



# Group Service Programs to Nicaragua

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Fabretto**



# Overview

**Fabretto** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing critical services to more than **20,000 children** through education, nutrition, health, and community development programs. By empowering underserved children and their families, the organization continues the legacy of Father Rafael Fabretto, who began working in these communities more than 60 years ago,

We work in Nicaragua, a country that remains the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere despite possessing rich natural resources and beauty. The Nicaraguan people have struggled for decades to overcome economic, political and historical obstacles.

Many of the families in the communities in which we work lack access to medical care, education, and basic services such as water and electricity. In addition, children are often forced to drop out of school to help support their families, and young adults struggle to find gainful employment.

## Mission Statement

Fabretto's mission is 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.





View near Fabretto's Cusmapa Center

# Nicaragua

The New York Times ranked Nicaragua as number three on its list of “The 46 Places to Go in 2013.” The country’s image has been changing in recent years, and as the Times article says, “Nicaragua’s moment might finally have arrived.” Nicaragua offers diverse topography ideal for eco-tourism, rich cultural history, and a growing number of comfortable accommodations for those less inclined to “roughing it.” With Fabretto, your group can choose a tourist activity to introduce you to Nicaragua, “the Land of Lakes and Volcanoes.”

## Colonial Cities

The two major colonial cities, Granada and Leon, provide ample opportunities to visit historical churches, stroll through cobblestone streets, and get a sense of what Nicaragua was like in the 17th century. Both cities have a bustling restaurant, bar and tourism scene, making them an enjoyable stop for visitors.

## Volcanoes

Nicaragua is part of the Pacific’s “Ring of Fire” and boasts 25 volcanoes, many of which are active. The most easily visited is the Masaya volcano, which lies right off the highway that connects Managua and Granada. Still active, this caldera type volcano is continuously spurting steam. Standing on the edge of the crater is a truly memorable experience.

## Lakes

Lake Nicaragua is the largest lake in all of Central America. It is home to 365 small islands, or isletas, which were formed by the eruption of adjacent volcano Mombacho, just outside of Granada. The natural scenery and resident birds make the Isletas a beautiful place for kayaking or a boat tour.

## Coffee Country

The mountainous northern region produces the majority of the country’s coffee, Nicaragua’s main export. The provinces Matagalpa and Jinotega are home to lush forests and diverse flora and fauna. The region has a cool, fresh climate year round that some call “the eternal spring.” Eco-tourism is growing in the area, and visitors can enjoy the mountain scenery through a variety of hikes and excursions.



# Resources in Nicaragua

Before beginning your service program, we recommend that your team take the time to learn about Nicaragua and its history. Read [a Brief History of Nicaragua](#) and view [a Timeline of Nicaragua](#).

## COUNTRY PROFILE

**LOCATION:** Central America

**NICARAGUA:** The name “Nicaragua” was coined by Spanish colonists based on the name Nicarao, chief of the largest indigenous tribe, and agua, the Spanish word for water.

**SIZE:** 50,000 square miles

**POPULATION:** 6,014,000 (2014 est.)

**CAPITAL CITY:** Managua



**RELIGION:** No official religion. Roman Catholicism is the largest denomination, although numbers of evangelical Protestants and Mormons are growing.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish. On the Atlantic Coast, Creole English and indigenous languages are spoken.

**ETHNICITY:** 69% mestizos (mixed Amerindian and European). 17% of European origin. 9% Black/African-descended (concentrated on the Atlantic coast).

**CURRENCY:** Cordoba

**ECONOMICS:** Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, after Haiti. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2014 was estimated at \$11.81 billion USD. Agriculture represents 20% of GDP, the highest percentage in Central America. More than billion dollars are sent in by Nicaraguans living abroad.

**MAIN EXPORTS:** coffee, beef, gold, sugar, peanuts, shrimp, lobster, tobacco, cigars, automobile wiring harnesses, textiles, apparel, cotton

## FAMOUS FIGURES

Click each name to learn more:

[William Walker](#)

[Jose Santos Zelaya](#)

[Augusto César Sandino](#)

[General Anastasio Somoza](#)

[The Sandinista Party](#)



## CURRENT EVENTS

For English-language news about Nicaragua:

- **NicaNet** - [www.nicanet.org](http://www.nicanet.org)
- **Nicaragua Dispatch** - [www.nicaraguadispatch.com](http://www.nicaraguadispatch.com)
- **Al Jazeera America** - [Section on Nicaragua](#)
- **The Guardian** - [Section on Nicaragua](#)

# Our Centers

The majority of Fabretto's 9 Education Centers were originally opened as Father Fabretto's "oratorios", or prayer halls, in Cusmapa, San Isidro, Somoto and Estelí. We also run programs for students and teachers at more than 440 public schools nationwide. Currently, we deliver our programs in nine regions of Nicaragua in rural, peri-urban, and urban communities. We use a holistic model that supports children throughout their growth and development and motivates them to become lifelong learners. While our primary focus is children, our community-based approach ensures that parents, teachers, and community members also receive the training they need to create an environment in which children thrive.

The regions where Fabretto works are located throughout Nicaragua:

**Acahualinca**  
**San Isidro De Bolas**  
**San José De Cusmapa**  
**Las Sabanas**  
**Somoto**  
**Estelí**  
**Ocotal**  
**San Juan De Oriente**  
**Granada**





# Our Programs

Fabretto offers an integral, quality education to more than 20,000 children and youth in Nicaragua, promoting the participation of parents, teachers, and community leaders, who collaborate towards creating environments in which children can thrive.

In order to embrace three main stages of life in human development (infancy, childhood, adolescence), Fabretto implements three strategic educational programs: Early Education, Primary Education, and Technical Vocational Education. These programs have been recognized internationally by entities like Lego Foundation, Ashoka, and World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE). In addition, Fabretto implements cross-cutting initiatives focused on health and food security, gender equality, violence prevention, community development, conservation of the environment, as well as universal and Christian values.



## Early Education Program

Early education aims to develop the potential for the integral development of children from 0 to 6 years of age and focuses on achieving significant learning for their stage of development, for the next steps of training, and for life. Through the program, children from 0 to 6 years of age develop skills in areas of personal and social formation in order to gradually build awareness of their existence as independent persons belonging to a family, a community, and to one world. Communication is also developed to exchange ideas, feelings, and emotions with others and to encourage the development of cognitive processes that favor learning. Fabretto aims to promote the transition to the next educational stages for children in vulnerable situations, highlighting the educational role of the family, the community, and the team of teachers who guarantee quality education by participating in extensive trainings and workshops



## Primary Education

Primary education is a fundamental human right, contributing to the mitigation of child labor, as well as allowing individuals to play an active role in society. The goal of the Program is to help primary students from underserved communities develop their full potential through personalized, age-appropriate teaching methodologies. It aims to contribute to the reduction of educational gaps by promoting the development of life skills such as literacy, logical-mathematical reasoning, as well as critical and creative thinking. Through play-based methodologies, Fabretto teachers stimulate the learning process for successfully achieving the next stage of education.



## Technical Vocational Education

Fabretto recognizes the need to connect secondary education to the world of work, technological progress, and the community at large. For this reason, through the Technical Vocational Education Program, Fabretto enables young people and their families with the necessary skills to develop and sustain their livelihoods that allow them to break the cycle of poverty. In order to better realize its potential, vocational technical training at Fabretto is closely linked to the study of technologies as well as the acquisition of practical, theoretical and skills related to economic and social trends, recognizing work experience as a part of learning same.



# Sponsor a Child in Fabretto's Programs

The Child Sponsorship Program gives you the chance to transform a child's life with education & nutrition and follow on the path to a better future! Sponsored children receive quality education with trained teachers, academic enrichment classes, a daily school lunch, and a supportive community. You will receive regular updates and can communicate as often as you wish.

One special opportunity that fabretto's program offers is the chance to meet your sponsored child in person. If you are a sponsor, please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to arrange a meeting during your stay in nicaragua. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, consider signing up before your program so that we can send you a profile (brief biography and photo) of your sponsored child and arrange for you to meet in nicaragua. Many sponsors have said that meeting their sponsored child is the highlight of their program to nicaragua!

Share the joy of a better future!

Become a Child  
Sponsor today!

Learn more about  
Child Sponsorship

# Group Service Programs to Nicaragua

Fabretto service programs are transformative experiences that positively change both the lives of children in Nicaragua as well as the lives of volunteers. Through service programs, Fabretto partners with high schools, churches, and universities to raise awareness and support for children and families in Nicaragua. Thanks to the generosity of many over the years, Fabretto now serves over 20,000 children in 9 Fabretto Education Centers as well as in more than 440 local public schools.



**Group Size:** 10-15 people (preferred)

**Minimum Age:** 16 (contact us about including younger children in Family Service Trips)

**Program Length:** Programs typically last 1-2 weeks. Many groups take 2 days at the end of their program for tourist activities and enjoying the beauty of Nicaragua. This may include: visiting the Masaya Volcano, swimming in the Apoyo Lagoon, traveling to the beach in San Juan del Sur, visiting marketplaces, and sightseeing in Granada – the oldest colonial city in mainland America.

**Best Times of Year:** It is suggested that groups visit during the Nicaraguan school year, since the children will be attending Fabretto programs. The Nicaraguan school year begins in the middle of February and ends in the middle of November. Please note that the majority of service groups visit during the spring and summer months. Therefore, we recommend reserving your space as soon as possible.

**Number of Service Programs per Year:** Fabretto hosts an average of 20 service programs per year from high schools, churches, & universities. Many of these groups have become annual visitors.

## Typical Fundraising Projects:

- Painting school classrooms
- Tutoring children
- Constructing water projects
- Building school kitchens

\*Please note that project availability is subject to the needs of the communities in which Fabretto works.

**Fundraising Goal:** Fabretto asks that each group raise the funds to complete their assigned service project. The minimum fundraising goal is \$400-500/person.

**Program Cost:** In addition to the Fundraising Goal, there is an average program cost of \$850. All of your travel expenses, including meals, transportation within Nicaragua, and lodging, are included in the cost of the service program. Please note that airfare is not included in the price.

**How to Sign Up:** Email the Groups & Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@fabretto.org](mailto:volunteer@fabretto.org).



