



friends of **Batahola**

Annual Report 2023



I Accompany Others to Find Their Way! — The Story of Obadiah Efrain Lopez Rizo,

Fifteen year-old Efrain first came to the Center in 2020, motivated by his mother and looking for a place where he could fulfill his dreams. Ultimately, he applied for and received a Project Education scholarship.

Desiring to serve, Efrain tutored at the community library, helping children with their homework, encouraging them, accompanying them, and facilitating their growth.

Efrain shares that the CCBN organization has provided training and self-care spaces to identify their emotions.

“In these spaces we learn about our emotions, build self-esteem, and analyze and identify situations of violence that we may be living, such as bullying or gender violence. All these issues are important to address now in our teens, a time of many life changes.”

When joining the Center, he was quite shy with few friends. Since then, he has grown immeasurably. He began to apply himself with more energy in school and was able to improve his grade average with the help of books from the community library that he used for research, ideas, and inspiration.

“Personally, I now speak with more confidence because here at the Center we are like a family where I have met new brothers.”

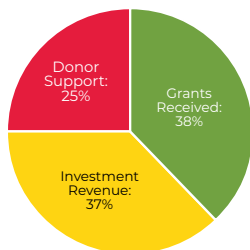
Currently, he defines his role as: ***“A facilitator is a person who uses his skills to support and boost the skills of others; it is helping others and that others can help you; it is an exchange of skills and knowledge.”***

Efrain is thrilled to be able to contribute to the next generation and thanks all the people who have supported the Center.

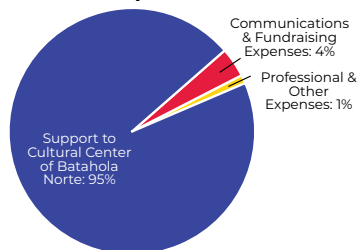
Thank you for believing and supporting Nicaraguan children!

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

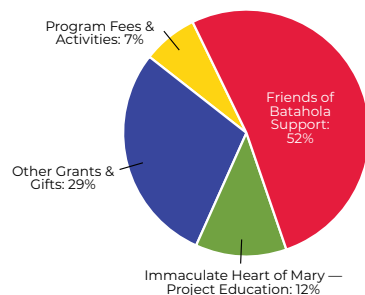
**Friends of Batahola
2023 Revenue**



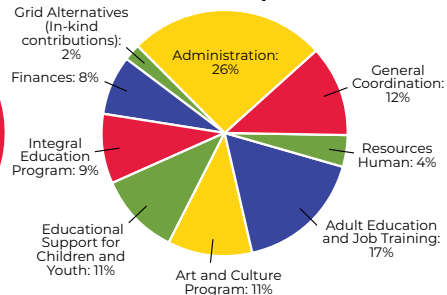
**Friends of Batahola
2023 Expenses**



2023 CCBN Revenue



2023 CCBN Expenses



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THE IMPORTANCE OF FEELING — AND BEING — ACCOMPANIED IN TIMES OF CHANGE

Integral Education Program

During the year 2023, the Integral Education Program provided economic stipends to 75 children, teens, and young adults, enabling them to complete their primary, secondary, and university studies.

35 girls and boys received support and encouragement in their studies as they were accompanied by coaches, advisors, and mentors in the subjects of mathematics, physics, and chemistry. This year, 3 teens graduated from high school, each planning to further their education with technical and/or university studies.

The university scholarship recipients, recognizing community social service as a formative space, have become young facilitators with a deep sense of responsibility and solidarity.

The Integral Education Program acts through its psychosocial, psycho-affective, and cognitive interventions so that children, adolescents, young people, and adult women can enjoy their right to live in freedom. This year, mothers participated in training sessions and self-help groups and received psychological care. In return, they are influencing and improving their family environments and reducing the risk of gender-based violence.

“My experience at the Center has been incredible because they have supported me economically and emotionally. I have also participated in the ‘Girls Network’ where I shared with other girls about self-esteem, knowing my emotions, making crafts, and learning breathing techniques. These spaces have taught me to accept myself as a girl.”

— María Isabel Gallegos, 12 years old, high school student

Arts and Culture Program

138 children and adolescents completed their artistic and emotional education. This success was due to the active and proactive participation of 40 family tutors. In addition, the participants were motivated and prepared for festivals, cultural closings, and recitals.

Complementary activities, such as visits to art exhibitions, master classes, and cultural exchanges, were key to the development of the children and adolescent artists. These experiences enriched their knowledge and gave them the opportunity to meet other nationally recognized artists.

“I have been at the Center since I was 6 years old. I started studying flute, guitar, drawing and painting and currently, I am a member of the Angel Torrellas Choir. Being at the Center encourages me to continue studying the musical career because I want to continue learning to be able to share with others.”

— Víctor David Altamirano, 15 years old, choir member

Renewed Library: Motivated Children!

This year we planned and completed a complete overhaul of the first floor of the library, turning it into a baby library or “Bebeteca” (children’s space for children from 0 to 8 years old). This space is designed to encourage the love of reading from an early age. The renovated furnishings make the books accessible and our collection contains many new titles to encourage learning and development of children who come to the community library.

Currently, the community library contains 1,600 books, including children’s, national and universal literature, as well as academic reference books for children, teens, and young in the community to use for their studies and research.

Technical & Vocational Courses

We follow a two-pronged strategy to promote access to education for young people and women: 1.) Basic education for youth and adults and 2.) Training in vocational courses certified by the Ministry of Education (MINED for its acronym in Spanish) and The Technological Institute (INATEC for its acronym in Spanish). Results of this strategy include a decrease of illiteracy rates and an increase in the development of technical skills, both improving the living conditions of people.

At the end of this year, 369 people (283 women and 86 men) successfully completed at least one vocational course. In the Basic Education Program, 33 people (30 women and 3 men) completed at least one cycle of primary education.

“To the Center, I consider it as my second home because here I have studied natural medicine, pastry, cake decorating, and now I am studying the English course. I feel joy to be in this organization because all my sons studied music with Father Angel. At my age, it has been a nice experience to share with a different generation. I love to attend class because the teacher is wonderful. I decided to study English because my grandchildren are bilingual residents in the United States, and I want to build confidence with them by understanding their language. I am also exercising my brain to avoid some disease like Alzheimer’s.”

— Ruth Miranda Arceyút, 72 years old, English student

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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.