

Friends of Batahola

Annual Report 2013



The New Dawn Folkloric Dance Group

*Be remembered for the right reasons.
Leave a legacy and a smile in your
heart beyond life.*

— Jasmina Siderovski

Children and Youth:

- 47 girls and 30 boys from disadvantaged families in elementary, high school, and university maintained grade averages above 80% and showed positive changes in their self-esteem, confidence, and expression.
- 199 girls and 151 boys from Batahola and surrounding neighborhoods now read with greater comprehension, have learned how to create art with recycled materials, and cooperate at home thanks to the CCBN's library "Story Corner", a multi-faceted program that promotes good reading habits, team work and creativity.
- 46 young women and 40 young men organized in 5 arts groups developed artistic and expressive communications skills, increased their self-confidence, and shared their talents in music, dance, theater, and painting with the community.
- 12 youth leaders organized, promoted, and participated in the violence prevention campaign "You and I are community; We defend the rights of Women." These young leaders noted an increase in self-esteem, assertiveness, and a greater willingness to confront situations of abuse or injustice. Several noted excitement at the idea of being part of the solution to a problem facing their country.
- Through a series of workshops about masculinity and gender equality, 20 young men learned to identify situations of inequality in their homes and community and began to take steps to toward more equitable roles as sons, brothers, and fathers. Several noted how their eyes had been opened to the ways that they themselves had reproduced those roles of inequality and expressed interest in becoming agents of change in their homes and community.



Women and Families:

- 300 women from age 18 to 82 gained basic literary, education, and vocational skills in CCBN classes. They now have tools to gain greater economic stability and independence and are more aware of their rights thanks to the holistic nature of the classes.
- 25 women from the CCBN Scholarship Program communicate more assertively with their children and are working to reduce violence in their homes after finishing a three-month "Self Esteem and Leadership" course. Many have expressed that they don't have to be dependent on their husbands for economic stability and began to look for ways to become more independent or create relationships in which responsibilities were equally shared.
- Participation in discussion groups focusing on self-esteem and empowerment has prompted several women in the community to leave situations of violence at home and in some cases has led them to report violent partners to the police. Several women have also gone on to provide moral support to women in the community who have been victims of violence. More than 50 women participated in these groups in 2013.

- 50 mothers of primary school students learned how to prepare healthy, soy-based snacks and put their skills into practice working in small groups to prepare snacks for children in each of the 7 weekly tutoring groups. In addition to the nutrition benefits for the kids, the soy project has also opened a space for the women to relate to and support one another, while becoming more integrated into the Center's activities.

Community:

- The CCBN Community library offered an ideal space for working on homework, after school tutoring, as well as an ideal environment for pleasure reading for the 1,820 children, youth and adults who visited over the course of the year.
- Over 200 adults, young people, and community leaders in the high-risk Jorge Dimitrov neighborhood have strengthened their ability to prevent and respond to violence in their families and community. For example, men in the project have created a men's group, where they can share their emotions, talk about issues at home, and look for creative and nonviolent solutions to their problems.
- As a closing ceremony for the "You and I are community; We defend the rights of Women" more than 100 community members participated in a special town hall style meeting about a new law against domestic violence. Participants left with a great understanding of topics such as femicide and felt that they were better equipped to defend themselves against violence and aid others who were at risk of falling victim to gender based violence.



"I wouldn't be the same person that I am without the support of the Cultural Center. At the Center I have shared many wonderful moments that stand out in my life and I'm so thankful for that. I feel like the Center is like a big family, they have always been willing to sit down and talk about the needs of people in the community and find a way to support them. They give people who have the energy and desire to learn an opportunity to fulfill their dreams, even if they are struggling economically. After all these years in the Center I feel that I am now a much more confident person. Even though I'm still a little shy, I have learned how to be expressive when I share my music. I now realize the importance of sharing what I have learned with others, so in this way I can pass on the music the Center once taught me."

– CCBN student

Thank You

The following names are the donors who supported the CCBN with a donation to FOB in 2013. We thank you for your generosity. It is the hope for a New Dawn.

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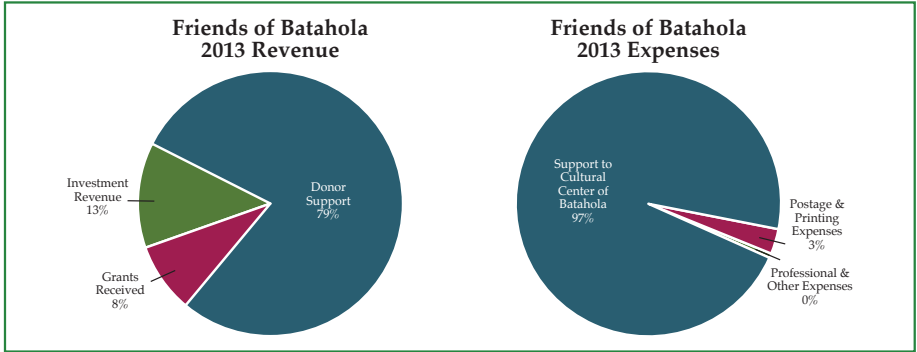


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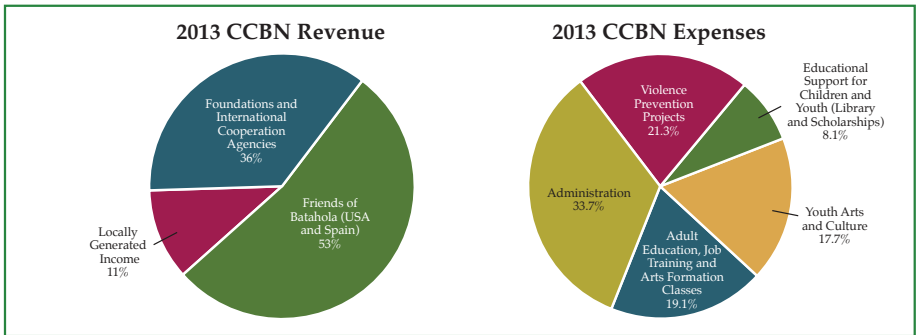
These are donors who have remembered the Friends of Batahola in their estate planning. The board members of Friends of Batahola are proud to have arrived at this point, when we can be assured the endowment will see the needs of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte well into the future. (If you have remembered us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can add your name to this circle. If you would like more information about a legacy gift please contact us.)

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We use the professional services of a CPA to prepare our 990 tax report. Ninety-seven percent of donations go to the direct support of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte. All board members are volunteers, and there is no paid staff.



The CCBN is an oasis in the midst of Nicaragua’s many challenges. The Friends of Batahola are committed to the on-going support of the CCBN through friendship, prayer, solidarity and financial support, as the CCBN works to educate and empower people from Batahola and more than 140 neighborhoods of Managua, Nicaragua.



Vision Statement

The Friends of Batahola (FOB) are inspired by the vision of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte (CCBN) founders, Sr. Margie Navarro, CSJ, and Fr. Angel Torrellas, OP, and will continue their mission of empowering the people of Nicaragua.

Mission Statement

Friends of Batahola supports, sustains and promotes the CCBN in Managua, Nicaragua, through prayer, financial assistance, solidarity and building community, thereby responding to the call of the Gospel.

We’re on the Web...



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Friends of Batahola is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization providing resources for the growth and sustenance of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte, Managua, Nicaragua.