

# HONORING THE FACES OF *Resilience*

— ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**Fabretto**  
Fabretto Children's Foundation



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## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



For many in Nicaragua, 2018 was about resilience. In the midst of a dramatically changed socio-economic environment, members of La Familia Fabretto – parents, teachers, students – made exceptional sacrifice to continue making progress toward advancing education in the most underserved communities, even during the most difficult days.

To review 2018 is to honor the Nicaraguan people and their ability to keep moving forward amidst adversity. I have seen teachers like Francis give their all to keep the doors of our centers open and provide a safe space for children to play, learn, and dream; determined mothers like Leonor who, despite living in poverty, are keeping the faith and hope of a better future for their children; young women like Katherine who are making a steady income through farming in the midst of an economic crisis.

Having witnessed their incredible resilience, I have no doubt Nicaragua will bloom again like a spring flower and thrive. This is the country that inspired our founder, Padre Fabretto, to leave everything behind for its people.

Today we honor their resilient stories and recognize your outstanding generosity entrusted to Fabretto. Thank you for believing in the children of Nicaragua.

GRACIAS.

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

Kevin Marinacci

■  
*“Thank you  
for believing  
in the children  
of Nicaragua.”*



## OUR MISSION

Fabretto's mission is to empower underserved children, youth and their families in Nicaragua to reach their full potential, improve their livelihoods, and take advantage of economic opportunity through education.

## WHY NICARAGUA



**32%**  
of the population lives  
on less than \$2 a day.<sup>1</sup>



**36%**  
of children and youth  
drop out of school to  
work.<sup>1</sup>

## WHERE WE WORK

In 2018, Fabretto programs benefited children, youth and their families in Managua, Masaya, Granada, Chinandega, Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Rivas, and RACCS.

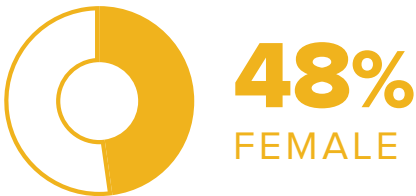




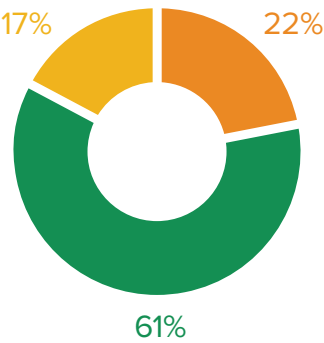


STUDENT BENEFICIARIES IN 2018

43,113

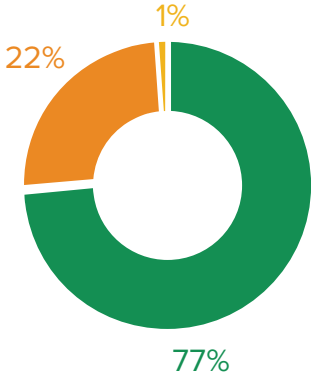


► FABRETTO PROGRAMS  
12,288



- Primary Education
- Early Education
- Technical Education

► PARTNERSHIPS  
30,825



- Telefónica
- Cargil and CARE International
- Other Partners



# 01

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- The first 1,000 days of a child's life establishes either a strong or fragile foundation for everything that follows. Fabretto provides early childhood education and nutritional support to help develop children's cognitive skills and long-term learning.



**205**  
mothers participated  
in early stimulation  
workshops.



**100%**  
retention rate.



**55%**  
of beneficiaries ages 0-3  
improved communications,  
motor, social and emotional  
skills.



**32,100**  
servings of Chapuditos,  
a cereal fortified with  
21 vitamins and minerals.





# Leonor

After losing a child to pneumonia in 2014, Leonor thought she wouldn't smile again. This young mother was illiterate and did not even know how to spell the cause of her baby's death. She was overcome by depression, making it difficult to complete daily household chores like carrying water from the community well in Quebrada Honda, Nicaragua.

But a little angel was on his way to bring back Leonor's smile. Soon after little Rodrigo

was born in 2017, Leonor heard about a new mother-to-mother support group through Fabretto and – with a little push from Fabretto staff – decided to join.

Today, Leonor is a resilient mother who's not only learning how to read and write, but is also learning techniques to stimulate and nurture her son's development. Through Fabretto, her son also benefits from nutritional support to brighten his future.





# 02

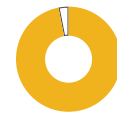
## PRESCHOOL EDUCATION



In Nicaragua, 43% of children have no access to preschool education<sup>2</sup>. During this critical stage, Fabretto provides quality education and nutritional support to increase higher school achievement and fewer dropouts.



**2,979**  
preschool children.



**97%**  
preschool student retention rate.



**147**  
preschool teachers trained in educational methodologies such as Montessori.



**248,550**  
servings of Chapuditos, a cereal fortified with 21 vitamins and minerals.







## Angel

Two years ago, Angel's parents migrated to another town for work. He now lives with his grandfather, who suffers from paralysis, and grandmother, who desperately tries to make ends meet. Given his background, when you actually meet Angel, you are blown away by the 5-year-old's beautiful, contagious smile; a smile that would brighten anyone's day.

Through Fabretto, Angel had access to early stimulation sessions until he was around three years old, which allowed him to develop into a healthy, smart boy. He has now moved on to Fabretto's Educational Enrichment program for preschoolers, where he benefits from play-based educational methodologies that rely heavily on the child experiencing the world around them first hand. Thanks to Fabretto's innovative program, Angel is thriving not only in school but also at home.

In the midst of poverty and separation from his parents, Angel continues to have a joyful disposition. With the love and care of his grandparents and access to quality education, we are confident Angel can continue to face life's struggles head-on and with a beaming smile on his face.



# 03

## PRIMARY EDUCATION

■ Only 56% of children in Nicaragua complete primary school<sup>3</sup>. As a response, Fabretto promotes student literacy and the development of life skills through play-based, innovative teaching methodologies that stimulate learning and increase retention rates.



**36,043**  
primary students.



**96%**  
primary student  
retention rate.



**498**  
children participated  
in reading clubs (LitClubs).



**451**  
primary teachers trained in  
play-based educational  
methodologies such as Open  
Learning.



**3,976**  
parents trained in parenting,  
violence prevention,  
health, and nutrition.





# Elisa

Despite living in one of the most remote communities in northern Nicaragua and having few economic resources, 11-year-old Elisa already has clear goals: to graduate from high school and become a psychologist to help children in her community, El Ciprián.

A few years ago, due to her father's absence, Elisa suffered debilitating depression, causing a setback in her education. But after joining Fabretto's reading club program (LitClub), Elisa's academic performance radically

improved. She would not miss a single day of reading club. No matter the distance, she is always enthusiastic to lead read-aloud activities with younger children in other communities.

Reading has brought back Elisa's smile. Today, she is a young leader and an example for children in rural Nicaragua. "My biggest motivation is to make other children feel the same joy I feel through reading. If you ever lose your smile, find it in the smile of children!"





# Francis

Every day, teacher Francis travels 10 km by foot through a difficult road to reach the only public primary school in the rural community of El Terrero, where she implements innovative after-school activities for students from first to third grade.

At 25 years of age, the young teacher has experienced poverty-related adversities but has also found hope through Fabretto. In fact, the young teacher was once a Fabretto student beneficiary herself. With great effort, she completed her education degree at university and was offered the opportunity to work as a Fabretto teacher.

Just a month after Francis started working as a Fabretto teacher, Nicaragua would face one of the deepest socio-economic crises in 30 years, forcing many to migrate in search of economic opportunities. For Francis, her commitment to her students' education and future inspires her to move forward and face adversity with resilience. Today, she has become a skilled primary school teacher and a guiding star in the lives of the children she serves.





# 04

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In Nicaragua, 25% of adolescents do not study and do not work<sup>4</sup>. Through quality secondary and technical education, Fabretto empowers youth with the necessary skills to break the cycle of poverty and achieve sustainable development.



### 471

students enrolled in technical education, including ICT courses, jewelry-making, and others.



**83%**  
youth student  
retention rate.



### 1,356

youth enrolled in technical agricultural education (SAT and SATec), a program sponsored by the **innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Lab)**.



### 220

youth enrolled in English Access Microscholarship Program.







## Katherine

When Katherine finished 6th grade, with no secondary school nearby and her family's limited resources, she never expected to continue her studies. Her future looked bleak, but everything changed with the arrival of the SAT Program, a rural education model that complements theoretical lessons with practical knowledge. Instead of having to travel long distances to get to a secondary school, Fabretto was going to bring a teacher to them.

Soon after Katherine enrolled in SAT, she was provided with seeds and supplies to start her own production at home. With the technical assistance from her SAT tutor, Katherine and her family were able to get their farm to grow beans, chia, and passion fruit.

Through Fabretto and thanks to a project funded by the innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Lab), the 20-year-old has been able to generate a steady income and develop food security for her family through farming.

Despite the gender stigmas that made it difficult for Katherine to continue in the program, she never faltered. "Many girls think agriculture is a man's world; I always tell them that we have the same rights as men and that agriculture is a means to earn an income of our own," says Katherine. Today, thanks to Katherine's perseverance and example, more girls in Sonís are breaking the barriers of educational equity through SAT.



# 05

## PARTNER-SHIPS

■ By establishing partnerships with foundations and corporations, as well as working with families and entire communities, Fabretto helps create healthy environments where children and youth can truly thrive.



### 735,000

meals served in partnership with Feed My Starving Children (**FMSC**).



### 227,040

**Procter & Gamble** purifier of water packets distributed – equivalent to 2.2 million liters of clean, safe drinking water.



### 212

school, family and community gardens built in partnership with **Cargill** and **CARE International**.



### 414

farm families benefited from technical assistance, loans, and access to premium markets in partnership with **IDB LAB**.



138 families increased sales by 70% from 2017





# Maria Adelina

Despite losing a child to war and living in poverty most of her life, at 86 years of age Maria Adelina keeps smiling. To date, all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren have benefited from quality education programs and at least two of her grandchildren have already completed university, something that María Adelina never had the opportunity to achieve. For Maria Adelina, education has been a gift that has opened the door to job opportunities and an income for the family economy.

In 2016, through a partnership between Fabretto and Procter & Gamble, Maria Adelina's community was selected to benefit from water purifier packets. Each 4-gram packet can treat up to 10 liters of water in just 30 minutes, eliminating dirt and bacteria that cause diseases related to the consumption of contaminated water.

María Adelina opened the doors of her home, which serves as a storage area for the P&G water purifier packets to be distributed in her community. In addition, the great-grandmother helps implement Fabretto's health workshops. Despite the blows that life has thrown her way, this woman has managed to become a community leader and an example of resilience for all.

"Fabretto has changed our lives. That's why, in spite of my old age, I stay involved and help as much as I can."





# Osman

Five years ago, before “Nourishing the Future” – Cargill’s Corporate Social Responsibility project in partnership with CARE International – many sorghum farmers like Osman in Chinandega, Nicaragua, survived on an income of approximately \$2 a day. Through the Project, not only has Osman benefitted from technical assistance, but also from better pricing, selling directly to Cargill without intermediaries.

With support from Cargill, Osman and 23 other sorghum farmers have established a cooperative to support each other throughout the production cycle. By sharing resources, equipment, farming techniques, ideas, and services, they are drastically reducing costs. Additionally, all members of the co-op have created a revolving fund, allowing them to access loans they would not otherwise. “We no longer depend on banks or other financial institutions!” comments Osman.

In 2018, many sorghum farmers like Osman suffered the devastating effects of the yellow aphid plague caused by radical climate changes. Thanks to the Project, however, Osman was trained in organic farming practices that helped save a majority of his crops. “They taught us to identify insects that eat the aphid. Thankfully, we had no extreme losses.”

Today – in the midst of Nicaragua’s economic crisis – this sorghum farmer has overcome the struggle to provide for his family and has become a community leader.





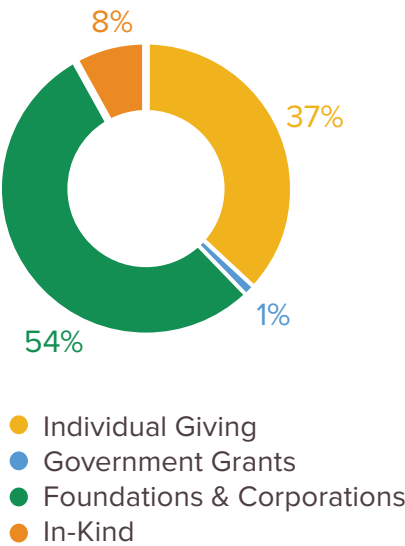
# 06

## FINANCIALS REPORT

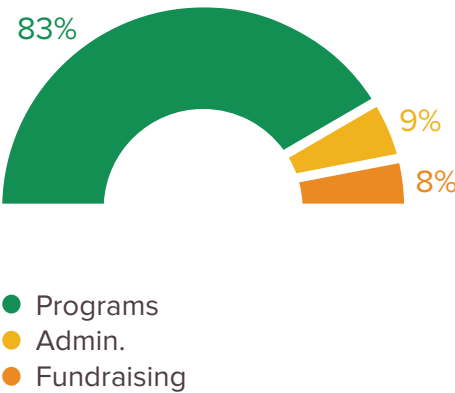
2018 TOTAL REVENUE

\$4.6M

SOURCES OF INCOME



INVESTMENT



# THANK YOU

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 2018.  
[www.fabretto.org/donors2018](http://www.fabretto.org/donors2018)



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