



friends of
Batahola
Annual Report 2017



I'm very grateful to the CCBN. In class I got to meet new friends who have helped me just by being who they are. The people here are so kind and they give real hugs. Our teacher cooks with love and really wants us to learn and succeed. Being here has helped me to turn over a new leaf in my life.

— Edelma Arauz

A Year of Solidarity in 2017

Education Program

Geymi became a part of the **Center's Scholarship Program** in order to work towards her degree in Communications at the Central American University in Managua. She is one of the **66 scholarship students** that receives economic aid, maintains at least a B average, donates service hours, and gets extra support through the Center's youth activities. "At the Center's workshops, I've learned to have more confidence in my decision-making skills, accept myself as I am, and recognize both my virtues and my defects in order to better myself. I feel committed to helping out the kids that receive scholarships here. I want to instill good habits in them to ensure a brighter future."



404 readers visited **CCBN's Community Library** in 2017. Brayan is one of **179 children** that are proud members of the library's **Book Club**. "I love the activities that we do because they're very respectful, happy, and fun. I want to stay here for a long time because it's important to learn new things."



"My friends used to call me the "nun" because I'd spend all day shut up inside my house," Edelma remembers. "One day a neighbor told me about the Center's cooking courses and I went to check them out. They even gave me a scholarship!" Edelma is one of the **232 adults and youth** who have developed income-generating skills in 13 different technical courses through **CCBN's Women's Education Program**. "I was so nervous on my first day that I was afraid to even touch anything. Another student in the class forced a spoon in my hand, and I haven't stopped learning since."





After attending the Center's 8 workshops on children's psychosocial development, Rosa, one of **40 parents and guardians**, now has the tools she needs to appropriately care for her kids who form a part of the **CCBN's Children's Education Program**. "We didn't know what to do as their personalities, behavior, and thought processes changed in adolescence. Now," Rosa remarks, "I have a much better relationship with my children."

María and her twin sister Dolores decided that they would challenge themselves and together, finally learn how to read and write. At the age of 68, they both graduated from **CCBN's Adult Basic Education Program** with their primary school diploma, two of **13 other adult graduates**. As a part of their studies, they, and all other students in our Education programs, were invited to free workshops on Gender Equality, Information and Communication Technology, Personal Goals, and more.

Arts and Culture Program

"The Center inspires me," Victor remarked after one of his recorder lessons. He is one of **119 children and adolescents** that completed their course in the **CCBN's Arts and Culture Program** in **2017**, studying dance, drawing, painting, guitar, or music. "Because of music, I now have more friends and I feel happier."

57 children, adolescents, and youth took their artistic talents outside of the classroom and joined one of the

CCBN's Four Artistic Groups: the Margarita

Navarro Orchestra, the Ángel Torrellas Choir, the Guitar and Marimba Group, or the New Dawn Dance Group. They demonstrated their talents during Mass, on national TV channels, and at various festivals and celebrations to fundraise for the Arts Program.



Integrity Program

Faustino is one of **77 men from the neighborhood of Acahualinca** who formed a part of **CCBN and Trocaire's "We the Heroines of Our Lives, Families, and Communities Program."** Four groups of men learned about gender-based violence and its expressions and justifications. "It's so important to discuss this issue because no one is talking about it. We talk about our neighbors, drugs, and crime in our neighborhood, but we never talk about how we need to better ourselves by thinking about why we are the way we are and why we act a certain way. No one does that."



166 women in vulnerable situations formed support groups to learn about how gender-based violence affects their lives and how they can begin to put a stop to it. "We cannot allow any more abuse," María José, a participant in **CCBN and Trocaire's "We the Heroines of Our Lives, Families, and Communities Program,"** expressed, "we must see violence clearly and better ourselves so as to positively influence our children and help other women."



In **2017**, the **CCBN Integrity Program** wrote and trained the Center's 45 employees on the new **Institutional Policies that Protect Women and Children**. Now all CCBN members are capable of taking action in any situation that may put a child or women's integrity in danger.

Thank You

The following names are the donors who supported CCBN with their donations to FOB in **2017**. The Center had a banner year in **2017** as the annual report demonstrates but 2018 has brought new challenges. The crisis that began in April 2018 in Nicaragua has presented CCBN with incredible challenges but they are courageously carrying out their mission of being a supportive presence to the community. The Friends of Batahola with our donors' generous support are committed to standing in solidarity with the Center during this difficult time.

— *Pat Berning and Sue Keefe, Board of Directors Co-Presidents,
Friends of Batahola*

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The Sister Margie and Father Angel Legacy Circle

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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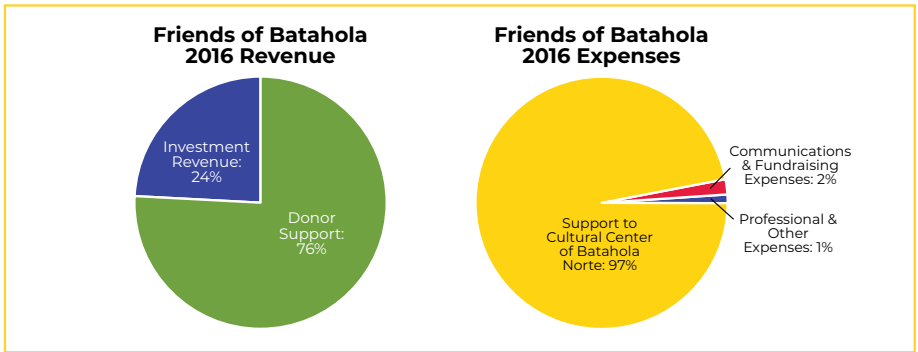
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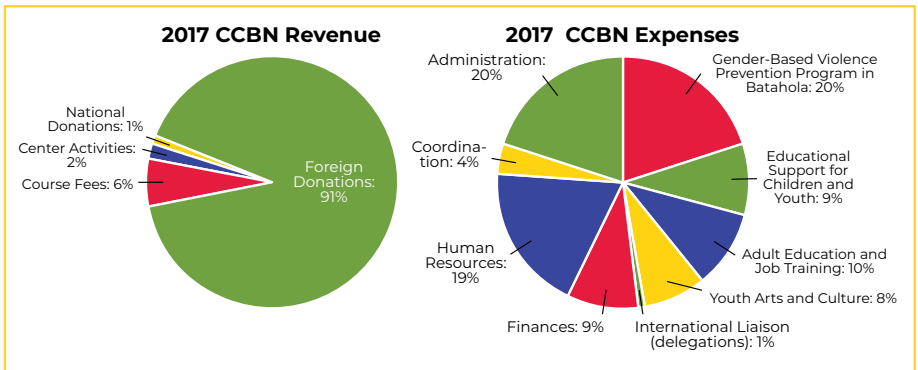
Vision Statement

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.

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.



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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.