



FABRETTO ANNUAL REPORT 2014

*A Holistic Approach
to Education*

Fabretto



Mission

“To empower underserved children and their families in Nicaragua to reach their full potential, improve their livelihoods, and take advantage of economic opportunity through education and nutrition.”

Vision

“Inspired by the legacy of Padre Fabretto, we envision a prosperous Nicaragua where all children and adolescents have meaningful opportunities to grow and learn, in communities that offer access to quality education, so that they may reach their full potential.”



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Amig@s,

As I reflect on the past year, I am proud to be a part of the Fabretto Community. In 2014, Fabretto’s holistic approach to education made a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of children and youth. By working together with the entire community—students, parents, teachers, and supporters like you—we’ve moved closer to our shared goal: ensuring that all children in Nicaragua reach their full potential and a better future.

This year, we challenged ourselves to strengthen our innovative approaches to education. We were honored to receive recognition for our early education program as a winner of the LEGO Foundation/Ashoka Changemakers Re-Imagine Learning Challenge. As a result, we joined a network of global leaders in education and will continue dialogue on best practices in the field. In response to the coffee rust crisis, our rural education program (SAT) strengthened its “learning by earning” approach. Thanks to Fabretto’s alliances with corporate partners Mayorga Organics and Burke Agro, youth were empowered to generate vital income for their families as they learned how to diversify their family farms with organic chia, honey, and tropical fruit.

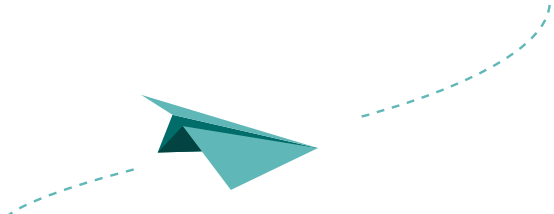
Looking ahead, I am excited to share our geographic expansion to the Southern Caribbean Coast region of Nicaragua (RACCS). Through a USAID-funded project, Fabretto’s primary and secondary education programs will benefit over 5,000 children and youth living in some of the region’s most impoverished rural communities.

It’s been an incredible journey over the past 25 years. In 1989, when I first arrived in Nicaragua as a volunteer, our beneficiaries numbered just a few hundred; today, Fabretto supports thousands of children and is backed by a strong network of donors, child sponsors, and volunteers. Whether you are a long-time supporter or a new friend, I’d like to thank you for your role in the Fabretto Community. Together, we are continuing Padre Fabretto’s legacy and lifetime of service by bringing hope to thousands of children and youth.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Marinacci".

Kevin Marinacci



WHERE WE WORK

Nicaragua: a land of untouched beauty, home to friendly people, and rich in natural resources, yet poverty is written across its landscape. Nicaragua is the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Fabretto targets the most underserved communities, where families struggle to break the cycle of chronic poverty in the departments of Managua, Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Rivas, and RACCS.

NICARAGUA



In Nicaragua
42% live in POVERTY,
15% live in EXTREME POVERTY



In Madriz, in the "Dry Corridor" of Nicaragua.
35% of children
suffer from chronic
malnutrition



In Nicaragua,
72% of preschool teachers,
26% of primary teachers, and
43% of secondary teachers
have no training.



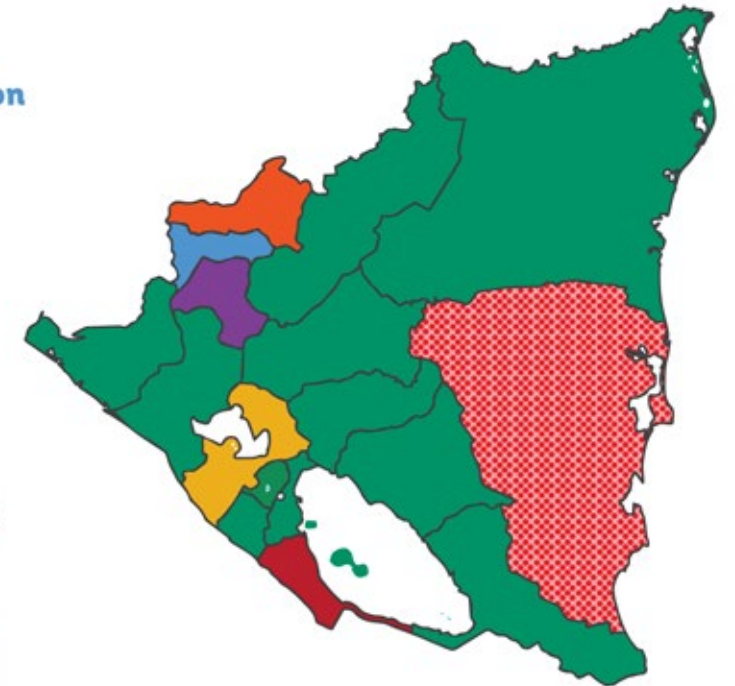
Of the students who begin **1st grade**,
just 57% reach the **6th grade**
on time, and over **53%** of primary students are
older than they should be for their grade level.



In Nicaragua,
15% of children
age **5-14**
regularly engage in **child labor**,
including collecting trash in dumps like
La Cruz in Estelí.



Beginning in 2015,
we are bringing education programs to
over 5,000 students
in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS),
thanks to funding from USAID.



- NUEVA SEGOVIA
- MADRIZ
- MANAGUA
- ESTELI
- RACCS
- RIVAS

OUR PROGRAMS

Fabretto's programs seek to break the cycle of poverty by collaborating with community members to help them develop the skills and abilities that they need to improve their livelihoods. Most Fabretto beneficiaries are supported by multiple programs, which intersect and work in tandem to improve education, health, nutrition, and development.

13,106
Student Beneficiaries in 2014



ABC



Early & Primary Education Enrichment

Strengthening primary and pre-school education with after-school enrichment programs, teacher training, key classroom resources, and parent involvement.

Rural Secondary Education

Providing rural youth with access to quality secondary education an innovative, tutorial-based program that promotes entrepreneurship and community development.

Vocational & Life Skills Education

Teaching technical skills to enable youth to take advantage of economic opportunity.

Food Security & Nutrition

Alleviating hunger and building community food security through school lunches, gardens, and training in nutrition and agriculture.

Community Development & Wellness

Mobilizing communities through development projects, health campaigns, and community education initiatives.

THE FABRETTO COMMUNITY

A Holistic Approach to Education

At Fabretto, we believe in the power of education to enable children and youth—the future leaders of Nicaragua—to break the cycle of poverty. Our holistic approach to education involves the entire community. We invite you to meet our beneficiaries, as well as our global community of supporters. Together, we are transforming the futures of children and youth in Nicaragua.



Involved Parents



***“For me, my children come first.”
Marta reflected “For all of us,
Fabretto has been a huge help.”***

Marta is a mother of four. Her life has not been easy, but she broke into a smile as she told us about her two youngest children, who are excelling in Fabretto’s rural secondary education program (SAT). Through Fabretto, her children have been able to attend quality education programs near their rural community. Marta’s son Moises, 14, is in his second year of the program and was chosen for a scholarship to learn English with the ACCESS Program, a selective program offered by CCNN and the U.S. Embassy. His sister, Génesis, is just beginning the program at age 12. To give back, Marta volunteers to cook school lunch for 200 students at Fabretto’s Education Center each day.

Marta herself did not have access to education, and she told us that she never even began primary school. With her eyes shining with emotion, she shared that her children have begun teaching her how to read and write. When we asked Génesis

about her mom, she said, “My mom isn’t like every other mom... She’s so good and kind to us.”

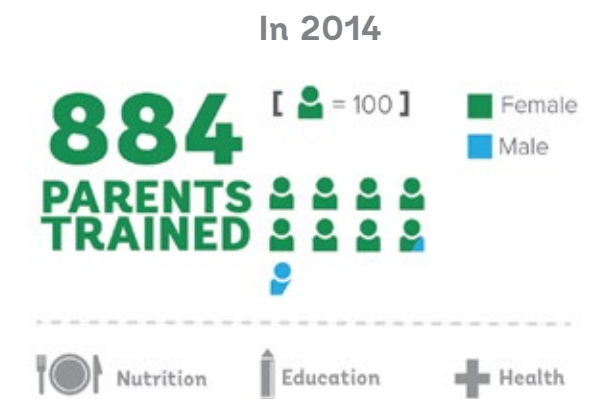
“For me, my children come first,” Marta reflected. “For all of us, Fabretto has been a huge help.”

We’re proud to work with parents like Marta, a mother whose unconditional love and devotion are helping her children reach a better future.



“I have seen the impact of the SAT program. If our children have the skills, they will be our future.”

Elias, father of 3 students in Fabretto’s rural education program (SAT)





With identical shy smiles, María José and María Fernanda lead us through La Cruz, the municipal trash dump of Estelí, Nicaragua. These twin girls appear younger than nine years old, yet at the same time, they show resilience beyond their years. We reach their house, which, like its neighbors, is cobbled together from scrap metal, wood, and plastic bags.

To visit La Cruz is to witness life in extreme poverty. Families survive on a dollar or two a day earned by collecting recyclables in the dump, leaving little to pay for a full meal, let alone school supplies for their children.

But for María Fernanda and María José, there is hope for a better future: hope through education and nutrition.

Fabretto's school in La Cruz opened in 2010 and gave children access to primary education—most had never gone to school before—and daily school meals. When we spoke with the twins and their mother, Antonia, it was clear that school lunch is essential for their success. Malnourishment causes students to learn at a slower pace and struggle to remember what they've learned. Antonia says that

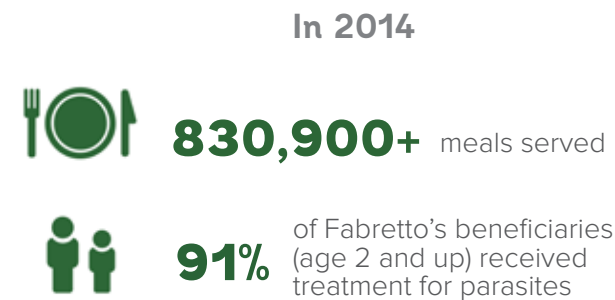
Hope for La Cruz

The power of school nutrition

she has seen a change. “The twins have improved a lot now that they’re eating more,” she tells us proudly. “They can read now.”

Antonia is one of the many mothers who cook lunch each day; their labor is completely voluntary. Antonia explains, “Fabretto school lunches offer my daughters a variety and quantity of food that otherwise they would not have.”

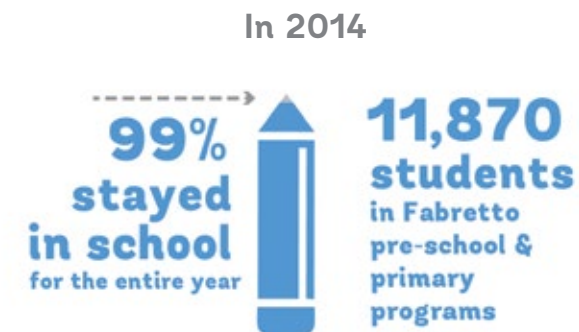
For the twins, education and nutrition are their path to a better tomorrow.



Leidy's Story

What does Fabretto add to a child's life? The best way to find out is to talk to our students. We sat down with Leidy, a spunky primary student from the town of Ocotal, who shared a few things she's gained from Fabretto's primary education programs. Read the interview on the digital version of the Annual Report: www.fabretto.org/annual-report.

Fabretto's education programs empower Leidy and thousands of children in Nicaragua to develop the skills they need to succeed.





SAT is methodology and the way we learn. Going to high school with Fabretto totally changes your life." Visit www.fabretto.org/annual-report to see how education has changed Diego's life.

Through Fabretto's education programs, youth in rural and urban communities develop skills and knowledge that help them become productive adults who contribute to community development.

In 2014



students enrolled in after-school vocational classes



students enrolled in Fabretto's Rural
Secondary Education Program (SAT)



productive initiatives created
by SAT students



of 2014 SAT graduates are actively working or pursuing further education



This reflection was written by students from the La Lumiere School service group, who visited Nicaragua in March 2014. This was the 8th consecutive group that La Lumiere sent to volunteer in Nicaragua.

Cusmapa seemed empty without the common aspects of American life that we were so used to; street lights were non-existent, the roads were not paved, and instead of cars on the streets, we saw dogs and donkeys...

We began work early the next day at the Oratorio de Maria Fabretto constructing a wall to enclose the campus. The wall was more work than any of us predicted. Our patience was tested as we chopped barbed wire fences with machetes and pulled stumps from the ground with only a shovel and our bare hands... But our job was not entirely work without play. The children managed to find us every day between their classes and asked for piggy back rides and offered to help us in our labors. These children were as determined as we were to remove the stumps from the ground. Suddenly the trenches grew a bit deeper and there were a few less stumps to dig out as **their happiness motivated us towards our goal.**

We had set out to Nicaragua with the clear goal of building a wall and helping the people of Cusmapa. The further out of our comfort zones we were pushed, the more we discovered how little the differences between our worlds mattered. We loved Cusmapa: every dirt road, stray dog, and smiling child. **We built a wall in Cusmapa, but the experiences we had built each of us up in return.**

Fabretto volunteers come from all over the world, joined by one cause: supporting children in Nicaragua.

In 2014

[♥ = 20]



180
Group
Volunteers



Nationalities Represented



50
Individual
Volunteers

=230

Total
Volunteers

Type of Support



25%
Technical



4%
Other



10%
Educat





Motivated Teachers



To reach the rural community of Aguascalientes, one must travel deep into the mountains of Cusmapa down a narrow, winding road. For seven years, the pre-school in this community was located in a very special place: the home of an inspiring teacher named Marcia.

Marcia opened her home to her students because the children in Aguascalientes had no access to early education. “I feel called to teach,” she told us. “I enjoy working with children and supporting my community, even though I don’t have many economic resources.” Despite the challenges she faced, Marcia’s home became a center of learning and growth. She received resources and training from Fabretto, where she learned how to use innovative teaching techniques in her classroom.

“To be somebody in life, you have to make sacrifices; I make all of these sacrifices for the future of my community and my children.”

This year, Marcia received exciting news: a public pre-school was going to be built in the community. Now, each day, the littlest students in Aguascalientes make their way to a new school building where Marcia is waiting for them.

Alongside dedicated teachers like Marcia, Fabretto is strengthening early education in remote communities in Nicaragua.

Teacher Training

Fabretto teacher training helps teachers to become the best they can be and improves education quality for thousands of children in underserved communities like Aguascalientes.



Community Leaders



In 1953, Padre Fabretto had many dreams. He dreamed of bringing electricity and water to rural communities; of building schools; of constructing roads so that a car could drive all the way up to the tiny mountain village of Cusmapa; and even of installing telephone

lines. Many doubted him and his wild ideas, and yet today, thanks to his pioneering leadership, many of these visions have become reality.

Padre Fabretto was a community leader and mobilizer, and our Education Centers carry on his legacy by uniting communities through education.

Fabretto Education Centers are much more than just classrooms; our Centers are hubs of community activity that empower children, families, and community members to take action together.

In 2014



7 Fabretto Education Centers



[= 100]

100+ Public Schools Supported



Joining Together for Nutrition in Nicaragua



Non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children has provided foods for Fabretto school lunches for five years – a total of more than 15.4 million meals. One of the beneficiaries of this partnership is Moises, a 14-year-old student from Acahualinca, the community outside of the Managua dump, La Chureca. When Moises joined

Fabretto's Education Center, he began to eat a healthy school lunch each day. With the fortified foods (such as FMSC's "MannaPack" rice and soy), Moises has overcome severe malnourishment and is one of the top students in his class.

We are grateful for the support of a diverse group of partners: government agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations, foundations, schools & churches, universities, and more. To learn more about our work with FMSC and to view a complete list of our partners in 2014, please visit:

www.fabretto.org/annual-report



FINANCIALS

2014 Sources of Giving

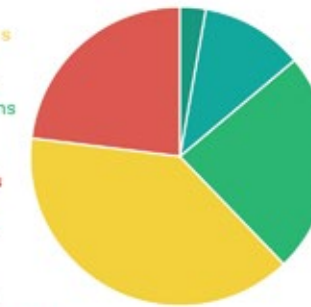
39% Private Contributions

24% Foundations & Corporations

23% In-Kind Contributions

11% Government Grants

3% Merchandise, Interest & Dividends

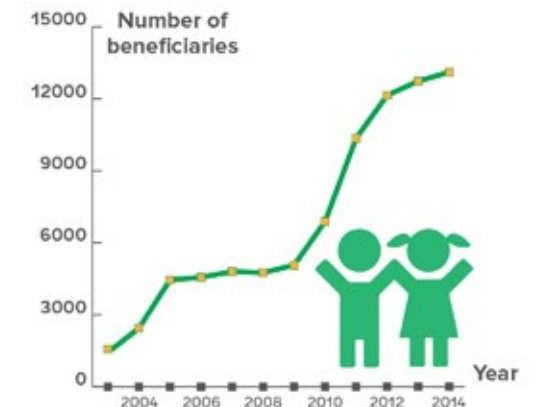


Total Giving: **\$5,361,270**

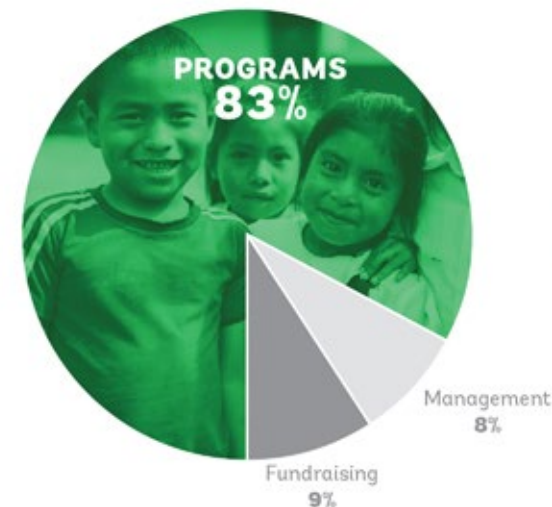
Fabretto's reach has grown exponentially over the past decade, thanks to the generosity of donors like you. With your support, we continue to bring quality education programs to thousands of children in Nicaragua.



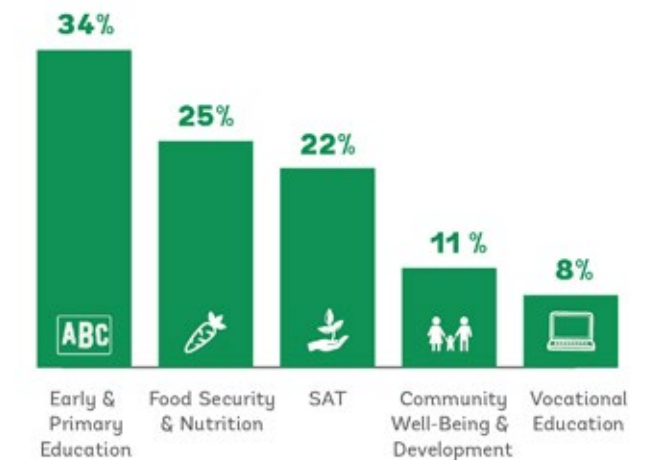
10-Year Beneficiary Growth



2014 Total Expenses



Program Expense Breakdown



2014 HIGHLIGHTS



Fabretto Receives Recognition for Innovation in Early Education

Fabretto was proud to be named a “Champion” of the LEGO Foundation and Ashoka Changemakers Re-Imagine Learning Challenge in 2014. The Challenge selected the most innovative, impactful initiatives that “transform the way the world learns” by promoting learning through play.

Fabretto’s work in early education was selected as one of 10 Champions from over 630 applicants from 63 countries. The Champions were announced at the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) in Doha, Qatar. The Challenge also brought important networking opportunities for Fabretto, including an invitation to the LEGO Foundation’s IDEA Conference in Billund, Denmark in early 2015. With this prize, Fabretto will continue to deliver quality, play-based early education to children in vulnerable communities of Nicaragua.



Honoring Kevin Marinacci for 25 Years of Service

In 2014, we recognized Kevin’s service and invaluable contributions over the past 25 years. Since 1989, when he first arrived as a volunteer with Padre Fabretto, Kevin has been dedicated to ensuring that the neediest children in Nicaragua reach a better future.

With exemplary leadership, great vision, and relentless dedication, Kevin has helped Fabretto grow from supporting 300 to over 13,000 children and youth. His commitment to service continues to transform lives and inspire others around the world to join the cause.



OUR SUPPORTERS



Our work relies on the generous support of donors from around the world. We are deeply grateful for your contributions. Please visit our website to view a complete list of our individual donors and the foundations, corporations, and organizations that collaborated with us in 2014.

www.fabretto.org/annual-report



“I am very proud of Yossy. I have had the privilege of sponsoring her for nine years. She has always been a diligent student and her success in going to college reflects that.”

John Manley, Fabretto Child Sponsor



“We are delighted to be partnering with Fabretto in empowering women and youth in rural communities of Nicaragua. Fabretto’s unique approach to development is creating generations of sustainable communities through education.”

Gustavo Guillen, Public Affairs and Communications Manager, Coca-Cola Central America

Fabretto

**Thank You
for Your Support
in 2014!**

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To view a list of 2014 donors, Fabretto staff,
and Board Members, please visit our website.

www.fabretto.org/annual-report

