



# THE SPARTAN GLOBAL

2017-2018 ACADEMIC  
YEAR REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM SPARTAN GLOBAL PRESIDENT

"The 2017-2018 academic year marks my second year as president of the Spartan Global Development Fund. What a year it has been! For example, we have extended a record amount of microloans, the student team doubled in size, and for the first time ever, Spartan Global members traveled to Guatemala to engage with microloan recipients and our field partner, As Green As It Gets.

While it has been a banner year for the organization, I am most proud of the continued growth of Spartan Global's team atmosphere and the personal growth I have seen in each and every student member. In order to effectively support aspiring entrepreneurs, Spartan Global has to effectively operate as a cohesive team who is aware of the complex economic, cultural, and political dimensions of the impoverished regions we lend to. Over the past year, we instituted a month-long orientation program for incoming members, routinely held social events to connect outside of meetings and engaged in round table discussions about ethical economic development. Thus, the Spartan Global student team is not your average student organization. We are a family of impassioned individuals strive who hope to make a positive difference in the world by forging relationships built on trust and mutual respect between each other and with our global partners.

As myself and other seniors graduate from Michigan State and move on from our leadership positions, we look forward to what the incoming Spartan Global students are able to accomplish. We have been honored guide Spartan Global's to unprecedented levels of success over the last two years, but are even more excited to see future generations build on what we have done. Though student leaders may come and go, the core values of service, respect, and commitment will remain. While we cannot change the world at once, we at Spartan believe we can positively change an individual's world."



**Scott Lyman**

## WHO WE ARE

The Spartan Global Development Fund is a registered student organization on Michigan State University's campus with a companion 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The two organizations work in tandem to empower and support aspiring entrepreneurs in impoverished regions across the world. We are a family and network of impassioned individuals determined to transform lives by funding opportunity.

## OUR MISSION

Spartan Global consists of students, professors, and alumni who work to expand awareness and support for microfinance while building lasting partnerships in the quest for permanent solutions to global poverty.

## OUR VISION

We can create a world free of poverty by investing in our fellow humans and working alongside them to achieve their dreams.



## OUR VALUES

Respect  
Determination  
Compassion  
Honesty  
Teamwork

# WHAT WE DO



Spartan Global Development Fund extends microloans to business owners in developing regions through a process known as direct lending. This method allows Spartan Global to partner with nonprofit organizations on-the-ground to directly assist entrepreneurs in need of capital.

Along with direct lending, microcredit is also extended through the lending platform, Kiva. Spartan Global made its first Kiva loan in 2009 and has since supported over 3,000 individuals and cooperatives in 72 countries.

All Spartan Global loans are interest-free, which allows for greater economic empowerment and development. Furthermore, as each loan is repaid, Spartan Global is able to recycle this capital to fund other aspiring entrepreneurs.

Our current partner, As Green As It Gets, is located in San Miguel Escobar, Guatemala. Established in 2011 as a nonprofit field partner through faculty advisor Paulette Stenzel, this partnership has forged a bond between Spartan Global, the field representatives and the entrepreneurs within Guatemala.

# 2017-18 AT A GLANCE

**\$6,800+**

Extended in microloans

**14**

Countries lent to

**43**

Entrepreneurs supported

**15 months**

Average loan period

## TRIP TO GUATEMALA

From Dec. 27, 2017 to Jan. 5, 2018, ten SGDF students and two members of the SGDF Board of Directors visited our longstanding partner in Guatemala, As Green As It Gets (AGAIG). The intended outcome was to provide an opportunity for students to directly engage with former SGDF loan recipients, further develop our relationship with AGAIG, and better understand the cultural and economic environment of Guatemala.

Days were spent working with coffee farmers, metalsmiths jade and textile artisans to learn their craft. Members learned to cook traditional Guatemalan meals and spent hours interviewing loan recipients, artisans, and local development professionals to learn about the local culture, economy, and heritage. Members met with Carlos Diaz, a metalsmith who received a \$1,100 loan from Spartan Global for new equipment in June 2017. Carlos demonstrated how the microloans have contributed to his success as a metalsmith and how the equipment he purchased is utilized. Hiking coffee fields with Alberto Hernandez allowed members to see how a microloan from SGDF was used to help Alberto recover his coffee crop from a devastating fungal disease.

In the end, this trip helped link Spartan Global's efforts in East Lansing to the on-the-ground impacts. Moving forward, we hope to make this an annual trip in order to strengthen our relationship with not only AGAIG, but to also connect directly with our loan recipients, and provide an immersive, cross-cultural learning experience for SGDF students.

# LOANS MADE THROUGH KIVA

**\$1,100**

*Extended in  
microloans*

**20**

*Entrepreneurs &  
small businesses*

*Facilitated  
loans in*

**13**

*countries*

## Small businesses supported:

- Clothing store
- Food stall
- Cattle farmer
- Cosmetics
- Land rental
- General store
- Farming
- Hog production

# MICROLOANS THROUGH AS GREEN AS IT GETS



*During the 2017-18 academic year, we worked with As Green As It Gets to extend:*

# \$5,708

*We supported a variety of projects including:*

- Craft leather shop and storefront
- Butcher store
- Restaurateur selling fried chicken, French fries, salad, and soda
- Nahuala Weaving Cooperative
- San Antonio Palopo Weaving Cooperative
- Coffee and avocado producer
- Cardamom oil press to extract and sell oil from the cardamom plant

# LOAN RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT: VICTOR CATAVI



While working with As Green As It Gets in August 2016, Spartan Global extended a two-year, interest-free microloan worth \$1,300 to Victor Catavi to jumpstart his coffee roasting business. The money was used to purchase a pulpero (left), an essential step in processing coffee fruit.

From there, Victor purchased a coffee roaster (below), and his roasting business was off to the races.



After mastering the coffee processing and roasting with his new equipment, Victor secured contracts with local and international businesses to sell packaged coffee. Victor quickly saw profits and thus hired several community members to help manage sales.

When we visited Victor in January 2018, we had the opportunity to roast and package coffee with him. During our time together, Victor surprised us and paid back his loan on-the-spot, 6 months early! With ample cash flow and profits from his business, Victor was eager to pay back his loan. Victor is a powerful reminder of how interest-free microloans can provide a sustaining form of economic empowerment. We are proud of Victor and wish him and his business continued success!

# GUATEMALA HIGHLIGHTS

"We as Spartan Global had no hopes of revamping the economic system surrounding the Guatemalan coffee industry, but what we could do was improve the lives of a few existing Guatemalan coffee farmers by investing in their businesses." - Graham Smith



"Joining Spartan Global has not only provided me with a network of people that share similar passions, but has also taken my aspirations of promoting my idea of international development and transformed it into what I now know to be as sustainable international development." - Jenaca Cryder

"I look back on these experiences and recognize that it's not only Spartan Global that is making a change but the Guatemalan communities are changing who we are as well." - Megan Reimel



"This trip deepened my understanding of fair-trade, direct trade, and microfinance. A small microloan can help change somebody's life. It's not charity, it is not a hand out, it is a loan that is paid back. A microloan helps an entrepreneur, their family, and their community break out of the cycle of poverty in a sustainable way." - Jaimee Beckett

# MEMBER AND DONOR RELATIONS

"The Member and Donor Relations Team focused on education this past year to recruit, develop, and further educate new and existing members of Spartan Global. One of the main focus items that I am most proud of our team implementing this year was our mentorship program for new members of Spartan Global. This four-week program introduces interested students to the concepts of microfinance, fair trade, direct trade, sustainable development, and Spartan Global itself. We use readings, documentaries, individual reflection, and group discussion to educate new members and to prepare them for the work we do as a student-run nonprofit organization. I am proud of my team for educating 17 new members this academic year through this program. I cannot wait to see their impact in future years!

Another focal point this academic year was community outreach. While member education is important for many reasons, we also recognized the importance of community education when it comes to microfinance. Thus, my team worked to set up informational tables at Foods for Living, a local food cooperative in East Lansing, as well as the Brody Complex on campus to talk to the East Lansing community and spread the word about Spartan Global and our work.

Moving into next year, I am eager to see where the Member and Donor Relations Team takes itself. I am hopeful that they will continue to utilize their knowledge of microfinance to educate new members of the organization, members of the community and our donor base. I also hope that they will seek out opportunities to educate themselves and facilitate a life-long learning environment for existing members of Spartan Global. Thank you to my team and the rest of Spartan Global for a great year filled with memories, lessons, and friendships that I will never forget."



**Morgan Burns**  
*Member & Donor Relations Team Leader*



*Students on campus discussing Spartan Global and Fair Trade.*



*The Spartan Global table at Foods for Living.*

# OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

## *James Madison College Research Showcase*

At the end of the 2018 spring semester, Scott Lyman, Jenaca Cryder, and Professor Stenzel led a group discussion at the 2018 James Madison College Research Showcase. Conversation was focused around Spartan Global's approach to microfinance, ethical economic development, and what we learned from our time visiting loan recipients and field partner, As Green As It Gets, in Guatemala.



## *2018 Michigan State Alumni University*

In May 2018, Professor Stenzel, Morgan Burns and Scott Lyman represented the Broad College of Business at the 2018 Alumni University. Hosted by the Michigan State Alumni Association, Alumni University invites Spartan alumni to get a first-hand sense of happenings on campus. Spartan Global was honored to present on how the organization allows undergraduate students to gain valuable, hands-on experience with international business, cross-cultural awareness, and microfinance.



# SPARTAN GLOBAL MOVING FORWARD

As another successful year comes to a close, a new team of student leaders step up to lead the Spartan Global student organization:

**President** Megan Reimel - Supply Chain '20

**Vice President** Nate Caverly - Accounting '19

**Treasurer** Jack Bartoluzzi - Economics '19

**Secretary** Jared VanGessel - Accounting '19

**Fundraising & Development** Jake Long - Accounting '19

**Marketing & Communications** Kamyra Thomas - Communications '19

**Member & Donor Relations** Kelsey Blatchford - Supply Chain '20

**Guatemala Trip** Graham Smith - Environmental Econ. '20



SGDF Students at the 2018 Student Life Awards

Front row (left to right): Kamyra Thomas, Megan Reimel, Jenaca Cryder,  
Professor Stenzel, Morgan Burns, Olivia Russell, Jake Long

Back row (left to right): Scott Lyman, Brittany Sheehan, Justin Leland, Kathryn  
Smith, Graham Smith, Jared VanGessel

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the generous financial support of our donors. We are truly grateful for all donations to Spartan Global!

## *Individual Sponsor Levels*

**\$400+** Spartan Green Level

**\$200+** Gold Level

**\$100+** Silver Level

**\$50+** Bronze Level

## *Organizational Sponsor Levels*

**\$750+** Spartan Green Level

**\$500+** Gold Level

**\$250+** Silver Level

**\$100+** Bronze Level

## 2017-2018 SPONSORS

### ORGANIZATIONS

#### SPARTAN GREEN

- Associated Students of Michigan State

#### SILVER

- Pretty Pink Houses, LLC
- Michigan State University Federal Credit Union
- Case Hall Government

#### GOLD

- Meijer, Inc.
- James Madison College Student Senate
- Eli Broad College of Business Dean's Office

#### BRONZE

- McDonel Hall Government

### INDIVIDUALS

#### SPARTAN GREEN

- Paulette L. Stenzel | In Memory of Juanita Ilene Stenzel, Tracey Earl Stenzel & Martin Paul Stenzel
- Dean Sherman Garnett | James Madison College
- Dean Sanjay Gupta | Eli Broad College of Business
- Michael Taylor | In Memory of Mitchell J. Taylor
- The Scott Smith Family

#### SILVER

- William Lynch
- Cassie Smith
- Mary Hausbeck
- Caitlin E. Bush
- Cassie Smith

#### GOLD

- Alan and Michelle Hutton

#### BRONZE

- The Hess Family | In Memory of Mitchell J. Taylor
- Vasily Krivtsov
- Adrienne Smith
- Eric Ederer
- Michael Thelen
- Jake Smith
- Lea Cummins
- Joan Luft

# TAKE ACTION NOW & DONATE

*[www.spartanglobalfund.org](http://www.spartanglobalfund.org)*



## **In Memory of Mitchell Taylor**

We dedicate our work to Mitchell J. Taylor, a beloved member of the Fundraising and Development Team with Spartan Global.

We will forever remember Mitchell's smile, laugh and dedication to those around him.