



Friends of Batahola

Annual Report 2016



The Center gave me this great opportunity to get a scholarship and so I chose the Crafts class. I soon realized that I can create and invent things. I learned that I can share my ideas and opinions with my classmates. I recognized that I'm worth something and that I can take back my dreams and goals in life. I feel proud of myself. When people ask me where I study, I always boast: at CCBN.

— Noylin Roa Romero

A Year of Opportunity in 2016

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Carlos is just starting his high school career, but with the Center on his side, he's confident he'll be just fine and eventually become an engineer like he's always dreamed of becoming. He is one of the **30 boys and 31 girls** from disadvantaged families that participate in the Center's **Scholarship Program**. To be a part of the program, he must maintain at least a B average throughout

the year. However, Carlos always challenges himself and is currently sporting the title of best student in his class.

This year, **1,357 children, youth, and adult readers** visited the Center's **Community Library**. Janoriz, 20, is a scholarship student, volunteering in the library's "Put Your Brain to Work!" program for **50 children** from the community. In this program, academic concepts are reinforced using a fun and educational methodology. "I've learned so much," reflects Janoriz. "Through teaching, you begin to understand the children's behavior better. You learn how to relate to them and how to have patience."



Ana is one of **170 adult women**, along with **70 youth**, who have developed income-generating skills in 13 different technical courses **offered through the Center's Women's Education Program**. "Through the cosmetology class, I'm now able to make my own money, I have more confidence in myself and I think more positively," the cosmetology graduate affirmed. "Now I put into practice what I learned, and the community looks for me whenever they need a haircut."

At age 65, Cirila is exploring new horizons. She's one of **16 adults** who graduated recently from the Center's **Adult Basic Education Program** and now can proudly boast that she has her

primary school diploma. Cirila was also given the opportunity to take part in the Center's *Personal Goals* workshops where **42 women and youth** worked on their self-confidence, defined their short-term and long-term goals, took stock of their skills, and came up with a plan to achieve their goals.

ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM

"The Center is my second home," shared Eylin. She's one of **185 children and adolescents** completing coursework in the Center's **Arts and Culture Program** this year. Choosing from among the 14 theater, dance, drawing, painting, and music classes, she decided to try her hand at violin. "Ever since I began to learn how to play violin, I've become much more expressive. I was so shy when I began, but now I have friends who support me. Now I spend my time immersed in art, which is both healthy and fun," Eylin said.



In January, the Center hosted an **Art Camp** where **334 children and adolescents** from the greater community stopped by to explore their artistic talents. The children and teens were able to take a 30-minute dance, music, drawing, and theater course led by the Center's teachers. Our Ángel Torrellas Choir and Margarita Navarro Youth Orchestra also put their own teaching skills to the test to reach out to their peers.

INTEGRITY PROGRAM

Glenys wasn't aware of the violence in her community until she became a part of the Center's **Young Adult Violence Prevention Program**. After graduating from the *Unpacking Dating* workshops, along with **184 other teens**, she can now identify situations of violence and gender



inequality and teaches others about both. “Now, I’m assertive and demand my rights. Even in my family, I talk about gender roles and ask the men to cook and serve themselves food, just like the women,” Glenys said.

Twenty-seven men from the Jorge Dimitrov neighborhood in Managua wrote, created, and performed their own puppet show depicting the consequences of hegemonic masculinity. As a part of the Center’s **Prevention of Violence Against Women Program**, they performed seven shows to large groups of children, youth, and adults, who laughed, shouted, and clapped along with the puppets, all while taking home a valuable message about what it truly means to be a man.

In October, the Center’s **Integrity Program** participants organized the **“I Stand Up” campaign**, in order to spread information about gender-based violence prevention across Managua. With a poetry contest, street protest, and dance, music and theater performances, hundreds of community members came out to declare: “I stand up to prevent violence against women and girls!”



Thank You

The following names are the donors who supported the CCBN with their donations to FOB in 2016. The people whose lives are touched through your donations are grateful for the opportunities you make possible with your generosity.

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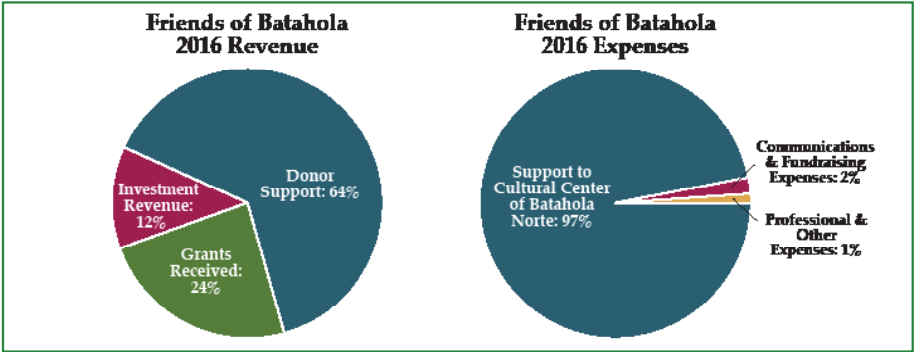
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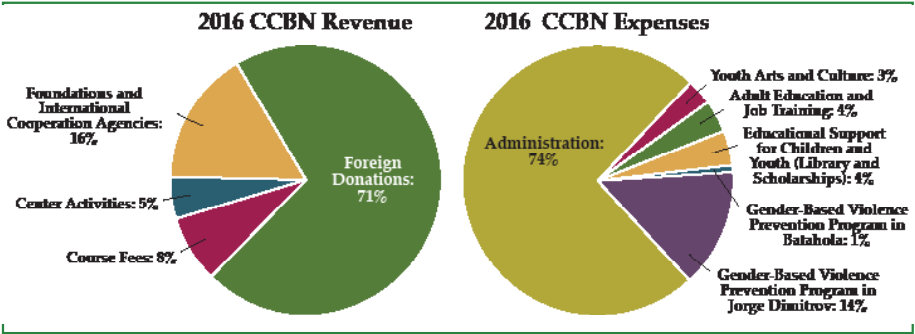
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The CCBN is an oasis in the midst of Nicaragua’s many challenges. The Friends of Batahola are committed to the on-going support of the CCBN through friendship, prayer, solidarity and financial support, as the CCBN works to educate and empower people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