Canadian Friends of Oaxaca Inc. (CANFRO)
PO Box 23043, Belleville, Ontario K8P 5J3
www.canfro.ca

Annual Project Report & Budget Request

Previous Fiscal Year	2025-26
Name of Project	School Sponsorship Project
Project Manager	Laurie Thompson
Approved Budget	$330,000 MXN
Actual Expenditures	$283,495 MXN

Comments

CANFRO's School Sponsorship Program provides funding for the purchase necessary school expenses in support of the educational progress and success of low-income Oaxaca students from marginalized communities. Typical expenses include: backpacks, dress and athletic shoes, uniforms, school supplies, occasional extra materials needed for university students, as well as reimbursement for tuition, registration fees. The project is provided by the Centro de Esperanza Infantil (CEI) at two locations: Casa Jodi in Oaxaca city center and Casa Emilie, in Xoxocotlán.

In the 2025-26 school year, **534 students** from kindergarten to university received support and services from CEI. CANFRO provided funding for **48 of these students**. In June 2026, **21 CEI beneficiaries graduated from university** with degrees in: architecture, medicine, engineering, education, public accounting, law, nursing, business administration, and more. **Two** of these graduates were supported by CANFRO.

Both CEI locations offer robust comprehensive programming including ongoing English classes and tutoring in math and chemistry and a range workshops including diabetes prevention, nutrition, music, art, basic business skills, French and English, **self-defense** and more – offered by both individual and institutional volunteers. During the 2025-26 school year, a total of **159 workshops** were provided. Beneficiaries at both locations have access to a computer lab and internet, and enrichment classes and workshops are offered to parents of beneficiaries. All high school level CEI beneficiaries are welcome to participate in the tutoring workshops and activities at TOLC as well. The Schwartz Legacy Fund provides for this tutoring.

Of note, this year two CANFRO donors volunteered at CEI for several months, teaching English to junior high and high school students.

CEI also offers **psychological support** through individual counseling and workshops extended to all beneficiaries. These mental health workshops have been critical to many students and families as they deal with everyday stressors compounded by economic insecurity. During the 2025-26 school year, **770 hours of psychological support was given**. **New as of this year**, family members and/or caretakers of the beneficiaries are **required to attend CEI's mental health orientation workshops**.

The **cost of transportation** is often an obstacle for beneficiaries to come to workshops and classes at CEI. Thankfully, there is a transportation fund paid for by another supporting organization so that students and families can attend the classes and workshops.

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In July 2026, CANFRO received a $26,567 donation which established the **Andrea & Page Fairchild Memorial Fund.** This Fund will sponsor 6 beneficiaries per year for the next ten years, beginning with 2026-27. And thanks to a matching fund through two donors' employer (**Suncor**), along with accumulated unspent funds, CANFRO is able to add three more **beneficiaries to total 57 for the 2026/27** school year.	
Current Fiscal Year	2026-27
Requested Budget	$335,000 MXN [**57** students x $400 CAD = $22,800 CAD = 285,000 MXN] + 50,000(±) potentially for the extra expenses of new 1st yr university students & graduating (all higher cost support).