

Riecken Community Libraries: A Growing Network





2023-2024: Years of Growth Building on a Legacy

It had been a decade since Riecken Community Libraries had built any new libraries, so when funding and support for new libraries was available, it was with great excitement—and consideration for library building experiences from the past—that work began.

After a thorough selection process with input from interested communities in Guatemala, four were chosen to receive new libraries. Each had met extensive criteria and construction plan requirements, and specifications were finalized. Commitments from local municipalities were negotiated and hopes for strong alignment with the Riecken Sustainability Model ran high.

With generous funding from the Family of Rich and Ginny Strock, a long-time Friend of Riecken, San Juan Chamelco became the first under development in 2023. It would soon be followed by Palestina, El Tejar, and Santa Catarina, funded by a major grant from USAID/ASHA. Lively training took place for library boards and staff librarians, helping to ensure operations aligned with the values promoted through the Riecken network.

Each Riecken Library considers the needs of the community it serves, engaging its members as volunteers, board members (junta directiva), and participants in program offerings. As we near the end of 2024, these four new libraries are in full operation, providing new hope and opportunities for a brighter future, where previously, there were few.

San Juan Chamelco

Inaugurated 07/23/23



San Juan Chamelco



Palestina

Inaugurated 01/25/24





Palestina

El Tejar

Inaugurated 01/28/24



“It is my first time in Guatemala and in El Tejar, it is an honor to be with you.

I am very impressed with the library and appreciate the efforts of all three parties in this process:

- **The Foundation**, with its allies in USAID and ASHA and its Riecken team, Kevin the engineer and Engineers Without Borders,
- **The municipal corporation and the Mayor** who has never failed, and,
- **The uncompensated board volunteers** give the most valuable resource there is, their free time, to bringing the library to life.

Thank you very much to all!

This project is proof of what we can achieve when we work together. This building is much more than a library; it is a center of education, community and hope for everyone, especially for the children of El Tejar, and with your efforts it will be for many years to come!”



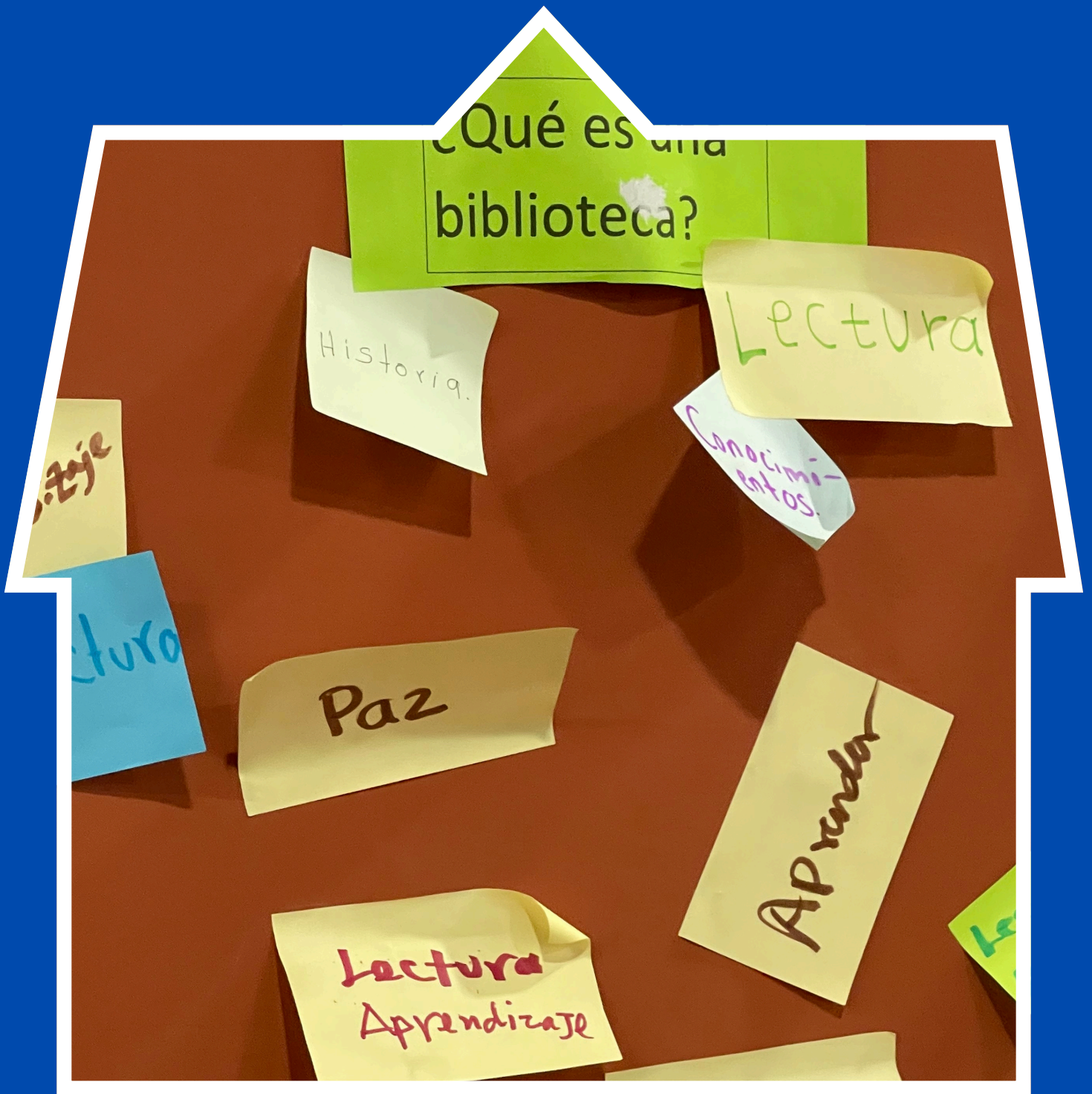
*- Adrián Ridner
Riecken Foundation
Board Member since 2015*



Santa Catarina de San Marcos
Inaugurated 09/26/24

Santa Catarina





riecken.org