



Friends of Batahola

Annual Report 2015



*Now I'm the one that wants to share my gifts
with others. Before, I didn't have access to
the tools of change in order to manifest my
life dreams with dignity. Now, she who didn't
have, shares with those who don't have.*

—Claudia Mercado

A Year of Transformation in 2015

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Eveling smiles as she recalls how much she's changed over her six years in our **Scholarship Program**. "I'm very different from the shy girl I was in high school. I can express my feelings without worrying what others will think of me." Now a third-year university student, Eveling is grateful for the public speaking and program coordinating skills she gained through peer-led workshops, and hands-on social service hours at the CCBN. She's one of **40 girls and 32 boys from disadvantaged families** who have excelled in school, and maintained at least a B average with program support this year.

CCBN's Community Library welcomed **819 children, youth and adult readers and students** throughout the year. The Library held weekly tutoring sessions that helped **61 children** develop "Good Habits and Study Techniques". One young girl proudly reports that "the Library helped me with multiplication, division and subtraction. Now, I do better on my report card, and I'm the best student in my grade!"



"I wanted to better myself, and I received what I wanted and more," shared a Cosmetology graduate. In 2015, **244 adult women** developed new income-generating skills in 12 different technical courses through **CCBN Women's**

Education Program. To help women interested in entering the formal job market, the CCBN started a new series of workshops for job seekers. Now a capable and confident cosmetologist, the student exclaims, "I lost the fear I had of joining the work force!"



At 65, Josefa is proud of how she always pushes herself to keep learning. She enrolled in the **CCBN Adult Basic Education program** to achieve what she never before had the opportunity to do: finish her primary school education. She is the pillar of her home, which includes herself, her husband, their five children and their fourteen grandchildren. Josefa confidently affirms that “I want to be able to read so I am not so dependent on others.” This year, she completed the second level of the program along with **25 other adult women classmates**. She dreams of finishing her high school education and cultivating her own plot of land.



ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM



When he was just 11, Samuel heard his destiny calling to him through color and music as a student in the **CCBN Arts Program**. He became an accomplished marimba and guitar player, and he developed drawing skills as well. Now 18, Samuel studies graphic design at the local university and teaches marimba classes at the Center. His students are among the **194 children and adolescents** who participated in music, painting, dance or theater courses this year.

In April, the Ángel Torrellas Choir and New Dawn Dance Troupe went to Granada for the CCBN's LiberArte Interactive Art Festival, featuring the theme “art is there so we can grow without violence and live in equality and equity.” During the festival, CCBN theater and dance students brightened the day for patients at a local children's hospital, while guitar students played a few pieces in the city center to raise money for an organization that cares for people with Alzheimer's. This event was just one out



of **22 performances** that the CCBN's six performing arts groups gave in 2015, including exchanges with other national and international groups.

INTEGRITY PROGRAM

Thanks to her participation in the **CCBN Young Adult Violence Prevention Team**, Genesis, age 18, has undergone a personal transformation. Along with **165 other young people** who graduated from the *Unpacking Dating* workshops, Genesis learned how to establish healthy, non-violent relationships. "I'm more empowered and independent now. I stand up for my rights and denounce violence both within my romantic relationship and my family."



CCBN's Prevention of Violence against Women team worked with **26 men from the Jorge Dimitrov neighborhood** in Managua to help them develop a personal action plan. The CCBN team visited the men in their homes and brought them together in group sessions to accompany them in this new process. In their plans, the men focused on how they would take on new

responsibilities in the home so that their wives could pursue their own dreams and goals.

The **CCBN Integrity program** organized a second-annual street festival promoting the "Physical, emotional and moral health of women." Over 300 people filled the streets of Batahola, enjoying inspiring talks and dance performances, including a folklore group that creatively changed a well-known dance routine



to generate reflection on traditional social roles. An exchange among community members, four partner organizations and invited guests highlighted ways the Batahola community can be active in preventing violence against women.

Thank You

The following names are the donors who supported the CCBN with their donations to FOB in 2015. The people whose lives are touched through your donations are grateful for the transformation you make possible with your generosity.

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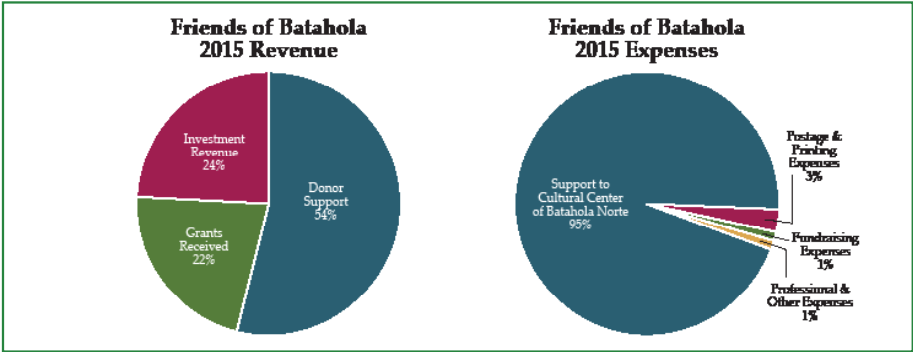


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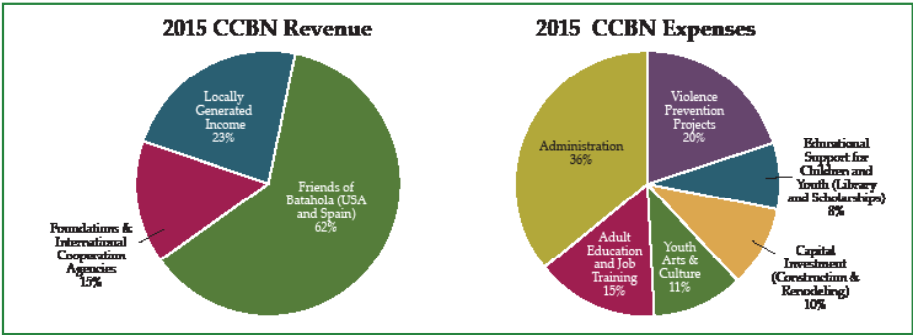
These are donors who have remembered the Friends of Batahola in their estate planning. The board members of Friends of Batahola are proud to have arrived at this point, when we can be assured the endowment will see the needs of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte well into the future. (If you have 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 about a legacy gift please contact us.)

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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.



The CCBN is an oasis in the midst of Nicaragua’s many challenges. The Friends of Batahola are committed to the on-going support of the CCBN through friendship, prayer, solidarity and financial support, as the CCBN works to educate and empower people from Batahola and more than 140 neighborhoods of Managua, Nicaragua.



Vision Statement

The Friends of Batahola (FOB) are inspired by the vision of the Cultural Center of Batahola Norte (CCBN) founders, Sr. Margie Navarro, CSJ, and Fr. Angel Torrellas, OP, and will continue their mission of empowering the people of Nicaragua.

Mission Statement

Friends of Batahola supports, sustains and promotes the CCBN in Managua, Nicaragua, through prayer, financial assistance, solidarity and building community, thereby responding to the call of the Gospel.

We’re on the Web...



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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.