



friends of **Batahola**

Annual Report 2020



“I want to be a super-mega-empowered woman!” Geymi Mayorga came to the Center at age 16, during her first year of studying Social Communications at Central American University (UCA). Her cousin encouraged her to apply for a scholarship from the Education Program to help her complete her college education.

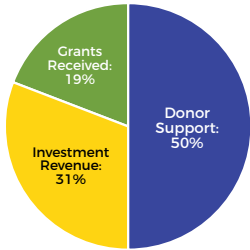
“The psychosocial support that I received at the Center has been important to my personal development and a help in identifying risky situations. My life has improved due to personal growth workshops that helped me see a different perspective. Thanks to these formative workshops, scholarship students are able to explore ways of changing and improving their lives.”

“The Center offers significant support to families. The simple fact of knowing that a single mother counts and has a place to go for support is of immense importance. At the Center, women can access legal and psychological services during situations of violence.”

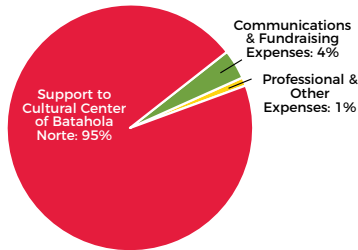
“Thank you Friends of Batahola for your ongoing support to the Nicaraguan youth who are living in risky situations. To know a place exists with people we can trust, it’s definitely a blessing! Thanks for accompanying us these 38 years from a distance. You have managed to keep the founders’ legacy alive.”

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

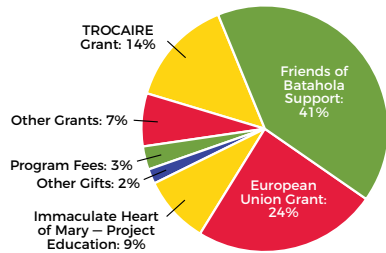
Friends of Batahola 2020 Revenue



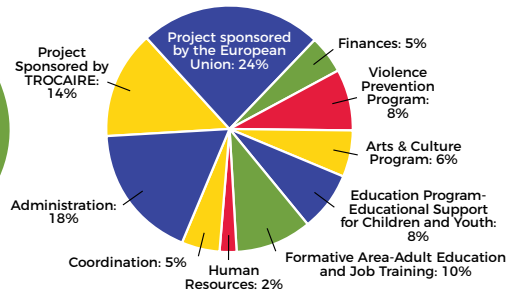
Friends of Batahola 2020 Expenses



2020 CCBN Revenue



2020 CCBN Expenses



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A Year of Learning in 2020

Education

Scholarship program

In 2020, the Center provided support for 73 students at the elementary, high school, and university levels, through the Scholarship program. Support consisted of financial stipends, workshops and group gatherings designed to promote personal development and leadership skills. Students volunteered at the Center to support their learning and develop self-esteem.



Art, Culture & Recreation

Fifty-six children and adolescents completed arts courses in 2020: drawing & painting, musical instruments, dance, and choir. The Center's artistic groups, which include the Angel Torrellas Choir, the New Dawn Dance Group, and the Margarita Navarro Violin Ensemble, were not able to perform during 2020 due to Covid. The Art and Culture Program team used innovation and creativity to redirect efforts and respond to the pandemic without overlooking the students' needs.



According to most student comments: bio-dancing, free drawing techniques and other activities allowed students to manage their emotions and overcome stress and grief.

Community Library: Learning is fun!

In comparison to 2019, fewer visitors used the library due to Covid-19 in Nicaragua. Only 99 individuals of different ages visited the community library in February and March 2020.

Even with that low number, the library continued working by implementing hygiene measures and social distancing. They continued to provide activities to promote good study habits and added activities to release stress produced by the pandemic.

Students have said that they love coming to the library because it is a place where people do more than homework and research. They have described the community library as a safe place where they can learn, strengthen friendship bonds, and develop self-esteem and leadership through workshops, tutoring, storytelling corner, and volunteer work for the community. In one college student's words: "I feel great doing something for others, it is very gratifying to see that the more that I give to others, the more I learn in the process. The Center provides me with support for my personal growth, but at the same time I help others through my social service and volunteering hours in the library. I think the library makes the learning process fun".



Technical & Vocational Courses

One hundred twenty-nine adults of all ages acquired new skills in 10 different technical and vocational courses that allow them to enter the job market or develop home businesses.



Basic education for youth and Adults

Forty-six students between the ages of 14-62 were enrolled in the Basic Education Program (Levels I, II, III) for youth and adults.



Only fourteen of them were able to complete the program due to the risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19.

Those who were able to complete the course expressed gratitude for the chance to be part of this program because learning to read and write allowed them to fulfill their dream of completing their elementary education and be prepared to study a training or vocational course offered by the Center.

Mental, Physical and Moral Well-Being

Three hundred and ninety-two individuals attended a series of 32 workshops on Respectful Coexistence to develop respect, strengthen family bonds, and promote equality and gender equity to build a fairer society, free of violence. The following topics were presented in the workshops: assertive and non-violent communication, self-care, self-esteem, human rights, and how to identify risk and protective steps. In addition, four workshops addressed the topics of Education, and the Right to Moral, Mental, and Physical Well-Being. The program staff used these workshops to explain and discuss the Child and Adolescent Protection Policy with attendees.

These activities occurred in the first quarter of the year. The remainder of the activities programmed for 2020 were canceled to prevent the spread of Covid, but support continued for the people of the community living in violent conditions.



The Sister Margie and Father Angel 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.

