



# friends of **Batahola**

## Annual Report 2024



### ***Education is a Human Right: The Story of Dominga García.***

***“I never thought about studying because I hadn’t invested time for myself,”*** says Dominga García, sharing her story with a smile on her face. Dominga comes from a peasant family. At age 10, she lost her mom, a single mother of seven who made “petates” — handmade rugs.

***“When my mother died, we were adopted by relatives and I by my grandmother “Angelina.” She died the next year, leaving me homeless at age 11.”***

Poverty and lack of education are systemic challenges facing many women, and some, like Doña Dominga, are forced to work at an early age just to survive. At age 15, Dominga moved to Managua to work as a domestic worker. She remembers that period vividly — a young woman on her own, facing a very different reality from life in a rural community.

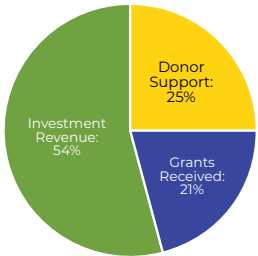
***“My great difficulty was not having a childhood and educating my children alone without support; I did not have the opportunity to attend school. Life took me in a different direction.”***

Dominga at age 76 attends the fourth grade at the Center. She discovered the Center in 2023, thanks to her grandson who enrolled in the music course and her daughter, the instructor in the sewing course. Every Saturday she feels blessed to attend reading and writing lessons and to work towards her dream to read the Bible.

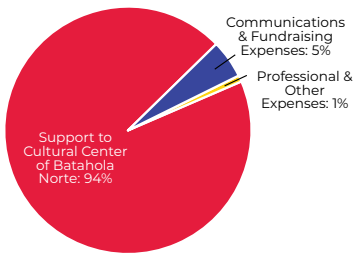
***“I am excited by our year-end graduation at the Center. We receive a certificate, share a lunch, and invite our family. It is a very joyful and proud day.”***

We use the professional services of a CPA to prepare our 990 tax report. Ninety-four 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.

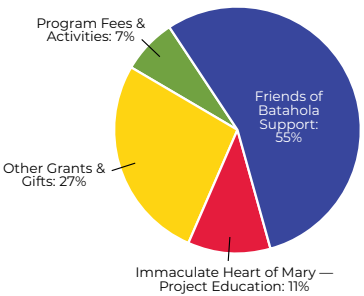
Friends of Batahola  
2024 Revenue



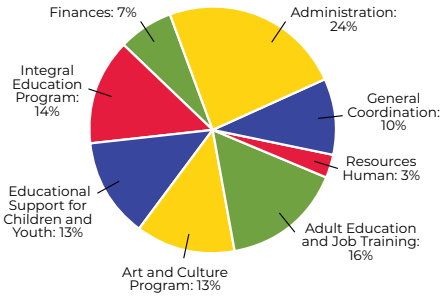
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2024 Expenses



2024 CCBN Revenue



2024 CCBN Expenses



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# AN ACTIVE, DYNAMIC AND INCLUSIVE BATAHOLA NORTE CULTURAL CENTER

## Integral Education Program

The Integral Education Program promotes two fundamental rights: the right to education and the right to personal integrity. It provides a holistic approach that supports individuals, families, and communities alike.

In 2023, the program provided financial stipends to 35 primary school children, 30 high school students, and 15 university students, helping them remain in the education system.

Through the tutoring program, 35 children received academic support in language and literature from university volunteers, helping them overcome learning challenges. This year, 7 elementary students, 3 high school students, and 1 university student in industrial engineering successfully completed their studies.

Throughout the year, 70 psychological counseling sessions were provided to 23 women and 10 men, supporting them in healing from trauma and grief and strengthening their emotional well-being.

## Arts and Culture Program

By the end of the year, the Arts and Culture Program had supported 184 children and adolescents through its courses and 35 more through its artistic groups. These young participants showcased their talents on various stages, expressing themselves through art, emotion, and creativity in a safe and nurturing environment.

Major artistic events—including the Cultural Closing Day, recitals in tribute to the founders, and the “Joyful December!” presentation at the Rubén Darío National Theater—were vibrant celebrations that demonstrated the program’s strong capacity to organize and produce high-quality cultural performances.

**“I have been studying at the Center for four years. I studied flute and guitar courses. Currently, I am a member of the choir, and I am learning to play the marimba. The Center is a place of protection and safety for me. I like the variety of courses it offers, its library, and the workshops that the children receive with the psychologists. I will never forget the staff of the Center because they have taken care of me and given me moments of joy.”**

— Gabriel Brenes Rodriguez, 14 years old. Member of the Choir Ángel Torrellas

**“Every Tuesday, I accompany my mother to her pastry classes. I feel happy at the Center because the teachers are nice, like Mr. Gerardo, who was my teacher at the beginning of the year in the drawing course, but I was unable to continue the course due to school obligations. So, every Tuesday, I accompany my mother.”**

— Caleb Zepeda Tapia, 10 years old

## Community Library: A Socio-Educational Experience in Batahola

Children from the community enjoyed a space for recreation and learning through storytelling sessions, cooperative games, and educational film screenings. They also explored library resources and discovered the joy of reading children’s books.

With the help of high school and university volunteers, 5,157 books were cataloged and encoded, improving the organization and accessibility of library resources and incorporating new educational materials. In addition, informational and interactive murals were created to support school learning and engagement.

## Technical and Vocational Courses

The Cultural Center of Batahola Norte offers a Basic Education Program and technical training courses certified by the Ministry of Education (MINED) and the National Technological Institute (INATEC).

In 2023, the project “I Learn and Undertake: Creative Women Implementing Economic Initiatives,” funded by P&G Alumni, focused on strengthening the technical and economic empowerment of 23 young and adult women. Participants received training in business planning, digital marketing, and entrepreneurship, culminating in an entrepreneurship fair to launch their new initiatives.

By the end of the year, 369 people (283 women and 86 men) successfully completed at least one vocational course. Within the Basic Education Program, 33 participants (30 women and 3 men) advanced through at least one cycle of primary education.

Additionally, 25 students completed all three literacy cycles, developing essential skills in reading, writing, comprehension, and mathematical reasoning. A total of 205 people enrolled in various technical training courses, gaining practical skills to enter the workforce or start their own businesses.

**“I have been studying at the Center for seven years. I attended Mass every Sunday with my family and admired the Ángel Torrellas Choir and I decided to enroll in all the arts courses. Currently, I am studying pastry because I like to cook, and my mother and I want to start a food business.”**

— Fernanda Escobar Hernández, 16 years old. Pastry student

## The Sister Margie and Father Angél Legacy Circle

These are donors who have remembered the Friends of Batahola in their estate planning. 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 please contact us.

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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.