



GROW OVERVIEW



- We aim to have a positive impact on our communities, providing better lives for our workers and the surrounding communities.
- In 2005 we founded **GROW – “Giving Resources and Opportunities to Workers”**
- The program provides funding that aids agricultural areas of Mexico and Ecuador which have high rates of poverty.



GROW HOW IT WORKS



- \$0.60 from every box are donated directly to the fund
- The funds are managed by the International Community Foundation to guarantee transparent administration of resources.



GROW FAIR PRACTICES



Fair Working Conditions

- GROW bananas guarantee fair market wages, including full benefits for workers; Organics Unlimited pays among the highest wages in the region.
- Our certifications guarantee the health of our workers and environment, avoiding use of harmful chemicals and pesticides.

Taking Care of Our Environment

- We use river water or water from wells on-site, mitigating the need for artificial irrigation
- On-site composting allows us to minimize waste, using stalks and leaves from harvested bananas to care for our produce in a sustainable manner
- We take care of the soil by avoiding harsh chemicals and pesticides.
- We're the local option for the West Coast, the harvest to warehouse cycle is only a few days compared to more common averages in the two-week range. This means fresher bananas and much lower carbon footprints.

Supporting Small Growers

- Farmers who participate in the program are offered year-long contracts which offers peace of mind for their production and allows them to focus primarily on quality.
- Small growers retain autonomy and independence while committing to follow GROW guidelines through fair market wages and working conditions.





OVER \$2,700,000

Contributed to GROW Fund since inception

GROW PROGRAMS



- **Education** - Provides children from banana growing communities the opportunity to attend school, which is rare in rural areas of Mexico.
 - Provides student housing, homework clubs, and scholarships to middle school, high school, and university students.
 - 90% of GROW scholars graduate college and many become leaders within their communities.
- **Micro-Businesses** – Teaches young members of the community key business skills and how to form a business plan while providing micro-loans to enable them to create thriving businesses.
- **Disaster Relief Funds** – A small portion of funds is set aside for immediate access during natural disasters or emergencies such as the Mexican earthquake of 2017 and hurricanes.
- **Health care** – Provides vision and dental clinics for readily available health care to the community.
- **Clean Water Program** - Provides filtering facilities, storage, and education on proper water practices to residents.
- **Milk program** - Provides fortified, powdered milk which families can buy at GROW study centers for 50% less than what the government charges. The distribution is part of a community service project for GROW scholars.

GROW SUCCESS STORIES



- **Doctor and community leader**
 - Conny Fonseca was discouraged from going to school, encouraged to stay and help at home instead.
 - She became the first person in her family to graduate middle school and became a doctor, serving home community as director of epidemiology in half the municipalities of Colima.
 - Now serves on Project Amigo's Board of Directors
- **From streets to booming business**
 - In Mexico it is common to see kids on the streets dressed as clowns or cleaning windshields to make money.
 - Young boy started out asking for money on the streets dressed as a clown.
 - Through the micro business program he developed a business plan and secured a micro loan.
 - Now 19 years old, he has a successful children's party entertainment business employing multiple clowns.

