



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



friends_of_batahola



www.friendsofbatahola.org



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Message from the Co-Presidents

As we worked to create this note for our first newsletter as newly-ordained co-presidents of the Friends of Batahola, we realized today, March 8th, was International Women's Day. This is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equity. What a perfect day and a perfect way to recognize the way in which the Center has impacted and continues to touch the lives of so many women. Each year, hundreds of women benefit from the Center's programming. Through literacy and basic education courses, women get an education that may have been interrupted or stymied. Through vocational courses, women achieve the ability to support themselves and their families and better secure their futures. Through gender and

generational violence prevention programs, women learn of their right to live free of violence, and are empowered to recognize and reduce risk factors for violence in their homes and communities. Won't you please join us in supporting the Center through prayer and financial support so they may continue this wonderful ministry?



Amanda Otero and Dave Stickel

Women Entrepreneurs Success Story: Jeriel Bakery



Three women enrolled in a course at the Center, not knowing that they would meet their future business partners there. Yahaira Romero, Elizabeth Bello and Jenny Chevez converted their passion of decorating cakes and cookies into a joint business endeavor called "Jeriel Bakery."

This group of women are part of the 30 women selected for the project "I learn and launch: creative women implementing economic initiatives" at the Center this year. The idea of this initiative is to teach women entrepreneurship skills to help launch their businesses.

Since taking the Pastry course at the Center, Yahaira, Elizabeth and Jenny have managed to overcome their fears to offer their products. One of the people they

thank for encouraging them to start their business was their teacher Marcia Santamaría.

"The Center helped us be part of this opportunity and we are very happy and committed to learning and finishing the process."

— Jenny, Member of Jeriel Bakery

This new initiative gives space for women to share their stories with each other, develop creative tools and ideas to resolve problems that arise during entrepreneurship. "I want to start a business to raise

my son and do what I enjoy, because I have fallen in love with baking and it is something that the three of us share...we are a great team," Jenny shared.



In Memory of Pat Berning



The Batahola family will always remember our great friend, Pat Berning. Although she is no longer physically with us, her legacy continues on in all of the countless lives she touched with her generous and loving spirit.

In 2003, Pat joined the Friends of Batahola (FOB) Board of Directors and continued volunteering with the Board until 2024. Pat helped build the structures and by laws that would ensure the Friends would grow and continue supporting the work of the Center for many years to come. She was always joyful, energetic,

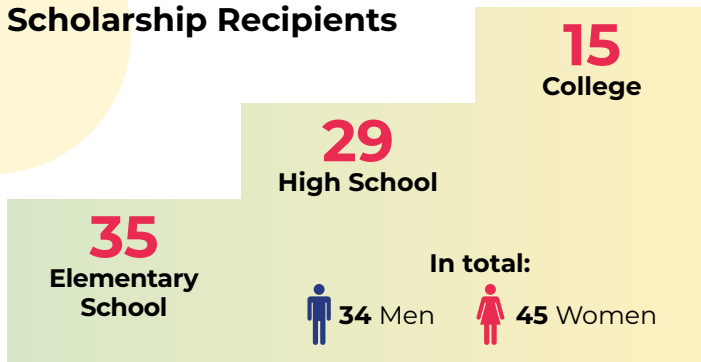
empathetic, compassionate, enthusiastic, and filled with ideas. She was the heart of the FOB and cared deeply about the Center and all the people who worked there. In turn, she was loved by all.

Pat traveled to Nicaragua several times with Board members, her grandchildren, and husband, Jim. While in hospice, Pat's family organized a surprise Nicaraguan luncheon so Pat could "travel" there one more time. She enjoyed traditional Nicaraguan food and travel memories with her family and friends, and especially her grandchildren.

Pat loved Nicaragua and its people. Her commitment and desire to see a more just world continues to inspire and give us hope in a "New Dawn."

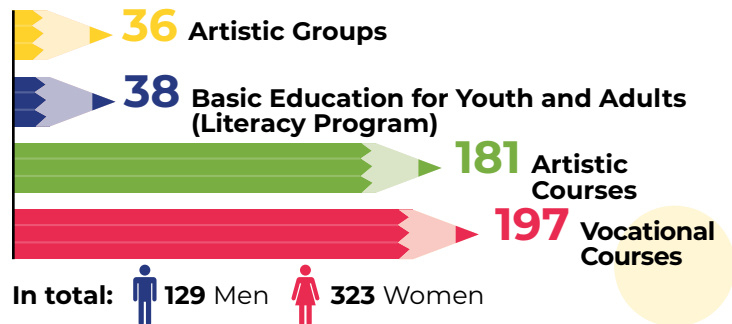
You can [read Pat's obituary here](#).

Education Program Scholarship Recipients



Enrollment Process in 2024

Technical, training and vocational program



Student Success Story: Karen Martínez Morales



Karen Raquel Martínez Morales, at 38 years old, has demonstrated exceptional courage in her constant search for growth. Her story begins at the Center, where she entered the Basic Education Program for Youth and Adults.

One of the biggest challenges for Karen was maintaining motivation during her return to the classroom.

"I finished my studies up through 6th grade, and people always asked me why I was going to study, saying I was already too old...but my family always supported me and that's why I managed to finish."

Now Martinez is in her first year of pursuing her high school degree. Despite difficult circumstances, her desire to be a professional remains strong. She dreams

of studying law, hoping to help other women achieve their goals.

Karen expresses her deep gratitude to the Center, where she found support to guide her throughout her journey. "The psychologist helped me a lot because my father had passed away and I wanted to be able to talk and open up to someone in confidence," Karen expressed.



Karen Martínez's life story is an inspiring testimony of resilience, perseverance, and the positive impact that education and emotional support can have on a person's life. Her determination to overcome obstacles shows that, with the right support, it is possible to achieve your dreams and make a difference in the community.