



# HONNOLD FOUNDATION

PROMOTING SOLAR  
ENERGY FOR A MORE  
EQUITABLE WORLD.

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## Partner Overview: **Asociación MAIA**

Guatemala is [highly vulnerable](#) to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Its population, the [majority](#) of whom are of Mayan descent, relies heavily on farming, which makes them particularly susceptible to the impacts of extreme weather events. In response, local organizations are developing bold solutions to reduce their carbon footprints and increase awareness of sustainable energy solutions.

### **Organization Overview:**

[Asociacion MAIA](#) is Central America's first secondary school created specifically for indigenous girls. Based in Sololá, the school is one of the only organizations in Guatemala led and run by Mayan women. It utilizes a unique "mirrored staffing" model, with a staff that is 95% Maya and 85% female-- ensuring that the 188 students are receiving education from people who understand their lived experience. The school's curricula not only covers traditional education topics, but also focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty among the Mayan families in their region.



### **Project Summary:**

To decrease their carbon footprint and increase their economic resilience, MAIA is designing and installing a grid-tied solar array to power their 36,000 square foot Impact School. To accompany their array, they are integrating solar energy programming into the school's sustainability curricula and hosting workshops for the parents of MAIA students.

Since all MAIA students are on full scholarships, the school relies on grant funding and external contributions to pay all expenses. A solar array will reduce their overhead spending on utilities, and allow them to reallocate those resources to directly support students and staff.



**Award Amount:** \$100,000

[WWW.HONNOLDFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.HONNOLDFOUNDATION.ORG)

159 W Broadway #200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

978 • 480 • 0745

[contact@honnoldfoundation.org](mailto:contact@honnoldfoundation.org)