

Mission Statement



The Cultural Center of Batahola Norte:

We are an organization committed to personal and community transformation, cultivating practical and artistic capabilities in women and men of all

ages with a holistic approach and in creative spaces that promote respect, solidarity and spirituality.

Vision Statements

Vision of People and Nature:

People fully possessed of their capabilities and resources actively exercise their right to a dignified, abundant and sustainable life in harmony with nature.



Organizational Vision:

The Cultural Center of Batahola Norte, recognized for its passion and creativity in building a just and sustainable society, offers a model of holistic life practiced within the organization and projected toward the community.



How to Help

Ways you can help offer hope and keep alive the dream of Sr. Margie and Fr. Angel:

- You can pray for the Center.
- You can support the Center's work with financial contributions or in-kind gifts.
- You can donate to sponsor a student and end the cycle of poverty through education.
- You can travel to Managua on one of several Mission trips we organize during the year.
- You can raise awareness about the Center's work.
- You can hold a garage sale or other event to support the Center.
- You can learn more about the challenges facing Nicaragua.



Check us out on the web: www.friendsofbatahola.org



Friends of Batahola (English)
Centro Cultural Batahola Norte (Spanish)

Contact Information

In Nicaragua, contact:

Jennifer Marshall
jennifer@centrobatahola.org
011 (from U.S.) 505-2266-7737

In the United States:

Mark Overley
president@friendsofbatahola.org
513-379-7977

For donations to the Center:

Friends of Batahola 501(c)(3)
P.O. Box 36159
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236-0159
www.friendsofbatahola.org

*“Tomorrow is a
New Dawn...”*



**Cultural Center of
Batahola Norte**
Managua, Nicaragua

The History of the Center



In 1983, Sr. Margarita Navarro CSJ, originally of Cincinnati, OH, and Fr. Angel Torrellas, OP, a missionary from Spain, came from their prior work in Mexico to volunteer in a poor

community in Managua, Nicaragua called Batahola Norte, a barrio of about 5,000 residents. They began a humble mission, visiting homes, starting simple sewing and music classes along with basic literacy instruction. Their mission in a single room structure has grown into an oasis of classrooms, gardens, music and colorful wall murals in the midst of profound poverty where, currently, 76% of Nicaraguans live on less than \$2 a day. The center's impact in the barrio of Batahola includes new sources of income for women and their families, a reduction in violent attitudes in families and in increased participation of men in parenting. Educational, cultural and faith based opportunities have helped to build dignity in the people it serves, creating good citizens as well as community leaders.

Who We Serve

Women (almost 700) make up about 75% of the adult student body. Men, women and children of all ages can enjoy the use of the library for homework, research, and reading for pleasure. Nearly 1000 children have learned about human rights, the environment and teamwork through reading achievement activities.

Over 250 children and youth have participated in the Youth Arts Groups and Cultural Development program. Young leaders have organized and promoted violence prevention activities throughout the barrio of Batahola and beyond to other neighborhoods.



The Center's Focus

Our work is organized around four strategic program areas:

Education and Training Program. Where poverty and violence hold so many back from reaching their full potential, we believe that learning new skills creates a necessary path to economic independence and personal development. This program offers over 15 courses in basic adult education and vocational/technical training.

- Basic Literacy, Levels I,II,III
- Baking and pastrymaking
- Basic and International Cooking
- Cake decorating
- Cashiering
- Communicative English
- Computer Operator
- Cosmetology and Hairstyling
- Handicrafts
- Natural medicine
- Sewing/tailoring



Friends of Batahola (English)
Centro Cultural Batahola Norte (Spanish)

Educational Support for Children and Youth. Barriers to education abound in Nicaragua, and we believe that education is the key to breaking generational cycles of poverty and violence.



Through individual scholarships and a community library, this program supports vulnerable children, teens and their families, so that students enroll and succeed in school.

Youth Arts Groups and Cultural Promotion.

Nicaraguan schools provide few or no opportunities for creative development, a process that is essential to the growth and resilience of young people. This program offers instructional classes in drawing, painting, drama, music and dance.

It also organizes youth performing arts groups and provides a space where the local community has access to cultural activities and exchanges.



Gender and Generational Violence Prevention Program.

Domestic violence is alarmingly common in Nicaragua. We believe everyone has the right to live free of violence, so this program works to prevent violence against women



and children, empowering individuals and communities to reduce risk factors for violence and identify and escape violent situations.