jones
 Thomas Jones

Brenda Lewis
 Sarah Leyimu
 Christopher Lope
 Olivia Loris
 Mayah Lute
 Mya Mackelwicz
 Max Macklewicz
 Ellen MacRae
 Kevin MacRae
 Daniel Marinello
 Stallings Marosy
 Dave Main

VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY FOR MAKING OUR MISSION POSSIBLE

Volunteering-From-Home

Sewing machines are vital tools to young tailors and seamstresses. However, many of these machines require a more skillful eye and patience best utilized outside of the Recycle Center. For this we are obliged to Phyllis and Miles Trocquet. This amazing couple collects, refurbishes, and delivers the equipment and supplies needed for young graduates in their chosen field.

It's a Family Affair

While our volunteer opportunities were limited for most of the year, this did not stop Pete Nugent from graciously taking power tools home to repair. We are thankful for the help in getting them ready to change lives. Pete's two sons Paul and David, David's wife Jennifer and their daughter Abby have all helped out at the shop and collected tool and equipment donations.



Phyllis Trocquet, seamstress extraordinaire, measures, counts and values donated fabrics and notions. With the help of her husband Miles, they clean and repair sewing machines



Church Without Walls

The wonderful parishioners of the Church Without Walls (Carrollton, GA) braved the cold and spent a Saturday each month cleaning and packing Tools For Empowerment, until COVID hit. Their fellowship and families brought love and joy to fill our tool recycling center. Their smiling faces brightened even the gloomiest of mornings. Their dedication is reflected in the sheer amount they accomplished.

Kaylee McConnell
Mattie McCracken
Jerome Mitchell
Robert Mitchell
Taylor Mitchell
Nathan Moore
Mia Morris
Madeline Nolan
Abby Nugent
David Nugent
Jennifer Nugent
Paul Nugent

Pete Nugent
Joshua Olson
Marco Pagsisihan
Lillie Parker
Will Price
Mary Plant
Edna Potash
James Preau
Olivia Quern
Jason Railey
Dorothy Ramsdell
Jordan Roberts

Reagan Rogers
Bradley Samnath
Zoe Schilke
Jeff Sevigny
Eva Simpson
Savannah Smith
Allison Spinney
Jazmine Sterling
Kyle Stephenson
Chris Stewart
Kinsey Stierwalt
Grace Sweeney

John Tarpley
Janell Tatum
Tanner Tatum
Miles Trocquet
Phyllis Trocquet
Bart Truskolaski
Sofia Varela
Norman Vermillian II
Priscilla Wilkerson
Trey Wilkerson
Jenna Wilson
Brooke Winters

ent

TOOL DRIVES AND DONATIONS

We are very fortunate to be supported by such a generous community! Our year was highlighted by some very special people and also by some very special events.

Trick or Treat for Tools

Many local churches, gyms, nurseries, auto shops, and retail stores hosted our displays for the Annual Trick or Treat for Tools drive. This event is our biggest tool drive of the year and also informs the community of our efforts locally and internationally. Volunteers assemble displays, reaching out to local businesses and organizations asking for their help in hosting a display for ASAP. We are thankful for the continued participation from both the business and patron sides!



Thanks to World Gym and all the other businesses that participated in Trick-or-Treat for Tools



Sun City Civitan in Griffin held a drive-thru tool drive for Tools For Empowerment

Sun City Civitan Tool Drive

Sun City Civitan organized a drive-thru tool drive for Tools for Empowerment. We're grateful for the tool donations and connection during social isolation.

New Tools from Southwire

Our wonderful volunteers helped us connect with the amazing people of Southwire who donated three pallets of brand-new electrician tools! Our excitement and gratitude will only be outdone by the young trade school graduate recipients holding their shiny new symbol of independence.

Where There are Flowers, There is Hope



In our continued efforts to beautify the workshop, the creation of our perpetual flower garden has begun! This was made possible when Newnan Utilities donated two trucks filled with nutrient-rich soil and perennial flowers were donated from Coweta Greenhouses. Then, with help from our awesome Foundry School volunteers, spring has sprung at ASAP! "Where there are flowers, there is hope!"



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Over \$12,000 raised on Giving Tuesday

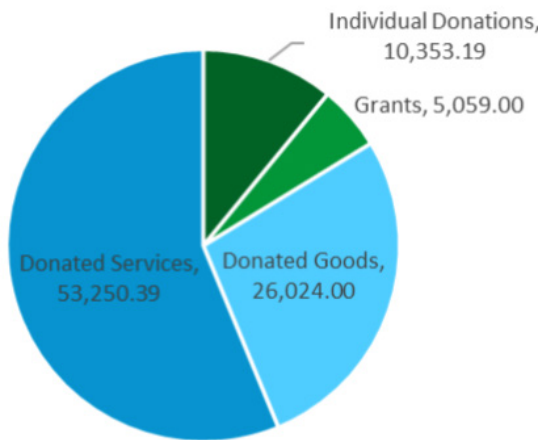
ASAP participated in #CocaColaEmpowersWomen for the second time this year. The Coca-Cola Foundation generously contributed over \$4,000 to support ASAP's work to empower women, by matching the support received from 21 donors on Giving Tuesday in 2019.



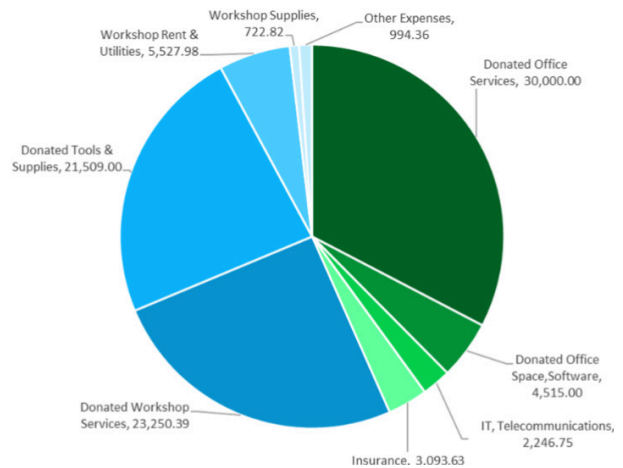
St. Timothy's Overseas Project Grant Awarded

We are incredibly grateful to be the recipients of \$5,059 from the St. Timothy Overseas Project (STOP) Grant. The Church of St. Timothy is located in Blaine, MN and has awarded grants to over 150 international projects in the last 45 years. We were humbled when St. Timothy's reached out to ASAP and even more excited to be chosen as one of its awardees.

Income Y/E 09-30-2020



Expenses Y/E 09-30-2020



ASAP Financial Statement Summary

Statement of Financial Position As of September 30			Statement of Activities Oct. 1 - Sep. 30		
	2019	2020	Revenue & Support	2018/2019	2019/2020
Assets			Public support		
Cash	7601	9,882		103,981	94,687
Other assets	4026	4,202		1034	0
Fixed assets	7908	7,908		0	0
Total assets	19,535	21,992	Total revenue	105,015	94,687
Liabilities & Fund balance			Expenditure		
Current Liabilities	1,191	821	Management & General	3,138	2,756
Long term Liabilities	0	0	Fund raising	2,092	1,837
Total Liabilities	1,191	821	Overseas program	99,358	87,267
Net Assets			Total expenditure	104,588	91,860
Unrestricted net assets	18,344	21,171	Other Activities		
Temp. Restricted net assets	-	-	Net assets, beginning of year	17,917	18,344
Total net assets	18,344	21,171	Change in net assets	427	2,827
Total Liabilities & net assets	19,535	21,992	Net assets, year end	18,344	21,171

ASAP's DONORS

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

\$10 - \$50	\$100	\$101 - \$499	\$500 +
Amazon Smile	Sharon Aanstoos	April Adams	Elizabeth Arsenault
Ben Gross	Andy's Auto Repair	Carl Bara	Kevin Cheney
CFC	Anonymous	Irene Dunlap	Nick & Kathleen Locher
Kathryn Harmsen	Michael Bara	Global Giving	Ed & Denise Outlaw
Marlene Holland	Wolfgang & Elfie Benz	James & Lindsay Hunter	Dorothy Ramsdell
Ashley Mitchell	Peter Nugent	David Phillips	Darmalee Schmidt
Lynda Petrie	Edward Powell	Carolyn Stremlau	Karyn Staples
Kathy Powell	Chuck & Marie Powers	Miles & Phyllis Trocquet	Word of God Church

We'd love to add YOU to our contributors list!

www.asapEmpowers.org