



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



PERSEVERANCE

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As I reflect on my past 30 years with Fabretto, one theme that keeps coming to mind is the extraordinary perseverance and resilience that is so characteristic of the Nicaraguan people. 2018 was difficult for this country and although 2019 was still wrought with challenges, it was also filled with opportunities and achievements.

Thanks to the support of both institutional and individual donors, 2019 reflects a significant leap in program achievements. Although Nicaragua continues to struggle with the effects of the recent socio-economic crisis, through the implementation of innovative education initiatives, attendance and retention rates increased dramatically in 2019. UEFA Foundation's Play to Learn project, the use of technology and blended learning in our rural education program (SAT), and the continued training and dedication of our teachers are just a few of the initiatives that contributed to motivating students to persevere through the entire school year.

In 2019, we celebrated the first graduating class of our rural secondary education program, SAT, in the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (RACCS), one of the most remote regions we serve. These extraordinary students traveled great distances and overcame immense obstacles to finish the 5-year program.

We also honor Lester (featured on the front cover), a student who has been in our sponsorship program since elementary school and has now become the first in his community to go to university. His perseverance and commitment to education are a true inspiration to us, the children in his community, and beyond.

Thank you for helping la Familia Fabretto persevere and progress.

Kevin Marinacci

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

*\*We dedicate this Annual Report to all those who paved the way for the organization that we are today, especially Vicente Baquedano, who passed away after more than 30 years of service.*





## Why Nicaragua?

**47.1%**  
of the population lives  
in poverty<sup>1</sup>

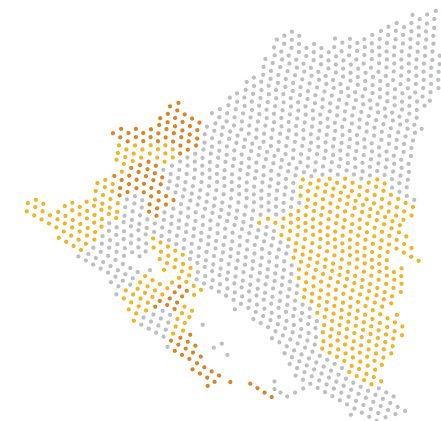
**74%**  
of students don't  
complete secondary  
school<sup>2</sup>

## 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.

## Where We Work

In 2019, Fabretto programs benefited children, youth and their families in **Managua, Masaya, Granada, Chinandega, Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Rivas, and RACCS.**



<sup>1</sup> ECLAC 2019 <sup>2</sup> Ciasas 2016





## Our Programs

Fabretto's three strategic educational programs, Early Education, Primary Education, and Technical Vocational Education, embrace and support the three main stages of life in child development: infancy, childhood, and adolescence.



### Early Education

By providing children ages 0-6 with the attention, stimulation, and nutrition they need to succeed at the primary level and beyond, they can develop the personal and social skills that will allow them to build awareness of their existence as independent members of a family, a community, and one world.



### Primary Education

The Primary Education program provides children from underserved communities with personalized, age-appropriate educational enrichment to help them develop skills like literacy, logical-mathematical reasoning, and critical and creative thinking. Through access to quality complementary education, children can reach their full potential.



### Technical Education

Fabretto empowers youth and their families with the necessary skills to develop and sustain their livelihoods. The “learning by doing” and “learning by earning” approach links them with the world of labor, markets, technological progress, and community development processes.





# Our Beneficiaries



► **FABRETTO CORE PROGRAMS**  
**12,237** children and youth

**22%**  
Early Education

**63%**  
Primary Education

**15%**  
Technical Education

► **PARTNERSHIPS**  
**42,411** beneficiaries

## ProFuturo

Through the ProFuturo Project, sponsored by the **Telefónica Foundation** and **“La Caixa” Foundation**, Fabretto promotes equitable access to educational technologies, educational resources, and teaching-learning methodologies for **35,786 children** enrolled in public and semi-private schools in Nicaragua.

## Nourishing the Future

In partnership with **CARE International** and **Cargill**, Fabretto implements the Nourishing the Future Project to improve food security, increase farmer productivity and foster resilience and equity in Nicaraguan communities, reaching **6,445 individuals** in 2019.

## English Access Microscholarship Program

Fabretto implements the **U.S. Embassy-sponsored** English Access Microscholarship Program, which provides **180 youth** with high-quality English language training and personal development opportunities.

# Persevering Through the Stages of Development

## Infancy

### Early Stimulation



288

Children from  
0 - 3 years old  
participated in early  
stimulation programs



177

Parents trained  
in early stimulation  
development

## Preschool



10,534

Children from  
3 - 6 years old



100%

Retention rate



156

Teachers trained in  
preschool education



435

Parents trained in  
preschool education





## Childhood



42,191

Children



98%

Retention rate



254

Teachers strengthened their teaching skills in reading and writing



2,577

Parents trained in health, nutrition, and education

## Youth



1,923

Youth



81%

Retention rate



180

Youth enrolled in English Access Microscholarship program



1,352

Youth enrolled in technical agricultural education, SAT and SATec ((Tutorial Learning System)

## Persevering Communities

Throughout the years, Fabretto has partnered with extraordinary organizations that have contributed to the strengthening of the communities we serve in Nicaragua by helping provide education, economic opportunity, and access to programs to support their well-being. We celebrate their great contributions to the advancement of these communities.



799,130

Meals served



113,520

Procter & Gamble water purification packets distributed



424

Farmers benefited with technical assistance, loans, and access to premium markets



79

Women entrepreneurs benefited with microloans and technical assistance



219

School and family gardens planted

# 2019 Highlights



## A Brighter Future for 66 Children

Fabretto formalized a partnership with **Tabolisa**, a company located in Estelí, to benefit 66 of their employees' children. Through this project, the children, ages 3-6, now have access to quality preschool education, nutritious school meals, and child care while their parents are at work.



## The Wait for a New Classroom is Over

Preschool-aged children from the community of La Cruz have been dreaming of a chance to go to school. Today, their determination has paid off. Thanks to our partner, **International Samaritan**, a brand new preschool classroom was built benefiting 15 children and 17 mothers who are now part of the early stimulation program.



## New Space to Imagine and Dream

At the start of 2019, our education center in Granada had only a small reading nook tucked away in a corner of a classroom. Now, more than 150 children can enjoy an entire library with more than 180 books (and counting) thanks to the support of **Lise Floris**, **the Kolind family**, and **the Inti Raymi Foundation**.



## Sharing the Joy of Reading

235 children participated in 15 LitClubs (Reading Clubs) created in partnership with **LitWorld**. The children were able to practice creative expression by reading to younger children in nearby schools. Their leadership by example is inspiring children in their communities to persevere in their journey towards literacy.



## An Opportunity to Change Their Lives

A group of 12 SAT students from the San Isidro center benefited from scholarships provided by **LOTO Nicaragua**. In addition to funding their education, LOTO volunteers organized a lecture series and a vocational fair to help students envision different career paths for when they enter the workforce.



## Fulfilling the Dream of Education

50 students from Tola, Rivas received college scholarships from **Ezulwini Foundation**, a long-time supporter of this town in Rivas. 3 of this group recently graduated college - fulfilling their dreams to contribute to the development of their community.





## At the Intersection of Education and Sports

In 2019, Fabretto was fortunate to partner with UEFA Foundation to bring together sports and education as a way for children to learn through play. The program enabled 454 children to form 33 soccer teams in San José de Cusmapa, Estelí, Las Sabanas and Ocotal. The children developed socio-emotional skills like trust, leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and, of course, teamwork through participation in regular team practices and regional tournaments.

With the added incentive of a fun sports program, the average retention rate for the primary enrichment program in the centers where the project was implemented rose by almost 7%. Great partnerships truly add value to our education programs!

### Project Highlights



52%

Of the students enrolled are **GIRLS**.

Participants deepened their understanding of team spirit and fairness. As a result, greater respect and goodwill were shown to peers, teachers, and coaches.

466

Parents attended workshops

99%

Attendance rate

100%

Promotion rate among students

# Persevering Through Innovation



## Breaking Educational Barriers with ProFuturo

ProFuturo is an innovative solution developed by Telefónica Foundation and “La Caixa” Foundation. The project seeks to reduce the educational gap through quality digital education for children in vulnerable environments. The platform is distributed through tablets and is a global and customizable tool based on the needs of each classroom. In partnership with ProFuturo we have distributed 8,000 tablets, benefiting 1,400 teachers and more than 36,000 students.



## Blended Learning is the Future

As the world of education pivots to digital learning, Fabretto’s SATec program has adopted a blended learning approach with the creation of a new online platform developed with the support of the Tinker Foundation. The platform provides 115 rural students access to digital tools like recorded video, Google Classroom and GeoGebra - empowering them to learn about beekeeping, crop diversification, and other topics relating to sustainable agriculture practices.



## New Education Strategies

With the support of Strachan Foundation and Patricia Price Peterson Foundation, Fabretto teachers created more than 40 innovative and effective educational strategies. By supporting students as protagonists of their own learning and encouraging their parents to get involved through playful learning activities, our students are improving their reading, writing, and social skills.

02

03

04

05



## Beekeeper Virtual Exchanges

For the first time in the history of our SAT program, students participated in virtual exchanges with fellow beekeepers in the United States and Mexico thanks to the Mortenson Family Foundation. Some of the topics covered during the series of 6 exchanges included addressing the challenges created by climate change, ensuring the adequate feeding of bees by planting flower gardens, and the proper management of pests. The experience allowed the young beekeepers to not only ask questions but also offer their own tips and tricks on how to best produce honey.



## Innovating, Earning, Connecting, Sharing

In February 2019, Fabretto held the first Regional Learning by Doing Summit (ERAH) at Zamorano University, Honduras, in partnership with Tinker Foundation. ERAH is a platform for the exchange of experiences in educational methodologies like SAT, putting theory into practice and increasing productivity to positively impact rural economies.





## 30 Years Persevering

by Kevin Marinacci

Asked if my story could be highlighted as one of perseverance, I shrugged my colleagues off. “But you have been at it for 30 years,” they said. “Perhaps I am slow and/or stubborn,” I replied.

Though I lost the fight of being featured, I learned something as I reflected on my past three decades at Fabretto. My story is not just my own; it is intertwined with the stories of the numerous individuals and organizations whose collective efforts have brought us to where we are today. I am in awe of what, together, our students, parents, teachers, and you, our benefactors and partners, have been able to build through challenging times.

I remembered the war and its great toll on Nicaragua, the elections, and the promise of peace and a new beginning. I recalled the profound loss of our founder, Padre Fabretto, and how we struggled to follow in his giant footsteps as we began to rally colleagues, alumni, donors, and partners to structure an organization to carry on.

I always remarked that it was like trying to sing after Sinatra, but we kept at it. My father, Carl, came to visit and suggested I come home and get on with my life. I replied that for now, this was my life. He quickly caught the “Fabretto bug” and came to realize that the American Dream that he had lived transcended borders. It was then that we established the Fabretto Children’s Foundation in the US to raise awareness and resources to continue Padre Fabretto’s work.



©FAO/Giulio Napolitano. Copyright ©FAO

With that critical early support, we replaced leaking roofs and dirt floors with functional classrooms, libraries, and lunch halls. We invested in our team, many of whom grew up with Padre Fabretto and went on to become alumni of the program. Through working alongside Padre Fabretto, they had the passion and knew the true joy service brings but had never had the opportunity to further their studies. We began to offer them training as teachers, counselors, and administrators.

We built meaningful relationships between communities in Nicaragua, the US, and Spain through mission trips, child sponsorships and scholarships, and we celebrated this at our Night for Niños events, bringing more people to the Fabretto community and the cause.

These resources, human and financial, allowed us to make the transformational change that has brought us to today. 30 years ago we did not know where the next meal would come for the children. Today, our students and families now build food security by growing, processing,

and marketing their crops and produce. Back then, we worked to get students back into school after the war as a first step. Now, we deliver quality education through innovative methodologies like Montessori, Escuela Nueva, and SAT. From an operation run out of Padre’s old satchel and glove compartment, we have progressed to data-driven modern management that helps us focus on community priorities and a sustainable future.

I now believe and appreciate that these accomplishments were through perseverance, not stubbornness. The distinction is that those that persevere like Lester and our SAT grads know their roots, follow their aspirations, and inspire others. Our roots and aspirations are founded upon Padre Fabretto’s Faith and Action. He shared those gifts and inspired others, helping them overcome the most challenging times and disasters, both man-made and natural. Certainly, Padre inspired many, myself included. I am thankful to you all that his good works persevere and I feel privileged to continue to be a part of it.





**70** scholarships granted by Fabretto and its partners in 2019

**90%** of students who have graduated from our scholarship program are employed.



## A Journey of Perseverance

At 18 years old, Lester has achieved what no one else in his community ever has: attending university. With hard work and the support of his child sponsors throughout the years, he has made history by becoming the first in his community to reach one milestone after another.

Lester lives in the community of La Cruz, which borders the municipal dump of Estelí. His home, like all other homes in La Cruz, has no electricity or running water. However, Lester's humble background has not prevented him from dreaming of a brighter future through education. The young man enrolled in Fabretto programs during elementary school and, along with three other classmates, was the first in his community to reach secondary school. Despite having to travel great distances to get to school, he was the first and only La Cruz student to finish secondary school and, once more, the first ever to go on to university.

Against all odds, Lester has finished his first year as a business major and is one step closer to breaking the cycle of poverty. His inspiring story of firsts now serves as an example to children in his community, demonstrating that education truly opens doors to opportunity.





# Class of 2019! Innovating for a Brighter Future

Asael, Norlin, and Maricela live in different communities of the Autonomous Region of the South Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (RACCS) but they have something in common. The three are part of the first group of graduates in Fabretto’s SAT Program (Tutorial Learning System) in RACCS. The innovative rural education model takes into account the needs and potential of each community and adapts its curriculum accordingly.

Dressed in their best and accompanied by their parents, the three young students, each in their respective community, received their high school diplomas. They were part of a group of 57 SAT graduates from 19 remote communities in the municipalities of Muelle de los Bueyes, Nueva Guinea, El Ayote, and El Rama.

For Asael, a young lady from the community of Sawawa, the best part about the SAT program was being able to put knowledge into practice. The learning-by-doing and learning-by-earning approaches implemented by the program provided her with a unique opportunity to become an entrepreneur even before she received her diploma.

In the community of El Marrón, Norlin is thankful to have had the chance to learn in the field, in addition to the classroom. “By learning how to fertilize and improve our soil, we were able to increase production and, as a result, our income. We also learned how to raise chickens and manage production like a real business,” he said.

“I would like to say to the youth in my community: keep up with your schooling. Do not falter along the way, even if you face trials and difficulties. Problems will always arise but with God’s help, you can keep on going,” shared Maricela, a graduate of the San Francisco de Sulatín SAT class.

These are only three of the 57 graduates from RACCS whose lives have been changed through education. Their perseverance through the 5-year program has prepared them to become leaders and entrepreneurs who will enhance their communities. Today, RACCS has a brighter future because of them.

## Program Highlights

### Social Benefits for SAT graduates

- Increased employability
- Improved income
- Engaged communities

### Return of Investment

A 2019 cost-benefit study sponsored by IDBLab concluded that Fabretto’s SAT program is profitable, with the return on investment more than double of that of similar programs in Latin America.

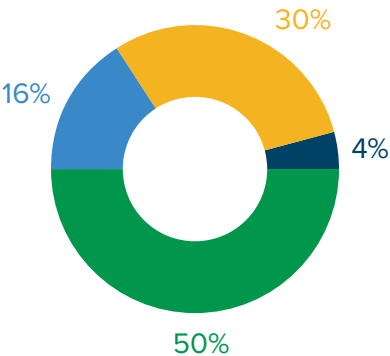


# Financial Report

2019 TOTAL REVENUE

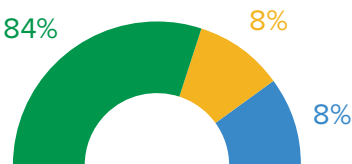
**\$4.6M**

- Individual Giving
- Government Grants
- Foundations & Corporations
- In-Kind



## INVESTMENT

- Programs
- Administration
- Fundraising



# GRACIAS

Our work would not be possible without the contributions of committed institutions and individuals alike. 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 2019.



# PERSEVERANCE

**Fabretto**

[info@fabretto.org](mailto:info@fabretto.org) | [www.fabretto.org](http://www.fabretto.org)

