



**GOING
FARTHER
FOR EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL
REPORT 2015**

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. ”



Dear Friend,

To everyone at Fabretto, this past year has represented a **big stride for education**. Following Padre Fabretto's footsteps, we feel honored to have had the opportunity to travel long distances in order to make a difference in some of **the hardest to reach** communities of Nicaragua.

Thanks to inspiring partners and supporters like you, our impact has extended to even more **areas with limited access to schools**. Our partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has made it possible to reach one of the most isolated regions: the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region of Nicaragua (RACCS), where over 5,000 students now benefit from quality education.

The power of partnerships is manifested daily in the lives of the **over 18,000 children and youth** we serve. From stories like Tatiana's, a young artist and entrepreneur who grew up living off the trash dump, to the 30 exemplary rural students and teachers who traveled to the U.S. for the first time on an exchange program, **the impact of your generosity continues to be ever present**. You have provided underserved children and youth with something to dream about and the tools required to pursue those dreams.

We have witnessed the immeasurable results of comprehensive collaboration and we thank all those who make our life-changing work possible. Whether you are new to our family or a lifelong supporter, rest assured, **you have changed countless lives for the better**. It is on this note that we are left tremendously inspired to continue going farther for education.

GRACIAS,

Kevin Marinacci
CEO



WHERE WE WORK



WHY NICARAGUA?

To many, it's a mystery how Nicaragua has stayed under the radar for so long. The country -- with its kind people, rich culture, and breathtaking landscapes -- is nothing short of paradise. Navigating the streets, they quickly reveal the long-term consequences of decades of political and economic chaos. Nicaragua currently stands as the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Dropping out of school is far too common as children feel obliged to contribute to their homes. Fabretto targets the most underserved communities in both urban and rural areas of the largest but the most dispersed country in Central America.

6 MILLION INHABITANTS

- 42% live in rural areas
- 50% live on LESS THAN \$2 A DAY
- 15% live in EXTREME POVERTY
- 43% of secondary school-aged youth ARE NOT ENROLLED in secondary education
- 72% of pre-school teachers have NO FORMAL EDUCATION

Source: World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, MINED



WE MADE IT TO THE CARIBBEAN REGION!



Historically, Fabretto has operated its programs in the cities of Nicaragua where our founder, Padre Fabretto, began his work: Managua, Estelí, and Madriz. Over the years, Fabretto has expanded to Nueva Segovia in the north and Rivas on the southern Pacific coast. In 2015, Fabretto's newest region of influence is the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (abbreviated as RACCS, for its acronym in Spanish).

RACCS has the highest dropout rate in the nation, with only 45% of 15-24 year olds having a fourth grade education or higher. Just three out of every ten children attend secondary school and even fewer manage to graduate (UNFPA).

In many areas of RACCS, public schools are spread so far that children and youth have no access to education. Our new programs directly impact student retention and promotion through quality education. The move to RACCS is one of the largest expansions of Fabretto's reach to date. With a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and in partnership with Vicariato de Bluefields, **Fabretto now supports over 5,000 students in RACCS.**



MEET JARELIS

The sun is not yet out when Jarelis, a nine-year-old girl, gets up for school. Every day at 5AM, Jarelis wakes up to help her mother prepare breakfast by bringing the wood for the stove. After, she will feed the animals, head to the river to bathe, and wash her clothes.

It is not soon after that her journey to school begins. She must cross two rivers and go up and down various mountains. It's easiest when it's not the rainy season. If all goes well, it takes about an hour to get to class. Despite her efforts, some days this simply can not be done as crossing the river is too great a risk, forcing her to turn around.

The community where Jarelis travels to receive schooling is San Rafael del Sahino, known as one of the most remote areas of Nicaragua on the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS).

Not accessed with ease, this community requires travelers to brave 8 hours in the jungle, 4 of which are on horseback. This community, bordering the natural reserve of Indio Maiz, is characterized by its remoteness, difficult passage, and robust vegetation. Most homes, of dirt floors and wooden boards for walls, do not have electricity or running water. With little to no signal for communication, education is virtually nonexistent.

Despite the obstacles, Fabretto began implementing its educational program in this community in 2015, offering hope for a better future. This year, Jarelis and her peers have a qualified teacher, a classroom, and receive a nutritious lunch. Jarelis dreams of being a teacher one day. Every morning she takes another step closer to completing that education and one day providing it to someone else. Thanks to Fabretto Education Programs in the most remote communities, Jarelis can make this dream come true.

To attend school, Jarelis travels to San Rafael del Sahino in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS), known as one of the most remote areas of Nicaragua.

OUR GROWTH IN 2015

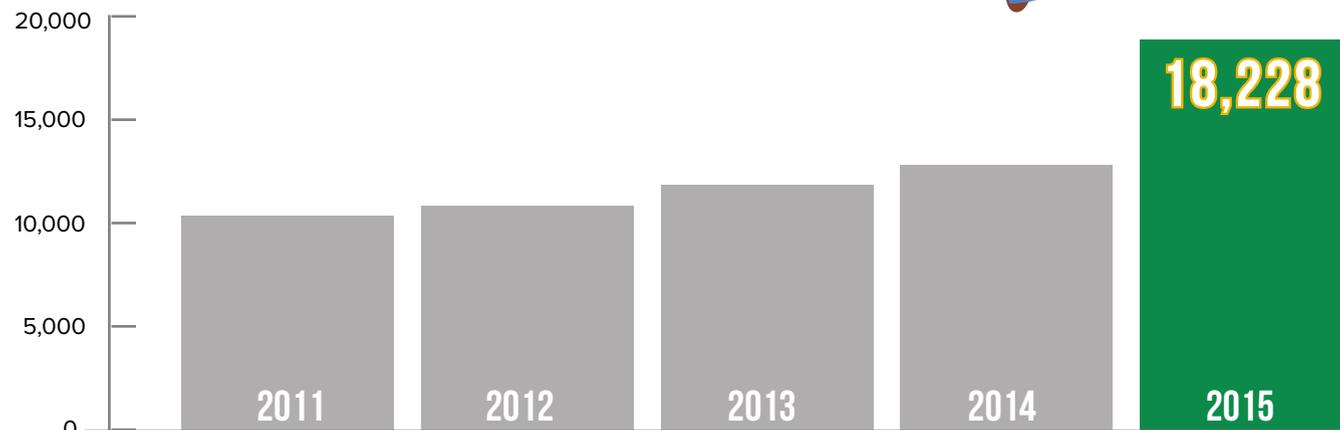
A Big Stride For Education!

In 2015, Fabretto delivered its programs to children and community members in seven community Education Centers and more than 300 public schools throughout Nicaragua. Our newest area of focus in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) represented a significant stride for education, reaching 5,000 new student beneficiaries.



18,228 student beneficiaries in 2015

Student Beneficiaries (2011 - 2015)



OUR PROGRAMS

ABC

EARLY & PRIMARY EDUCATION ENRICHMENT:
Afterschool.
Montessori.
"Learning Through Play."

RURAL SECONDARY EDUCATION
4-H.
Entrepreneurship.
Sustainable agriculture.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & DEVELOPMENT
Workshops.
Infrastructure.
Awareness.

VOCATIONAL & LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION
English.
Technical training.
Work readiness.

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
School lunches.
Gardens.
Nutrition education.

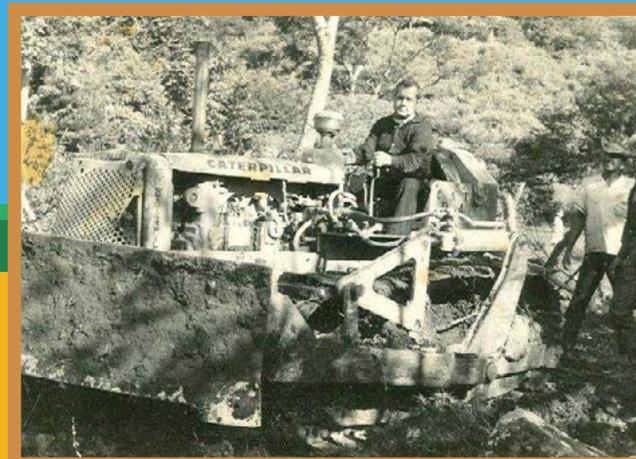
THE FABRETTO MODEL: BRANCHING OUT

Fabretto's model focuses on 'reaching the hard to reach' through activities such as mobile libraries, food distribution, parent workshops, and more.

Additionally, by empowering community leaders through comprehensive training, Fabretto multiplies its impact and brings quality education to more children in underserved communities of Nicaragua.

Teachers trained by Fabretto are prepared to share what they learn with other educators at their schools. In this way, teachers trigger a **ripple effect** of knowledge in their own communities.

Padre Fabretto laid **the groundwork** for our organization to thrive. He dedicated his life to bringing hope to the hard-to-reach: clearing roads, connecting communities, serving others. Today, we follow his legacy, bringing quality education to the most rural areas.



PADRE FABRETTO driving 'Baby' in the 1960s – a gift from the government – which he used to clear the road to Cusmapa



PADRE FABRETTO



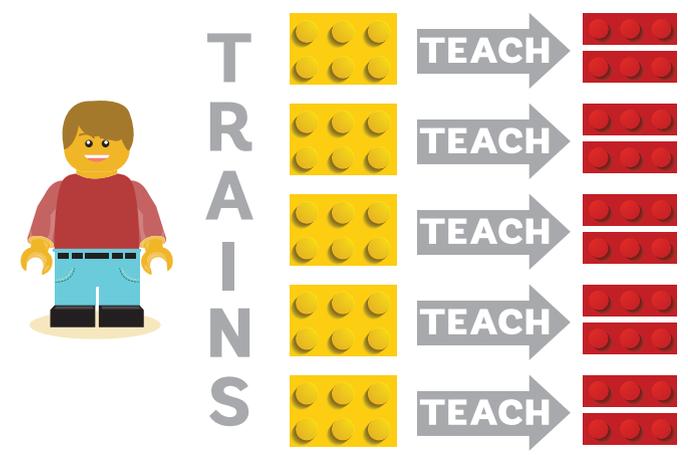
EARLY & PRIMARY EDUCATION ENRICHMENT

In a country where only 28% of rural children who begin school reach the 6th grade (UNICEF), Fabretto's Early & Primary Education Program boast a 92% retention rate. This program supports strong academic, social, and personal development, serving as a resource for the whole community during and after school.

Through teacher training in leading play-based methodologies, like Montessori and Open Learning, Fabretto is able to reach thousands of children, both directly and indirectly. When a teacher is trained by Fabretto, he or she is prepared to replicate knowledge with other teachers in their communities. Fabretto teacher training helps improve student learning potential and school performance.

17,239 STUDENT BENEFICIARIES
900 TEACHERS TRAINED

HOW DOES TEACHER TRAINING WORK?



Fun Fact:

Fabretto received more than **3.5 million Lego pieces** in 2015 thanks to the generosity of The Lego Foundation.

113 Fabretto teachers, like Darling, were trained to implement play-based learning with the use of Legos in the classroom, and the children are loving it!



The LEGO Foundation

DARLING

Teacher & Trainer

Darling was first drawn to the Fabretto Mama Margarita Center in Somoto as a 10th grader looking for an opportunity to be in the student choir. After graduation, Darling became the proud recipient of a university scholarship through Fabretto.

Having started by volunteering at the Fabretto Center during her free time, she quickly excelled in the organization. As a scholarship student majoring in Education, she participated in Fabretto teacher-training workshops. In 2009, before her college career was complete, she was offered a teaching position.

Three years later, now a college graduate, Darling is responsible for overseeing educational programs and leading teacher training in 11 rural communities in Somoto.

Trained in Montessori and Open Learning methodologies, she is passionate about improving student performance and retention through hands-on learning, also known as 'Learning Through Play.' The teachers she trains all agree, "This works because I have tried it and I have seen the results."

Montessori and Open Learning methodologies and materials are spreading throughout Somoto classrooms. It is evident that Darling and other Fabretto trainers have inspired more teachers than anyone could have imagined.

Today, Darling is implementing these programs at the regional level. We are confident she will reach even more children through the ripple effect of teacher training.





RURAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

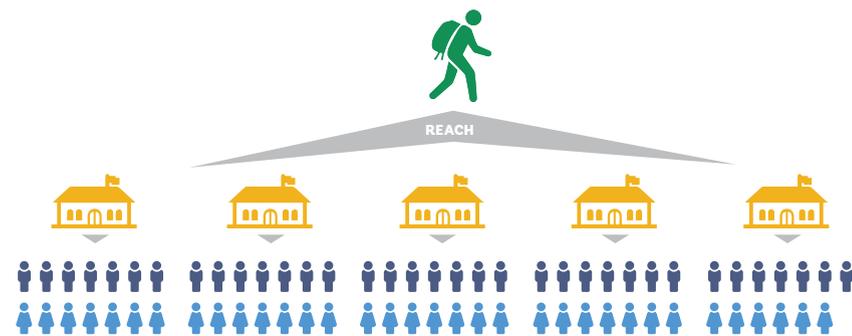
In rural Nicaragua, as few as only 20% of students who complete the 6th grade continue to secondary school, often due to economic constraints or access to schools. Fabretto responds through the Rural Secondary Education (SAT) program, adapted to the reality of students and supported by the Ministry of Education (MINED). SAT reaches close to 700 youth in over 24 communities, many of whom otherwise would not have continued their education.

The “traveling teacher” relocates to the remotest communities to implement the program, often using a student’s home or a community center as a meeting place for approximately 25 students from neighboring communities. The SAT program uses a “learning by doing” methodology. Students are trained in agricultural techniques and through their productive initiatives entrepreneurship is fostered, contributing to the family economy. SAT students practice what they have learned in their homes and their communities through service projects, becoming agents of change.

Fact:

In a country where only 48% of applicants pass the public university admissions test, close to 70% of SAT graduates successfully passed this test in 2015.

The Traveling Teacher Impact



- = 65 Teachers
- = 10 Communities
- = 10 Male Students
- = 10 Female Students

689 STUDENTS REACHED IN 2015



YESING

Traveling Teacher

Twelve hours of travel by bus, foot, and mule is what separates Yesing and the community where he teaches Rural Secondary Education (SAT). In spite of the distance, Yesing did not hesitate when offered the opportunity to teach and move to a remote rural community in Nueva Guinea in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS). Until then, local youth did not have access to an education above the elementary school level.

The newly established SAT program in the region provides youth with the knowledge needed to improve farming techniques and family income, both critical for rural development.

“I make the best of the trip by encouraging others to join the program,” tells Yesing. When Fabretto established SAT in the region, the community offered to host the traveling teacher in gratitude.

“Coming here is a challenge -- the access, the distances that students have to travel. Despite the hardships, helping these young people is a great experience, and it’s worth it.”

Fabretto trains dynamic teachers who bring quality secondary education to rural communities to engage and empower youth. Teachers like Yesing are dedicated to their students and their own continual improvement as educators, mentors, and community members.

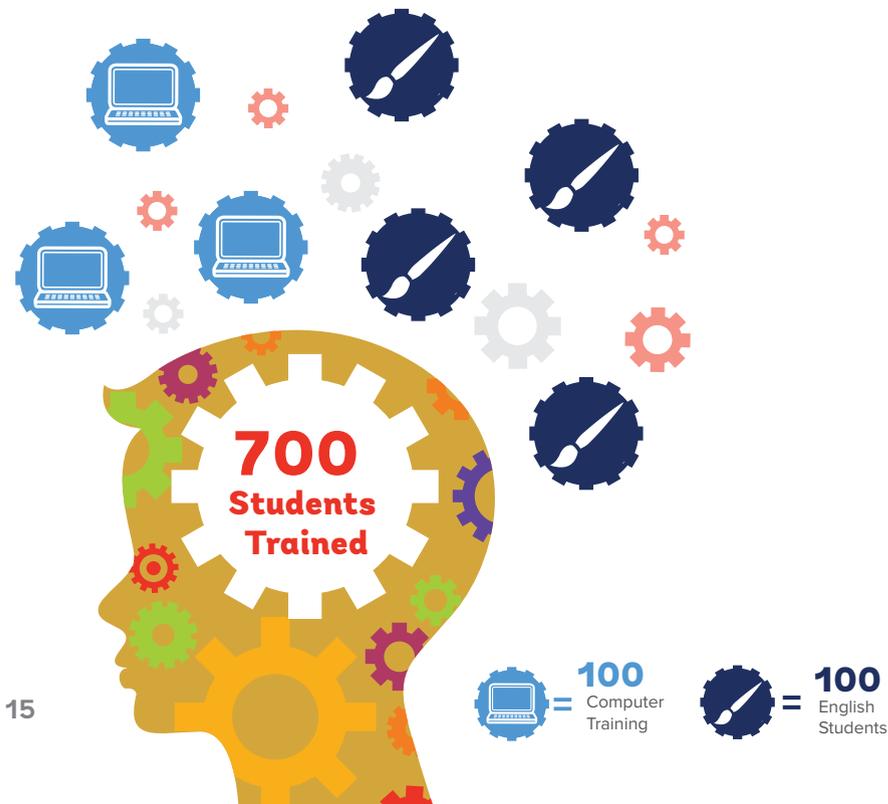




VOCATIONAL & LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

In Nicaragua, public school is scheduled for no more than four hours a day. With limited preparation, high school graduates struggle to break into the job market or create their own opportunity. According to the International Labour Organization, 20% of 15- to 24-year-olds are neither working nor studying, and many of the 'employed' youth have only informal and intermittent jobs.

Fabretto's Vocational and Life Skills Program offers training to prepare students for success through English courses, computer skills classes, and financial literacy activities, including accounting and job readiness. High school students participate in afterschool and enrichment activities, which provide them with relevant academic and technical skills to pull themselves and their communities out of poverty.



Fact:

In 2015, 84% of Fabretto graduates were working and applying learned knowledge.



TATIANA

Artist & Entrepreneur

Tatiana Rojas is a 20-year-old from Managua where she lives with her parents and 11 siblings.

In 2008, her brother, Osman, who collected scraps at La Chureca trash dump, learned about Fabretto and convinced his sister to enroll into the program with him. That same year, both began training at one of Fabretto's Education Centers in Acahualinca, also known as NicaHOPE.

Tatiana and Osman benefited from Fabretto's Vocational & Life Skills Education Program, through which they received elective courses, such as computer courses, small business management, English, and jewelry making -- all of which complement and further the formal education received in public secondary school. Tatiana's involvement in Fabretto programs and acquired know-how led her to join the NicaHOPE jewelry cooperative, a group composed mostly of women who collected garbage in La Chureca. Not too long after that, she was named President of the cooperative.

Tatiana's talent and great determination have allowed her to represent women entrepreneurs in her community at various international fairs. **Despite her young age and living circumstances, this young lady has already made a difference in her community.** She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers and continues to share her knowledge with other low-income women seeking alternative means to break the cycle of poverty. Undoubtedly, Tatiana is a leader and agent of change in her community.



FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION



At Fabretto, we understand that contributing to the health and development of a child is essential for the future of the individual, the classroom, and the community. Nicaragua battles extremely high rates of undernourishment, which is why our programs pair school lunches with our education programs.

With support from partners like **Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)**, Fabretto creates lasting positive change in overall food security in underserved communities. This is done by training parents and students in nutrition and sustainable agriculture, such as school gardens and agriculture techniques.



Volunteers offer to take the food back to their communities.



Fabretto truck distributes food to community schools



846,196 MEALS SERVED



Fact:

*In 2015, Fabretto helped develop **200** school & community gardens to fortify meals.*



= 7 Fabretto Education Centers

= 320 Volunteers

= 61 Communities

MÁXIMA

Mother & Hero

Máxima volunteers to cook meals at her son's primary school in the community of Apante. When we met her, she had walked one and a half hours to get to the Fabretto Center in Cusmapa for a parent workshop on how to cook lentils in a way her son and his classmates would enjoy. Máxima will take what she learned at the workshop back to her community, where she will help teach other mothers who were unable to attend.

Every week, a Fabretto truck distributes food to rural schools. However, due to poor road conditions, the vehicle is unable to reach every community. In some communities, like Apante, Máxima and other parents offer to walk to the Fabretto Center to take the food back to the schools.

It takes close to 2 hours to walk back to Apante with the heavy load. A group of mothers take turns walking to and from Cusmapa every Wednesday to carry the food supplies back to the school. These mothers will practice what they've learned in the workshops, making sure the meals are nutritiously complete.

Máxima is an excellent example of how dedicated parents are Fabretto's greatest allies. Parents of Fabretto students offer invaluable support to families in more than 300 communities across rural Nicaragua.





COMMUNITY WELL-BEING & DEVELOPMENT

Fabretto recognizes the role of the community in a child's development. With the support of parents and community leaders, children can achieve comprehensive development.

We work to create supportive environments in which children can thrive through parent training on nutrition, health, and community engagement. Fabretto's Training Programs for parents have been found to be very effective. Children whose parents have been trained by Fabretto show greater retention and promotion rates. Additionally, through strategic partnerships, Fabretto helps improve infrastructure and address living conditions, providing access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in impoverished communities.

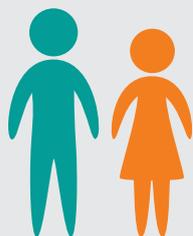


1,668

PARENTS TRAINED



NUTRITION EDUCATION HEALTH



CONFIDENT

HEALTHY

CRITICAL

ACTIVE

KIND

SMART

SOCIABLE

CREATIVE

ATHLETIC

HAPPY



HILDA

Community Leader

What seems to have once been a winding river is now the road that leads to El Balsamo. On a recent visit to the community, our Fabretto vehicle could barely navigate the large stones that pave the narrow passages of the dry mountains.

After 20 minutes on a difficult road, we reached the only preschool -- a two-classroom building built in September 2015 by Fabretto and Building Bridges Worldwide. A shy, friendly-faced woman, Hilda Ponce, receives us as she would friends into her home. Moved by the opportunity that their children never had, Hilda and her husband donated a portion of their property for the construction of the schoolhouse. *"This land is no longer mine but the children's,"* commented the generous woman.

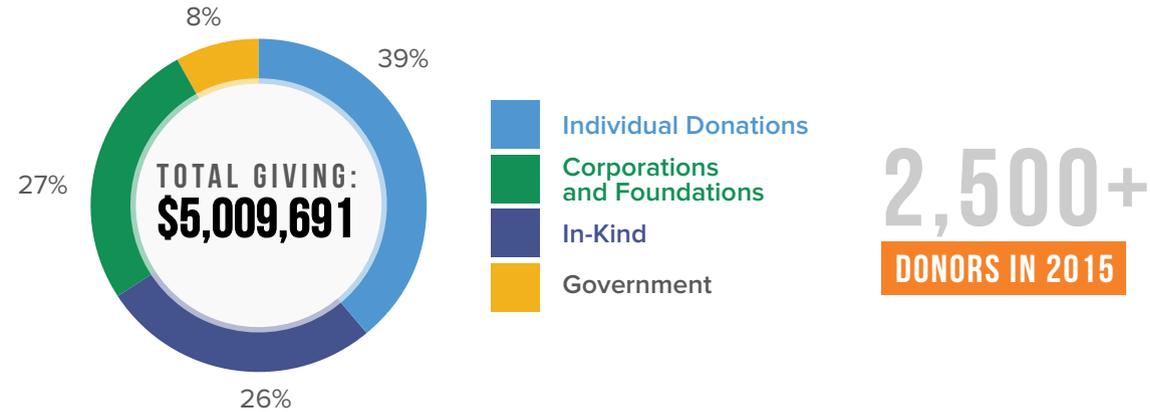
The new preschool, where Hilda volunteers every day, also functions as a community center. Rural parents benefit from Fabretto workshops on Early Stimulation, Health, and Nutrition -- all of which contribute to the well-being and development of the community.

In Nicaragua's rural areas, like El Balsamo, 45% of children have no access to Early Childhood Education (UNFPA). By working together with community leaders, like Hilda, this reality can change.

"I dream that the children in my community have the opportunity to become professionals. I want that, and we can all do something to make this possible." **Hilda**

2015 FINANCIALS

Sources of Giving



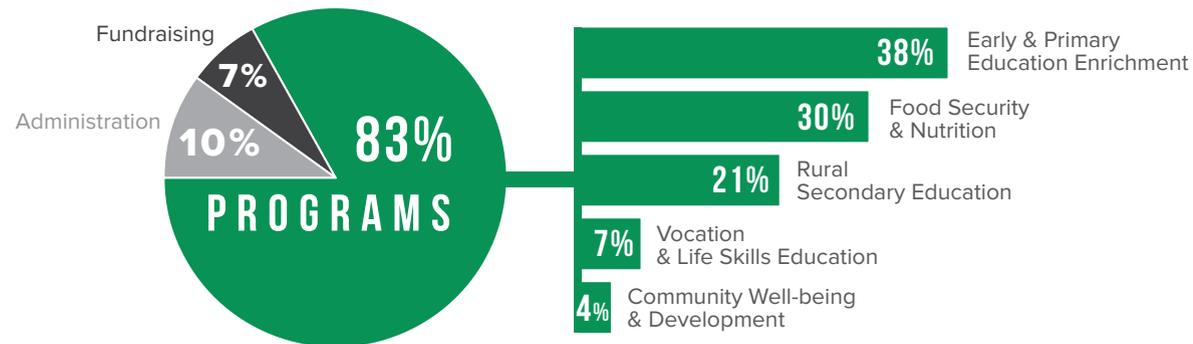
We are honored by the trust our donors, partners, and friends have in us to invest in our work each year.

In 2015, our individual donors accounted for 39% of Fabretto's total annual income. Contributions total more than \$5 million, allowing more than 18,000 at-risk children and youth to receive education and nutrition in Nicaragua. Every dollar invested in Fabretto's work and programs is tracked and audited with transparency and accountability.

Moreover, 80% of our income is allocated to our programs. These allocations allow us to spread our reach farther each year. In 2015, your donations enabled us to expand to the RACCS region.

At Fabretto, we recognize that every step must be taken firmly. Initiatives are planned out carefully prior to execution. It's for this reason that we pride ourselves on keeping together a great team of people who do wonders with your support and work diligently to make sure our mission is carried out each year.

2015 Investment Breakdown



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

4-H EXCHANGE PROGRAM



A select group of exemplary SAT students and teachers participated in an exciting two-way exchange program. The group traveled to the United States to take part in a week-long program of activities with a focus on life lessons and wellness through sports and agricultural education. This initiative was the result of partnerships with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, National 4-H Council, and the U.S. Department of State's SportsUnited division.

The delegation represented 4-H clubs throughout the communities we serve, including San Isidro de Bolas, San José de Cusmapa, Las Sabanas, and Somoto. Padre Fabretto hosted 4-H programs in Nicaragua in the '60s. We have returned to these roots, relaunching 4-H in the communities where we work, integrated into our Rural Secondary Education (SAT) program.

UPENN STRENGTHENS FABRETTO'S MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM



In 2015, the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education partnered with the Penn Society for International Development's Global Impact Collaborative (GIC) -- a student-run initiative providing pro bono research and consulting services to NGOs around the world.

The principal goal of the partnership was to analyze Fabretto's Monitoring and Evaluation framework and establish its relevance, efficacy, and rigor. Fabretto is grateful for the alliance with the University of Pennsylvania, which has and will continue to help strengthen the organization.

We want to give special thanks to Ph.D. Matthew Tarditi and GIC Co-Director Will Slotznick for their leadership and enormous contributions to our team. Their work will serve to guide Fabretto in the optimal application of Monitoring and Evaluation methods.

Thank You



The Fabretto donor community is comprised of a dedicated and inspiring group of people who ensure and protect children's right to education. Our partners, volunteers, child sponsors, and friends come from around the world with one common goal: to share the joy of a brighter future for our children.

We are deeply grateful for your generous contributions. Thanks to you, we are able to reach children and youth in underserved communities. Please visit our website to view a complete list of our individual donors and the foundations, corporations, and organizations that made our work possible in 2015.

www.fabretto.org/donors2015

"Lego Foundation is pleased to be partnering with Fabretto on improving the early childhood education in Nicaragua. Combining Lego's 'Learning Through Play' with the innovative teaching methodologies that Fabretto utilizes, we are happy to be contributing to the development of a new generation of young learners."

Michael Renvillard, Director Programmes & Partnerships

The **LEGO** Foundation

Padre Fabretto Legacy Society

Your Legacy - Their Future

On behalf of Fabretto Children's Foundation (FCF), we invite you to consider investing in Fabretto's mission through a legacy gift. Your bequest will help ensure that children in Nicaragua receive support through education, nutrition, and community development programs for years to come.

Why Leave a Charitable Gift?

Bequests help organizations ensure that the good work they perform in the world continues well into the future. A planned gift will help you combine your philanthropic passion with your financial needs and tax planning. As you prepare a will that provides for your loved ones or if you have already written a will, we invite you to include a gift to FCF. A gift of any size contributes to the future of Nicaraguan children, their families, and their community.

Please discuss with your Legal and/or Financial Advisor to explore the best way to honor your legacy. We look forward to hearing from you.

For questions or additional information about Charitable Gifts or any of our programs, contact us at info@fabretto.org.

OUR TEAM

At Fabretto, we strongly believe that our staff are our most valuable resource. From teachers, tutors, specialists, and support staff, they all dedicate themselves each day to work for a better future for the children in our Centers and throughout Nicaragua.

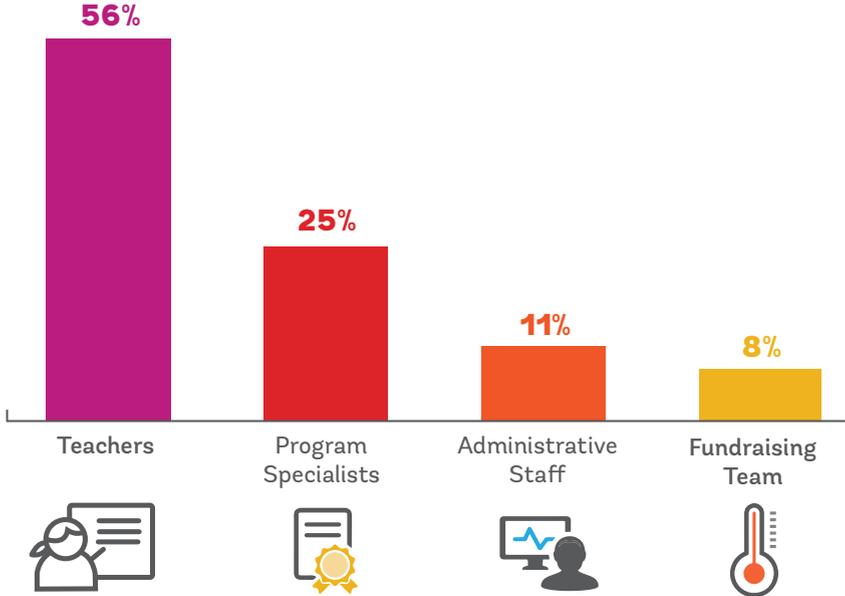
In a country where over one quarter of teachers are not formally trained and with the majority of untrained teachers concentrated in rural communities (UNDP), our team is comprised mostly of skilled teachers who work with

vulnerable groups of students inspiring children to stay in school and become the best they can be.

In 2015, our area of focus continued to be education, strengthening teacher and education specialists' competences through robust training. To support our mission, Fabretto has established legally incorporated non-profit organizations in Nicaragua, the United States, Spain and the United Kingdom.



290 EMPLOYEES IN 2015



Fabretto

With your help we are

**GOING
FARTHER
FOR EDUCATION**



www.fabretto.org