



REIMAGINE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Fabretto
Foundation | Fundación

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.



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Amigos,

To say that 2020 was a difficult year would be an understatement. Our hearts go out to people around the world who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Nicaragua, the communities we serve were already suffering the effects of poverty and a recent socio-economic crisis as the first cases of the virus were reported in Nicaragua in March of 2020. But the Nicaraguan people, as we have seen throughout Fabretto's history, are resilient, creative, and capable of persevering through anything.

I have also learned from my time in Nicaragua that you can always find a bright side, even in the darkest of times. All these changes that were forced upon us also inspired us to reimagine strategies, solutions, and a new path forward. As the entire world struggled to keep children and youth learning continuously from home, our staff in Nicaragua

responded quickly to the new context—distance learning with little or no access to the internet in most cases.

Online training for teachers was made available for the first time as in-person activities were canceled across the board. Teachers like Ana Bell developed new resources like digital and printed study guides to ensure no student would be left without access to education. Children like David and their families adapted to learning from home. Virtual classes using tools like WhatsApp and Google Classroom became the new norm for some of our Technical and Vocational Education students like Francisco.

Towards the end of the year, just as Fabretto education centers were slowly starting to open back up, Nicaragua was hit with another emergency: two major hurricanes back-to-back within two weeks. As we learned of the mounting destruction of people's homes and

crops in multiple communities throughout Nicaragua, our priority became emergency relief. With your generous support, we distributed blankets, water filters and purifiers, food, and more to begin to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

Throughout 2020, we could never have reached as many children and their families with much-needed emergency aid had it not been for the overwhelming response from partner organizations and individual donors even while facing serious challenges of their own. In a year where we could have felt alone and apart, we felt more united and supported than ever.

Gracias,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Medina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



WHY NICARAGUA?

In 2019, the poverty rate in Nicaragua realized the most significant increase in 14 years—a situation that was further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With close to half of the population plunged into poverty and the entire country impacted by the virus, Nicaragua was dealt another blow in November. Two major hurricanes less than two weeks apart left the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and crops in their wake, accelerating the need for essential services such as water and food, and most importantly, a need for hope as the country faces a long-term recovery.

44.4%

of the population lives on less than \$2 a day¹

11.8%

of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition¹

HURRICANES ETA & IOTA

65%

of corn and bean production was lost²

+400,000

people affected²

¹Fideg

²Eclac



OUR PROGRAMS



EARLY EDUCATION

Fabretto's foundational program takes a holistic approach to education and early childhood development. By partnering with parents and teachers alike, children ages 0-6 are able to meet key milestones during one of the most crucial periods of their lives.



PRIMARY EDUCATION

In the Primary Education Program, children can develop the skills they need to be ready for the next stage of development through a community-based approach to education that includes after-school enrichment, nutritional support, access to trained teachers, and parental involvement.



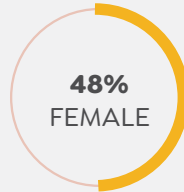
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Technical and Vocational Education Program empowers students with the tools they need to develop and sustain livelihoods that can help them break the cycle of poverty and realize their potential. The program achieves this by connecting vocational education and on-the-job training.

OUR REACH PEOPLE

STUDENTS

52,945



FABRETTO CORE PROGRAMS

8,043 children and youth



1,934

Early
Education



4,842

Primary
Education



1,267

Technical
Education

PARTNERSHIPS

42,411 beneficiaries

37,631

ProFuturo

7,091

Nourishing the
Future

180

English Access
Program

PARTNER PROGRAMS

PROFUTURO

Through the ProFuturo Project, sponsored by **Telefónica Foundation** and **“La Caixa” Foundation**, Fabretto promotes equitable access to educational technologies and methodologies. In 2020, ProFuturo was vital to helping students and teachers adapt to distance learning.

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 Nicaragua. The project also supported small producers who lost their crops during hurricanes in 2020.

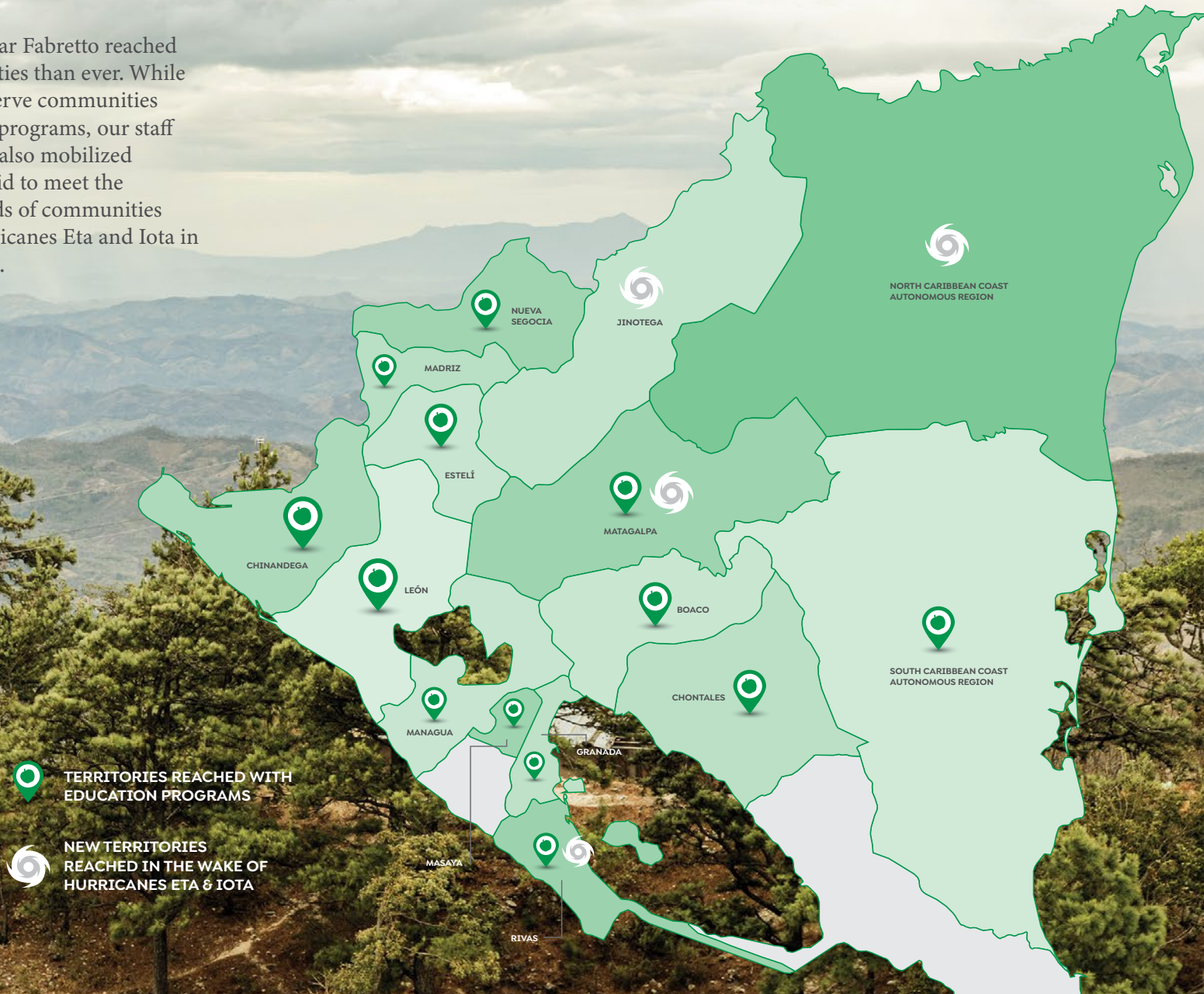
ENGLISH ACCESS

MICROSCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Fabretto implemented the **U.S. Embassy-sponsored English Access Microscholarship Program**, which provided youth with high-quality English language training that was implemented virtually in 2020.

OUR REACH

2020 was the year Fabretto reached more communities than ever. While continuing to serve communities with education programs, our staff and supporters also mobilized humanitarian aid to meet the emergency needs of communities affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in other territories.



95%

of Fabretto teachers needed financial support to access mobile data through their cell phone.



Staff started working from home except for activities related to relief efforts.

All education programs were delivered virtually or using printed study guides.

Students and teachers accessed free online resources like Google Classroom.

Hygiene and food kits were distributed to students and their families.

A ROADMAP TO OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE 2020

MARCH - APRIL

A rapid assessment was conducted to learn if students had access to technology and internet/phone signal.

Staff designed new teaching resources adapted to the context.

The transition to distance learning began.

A COVID-19 prevention campaign was launched to reach all our communities.

MAY-JUNE





Small groups sessions began at schools one or two days per week, following strict biosafety protocols.

Limited in-person technical assistance was reactivated.

JULY – AUGUST

The programs team developed a biosafety protocol in preparation for in-person activities.

SAT students began attending the centers one day per week in small group sessions.

Virtual/distance learning continued.

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER



REIMAGINE EDUCATION

The 2020 school year had only just begun in February when the pandemic hit Nicaragua. How do you support children in communities that do not have phone signal, let alone internet, during the pandemic? That was the question that Fabretto's team faced starting in April 2020, when we temporarily closed in-person classes for the safety of teachers, children, and their families.

Our goal was clear: to ensure all children continued learning—whether in the classroom full-time, part time, or entirely from home. A comprehensive and adaptive approach to distance learning allowed us to reach our beneficiaries, from babies in early stimulation sessions to youth in technical training.



DIGITAL LITERACY

Although many of our technical education students already had experience with blended learning offered in Fabretto centers, not all students had access to an internet-capable device or internet connection at home. As video calls, WhatsApp groups, and Google Classroom became essential, we began a tablet lending program, provided a number of students with cell phones and data plans, reached the rest through student monitors who had been assigned a device, and began training students in the use of technology in the virtual classroom.

100
TABLETS
PURCHASED

109
STUDENTS
SUPPORTED WITH
DATA PLANS



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

With less than 5% of students having consistent access to internet at home, our next challenge was figuring out how to reach the other 95%. The main solution, it turns out, was developing and printing study guides, a resource that may seem ordinary to some but is actually a luxury in Nicaragua due to the printing costs. Students were also provided with school supplies and community libraries were established to provide children with access to books.

107

STUDY GUIDES
DESIGNED AND
DEVELOPED

16

COMMUNITY
LIBRARIES
ESTABLISHED



SOCIOEMOTIONAL SUPPORT

When one month of learning from home turned into 3 turned into 6, many students naturally became unmotivated. Adapting the curriculum to include activities to support socioemotional development became a priority. Additionally, teachers went above and beyond, visiting their students at home, calling, or sending motivational video messages.

93%

RETENTION RATE
IN EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

81%

OF SOCIOEMOTIONAL SKILLS
DEVELOPED BY PRESCHOOL
STUDENTS (IDELA)



COVID-19 PREVENTION

Weeks before the first case of the virus was even reported in Nicaragua, our COVID-19 prevention campaign had already begun. Additional handwashing stations were set up in our centers and soap, hand sanitizer, and facemasks were distributed at various points during the year along with informational posters and flyers.

6

NEW HANDWASHING
STATIONS BUILT IN THE
FABRETTO CENTERS

52

RURAL SCHOOLS
RECEIVED HAND
WASHING KITS

A young boy with a joyful expression is seated on a blue metal school desk with a wooden top. He is wearing a green baseball cap, a plaid shirt, and dark pants. The setting is outdoors on a dirt path, with a rustic wooden structure and trees in the background. The text 'IMAGINING A BETTER FUTURE FOR DAVID' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

IMAGINING
A BETTER
FUTURE
FOR DAVID



David, a third grader from rural Cusmapa, is one of our students who lives in a community so remote that not even cell phone service reaches his home. One afternoon in April 2020, his teacher, Rosa Amelia, explained to his parents that in-person classes were canceled and that they would begin distance learning as one of a series of protocols meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

David felt like he was leaving his nest; that magical space in which he played, learned, sang, and laughed. But his love for education and the constant support of Rosa Amelia and

his parents motivated him to continue studying from home.

For David's parents, the term "distance learning" was new and scary. They did not have a cell phone or internet to access online classes, nor did they feel prepared to support David adequately because of their own limited education. In response, Fabretto teachers quickly developed and designed printed study guides to be distributed door-to-door.

Every time his teacher came to his home to drop off a new study guide, David's eyes lit up. His afternoon

routine began by working through his study guide, which integrated activities like songs, stories, and crafts using recycled materials available at home. In turn, Rosa Amelia helped David's parents become important partners in their child's education.

"David's parents were always willing to do anything needed to ensure their child would continue his education. We visited him every week, following all of the established biosafety protocols." -

Could you imagine learning without access to internet these days? Children like David teach us that it is possible. Despite the challenges of distance learning, he finished school with one of the best grade averages in his class.

REIMAGINE TEACHING

Like most students, in 2020, teachers in Nicaragua faced incredible barriers as they transitioned to distance learning—most do not have a laptop or internet at home, and few teachers had comprehensive training in technology integration.



ONLINE TRAINING

Fabretto offered training and mobilized resources to help teachers reimagine their practice. Thanks to an existing partnership with ProFuturo and La Caixa Foundation, Fabretto was quickly able to organize virtual training sessions with not only Fabretto teachers, but also public school teachers across the country. Through these workshops, teachers learned about information and communication technologies, blended learning, emotional intelligence and resilience, among other relevant topics.

1,410
TEACHERS TRAINED

1,135
TEACHERS IMPLEMENTED
TECHNOLOGY IN THE
CLASSROOM THROUGH
THE PROFUTURO PROJECT




REACHING EVERY CHILD

Against all odds, our exemplary teachers created study guides and video lessons, made home visits, sent motivational messages, and made sure to keep the Fabretto spirit alive despite the distance. Without our teachers' creativity and hard work, we would not have been able to bring education to the homes of all the children and youth we serve.

58
VIDEO LESSONS
CREATED

40
NEW SCHOOLS EQUIPPED WITH
TECHNOLOGICAL SUITCASES
CONTAINING A LAPTOP,
ROUTER, PROJECTOR, AND
TABLETS



MOTIVATED LEARNER TO MOTIVATED TEACHER

In early 2020, Ana Bell started teaching her 5th year Tutorial Learning System (SAT in Spanish) students how to use Google Classroom. Little did she know that just a few weeks later, the online learning tool would become essential to ensuring her students could graduate at the end of the year.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit and Fabretto students were sent home in early April, Ana Bell and her fellow teachers had to reimagine the way they taught. After running a quick diagnostic to identify whether the students had access to an internet-

capable device, the team decided on Whatsapp as the main channel of communication. Students were then provided with smart devices and data plans as needed.

Ana Bell had no prior teaching experience when she joined Fabretto, but she has always been a motivated learner. In 2019, she was awarded a unique opportunity to travel to Japan with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to participate in a course on agribusiness and agro tourism, where she learned about the importance of adapting projects to local contexts, an

experience that would prove useful as 2020 required adapting to great change.

Despite having some experience using technology in the classroom before the pandemic hit, Ana Bell was grateful for the virtual courses Fabretto provided to all SAT tutors. In these courses, she learned how to create visual presentations, infographics, and step-by-step tutorial videos, among other skills.

As students and teachers alike adjusted to remote learning, Ana Bell noticed different trends. Some students were doing

uncharacteristically well, while others appeared unmotivated. She learned that some were experiencing issues at home like having to help support their families when their parents lost their jobs, so she reached out to them individually with motivational messages.

At the end of the school year, despite all the challenges, 23 of her 28 students graduated from the program.

“Those who leave, always come back. As a teacher, one always remembers them with love.”

REIMAGINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Nicaragua was hit hard in 2020: first by the COVID-19 pandemic, and then by two major hurricanes. In response, we pivoted toward directing aid to the most vulnerable communities.



COVID-19 AID

Fabretto moved quickly to reach the families who needed it most—children who depended on nutritious school meals, parents who lost their jobs, families without room in their budgets to purchase soap and face masks, and more.

8,713

FOOD PACKAGES
DELIVERED

7,090

HYGIENE KITS DELIVERED

1,270

PARENTS TRAINED IN
COVID-19 PREVENTION,
NUTRITION, AND HEALTH



HURRICANE RELIEF

In November, the category 4 and 5 hurricanes that hit Nicaragua made the situation even more dire. Families lost their homes, farmers lost their crops, and access to food and clean drinking water was limited. With help from our committed partners, we reached thousands of families with food, supplies, water, and furnishings.

100,000

POUNDS OF FOOD DELIVERED TO
SHELTERS AND FAMILIES

1,986

FOOD & HYGIENE PACKAGES
DELIVERED

7,000

LITERS OF PURIFIED WATER
DISTRIBUTED IN RIVAS AND THE
CARIBBEAN



REBUILDING TOGETHER

The river that runs near Rosa's house in the municipality of Nancimí, Rivas, destroyed everything in its path, leaving her family homeless. The place she had always called home disappeared within minutes with the intense currents caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota.

The strength of a hurricane was something Rosa's family had never experienced. "It was terrifying," she recalls, but she was not alone. "The day after the hurricane, as soon as my phone got a signal, I had many missed calls from people at Fabretto asking how we were and how they could help."

Rosa Inés graduated with a degree in Social Sciences in 2020, a dream she was able to achieve thanks to the support of the Ezulwini Foundation,

a committed Fabretto partner that has supported university scholarships in this area for many years. However, the foundation's support did not end there. As soon as Ezulwini heard about the emergency situation, they responded by sending cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and materials to rebuild Rosa's home and others.

"They gave us all the things we needed right away. Even my grandmother was shocked, saying that God does wonders and works miracles. Despite losing everything during the hurricane, we got back most of it thanks to the Fabretto family and Ezulwini."

OUR HUMANITARIAN AID PARTNERS

Reaching thousands of families with humanitarian aid was only possible thanks to the support of our incredible partners. They all responded to the families' needs through cash donations, in-kind donations, and help with logistics and distribution. Our partners included:

Adveniat
 American Nicaraguan Foundation
 Angels With a Mission Foundation
 Avon
 Beeck Family
 CARE
 Cargill
 Cellini Family
 Claro
 Clínica Roberto Clemente
 Comisión Nicaragüense del Huevo
 Comparte Foundation
 Cross Catholic Outreach
 Dr. Scholl Foundation
 E. Chamorro Industrial S.A.
 Ezulwini Foundation
 Feed My Starving Children
 Global Giving

Habitat for Humanity
 IDB Lab
 Iglesia Monte de Sión
 Kettering Foundation
 Light a Single Candle
 LOTO Nicaragua
 Luxembourg Embassy
 Nestlé Nicaragua
 NicaSalud
 ORPHANetwork
 Parroquia Sangre de Cristo
 Procter & Gamble
 Proyecto 505
 Tin Roof Foundation
 UEFA Foundation for Children



3 YEARS EMPOWERING RURAL ENTREPRENEURS

For three years, IDB Lab financed a project to give rural youth in Nicaragua an opportunity to add value to their communities through access to technical education.

The project strengthened Fabretto's SAT (Tutorial Learning System) program by improving agricultural practices and linking students' entrepreneurial ventures to high-value markets.

Today, we can see the fruits of this partnership in young people like Francisco, a natural-born entrepreneur who has been able to bring theory into practice thanks to the project.

SINCE 2017

2,242

students enrolled in quality education programs. (41% girls)

94

entrepreneurial ventures launched by students

186

farm families diversified crops

450

beneficiaries entered new markets

➔ [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the project.



FRANCISCO: THE LIMITLESS ENTREPRENEUR

Francisco, a 16-year-old 5th year SAT student, is a natural entrepreneur. He produces honey as golden as the color of his eyes and dreams of being the best beekeeper in his community. He also has a chicken farm and hopes to produce enough meat for future ventures. In 2020, when he moved from in-person classes to digital education, he was unexpectedly taken out of his comfort zone but he stood out as he adapted and is now an expert in digital tools.

“We had quite a few classes online. I already knew a little bit about technology, so the switch was not too

difficult”, comments Francisco.

Thanks to his SAT tutor, Yossy, he learned about the Entrepreneurial Challenge, which was open to all SAT students in the area and aimed to promote entrepreneurship among students and their families. As Francisco already knew about beekeeping, he did not hesitate to present a business initiative focused on honey.

His project, *Manjares de la Naturaleza* (Delicacies of Nature), achieved second place in the challenge. Along with the recognition,

he was granted \$250, with which he bought a hive, a protective suit, and tools to start the production and marketing of honey together with his aunt, who mentored him throughout the project, and his teacher, Yossy.

Through his hard work and the support of his family, Francisco now has not one but six hives. His goal for the upcoming year is to have 30 hives and to harvest 15 barrels of honey. Additionally, Francisco hopes to develop a beekeeping tour, use his chickens to provide food service to tourists, and in the long term, he plans to study agroecology. His

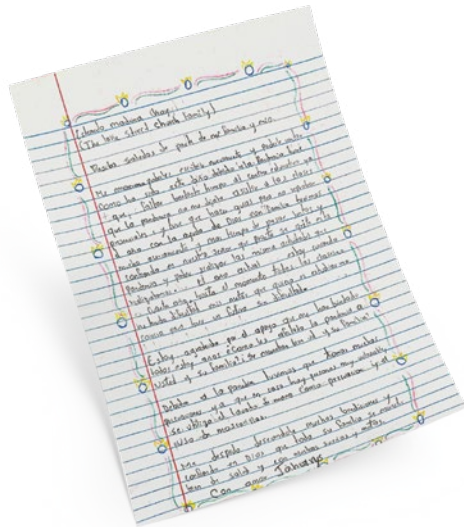
imagination for entrepreneurship truly has no limits.

“I like the SAT program because they follow up on the projects and dreams that I have and help me make them come true.”

REIMAGINE CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Child sponsorship is more than merely a recurring donation. Child sponsorship changes lives. In 2020, when children around the world doubted whether things would get better, Fabretto child sponsors gave children in Nicaragua assurance that they could. Through supporting their education, messages of hope, additional aid packages, and more, our sponsors allowed children to imagine a better future for themselves and their families.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Register online at fabretto.org/sponsor or contact us at sponsoredchild@fabretto.org



IN 2020

1,323

children in Nicaragua benefited from child sponsorship

1,149

sponsors changed lives in Nicaragua





REIMAGINE EVENTS

Dear friends,

Since the 1990s, Fabretto has held Night for Niños events in cities throughout the U.S.—New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., Miami, Houston, San Francisco and Denver. In 2020, we started our year off with a beautiful event in February in Washington D.C.. Little did we know what would come next.

Our Night for Niños events raise significant funds to keep education programs running in Nicaragua. As we were forced to make the decision to cancel all in-person events for the remainder of 2020, we were nervous but optimistic about organizing our first ever virtual event.

On October 1st, we brought la Familia Fabretto together under one common goal: to unite for the niños of Nicaragua. Even though we couldn't sit at our tables, have a nice dinner, and raise our

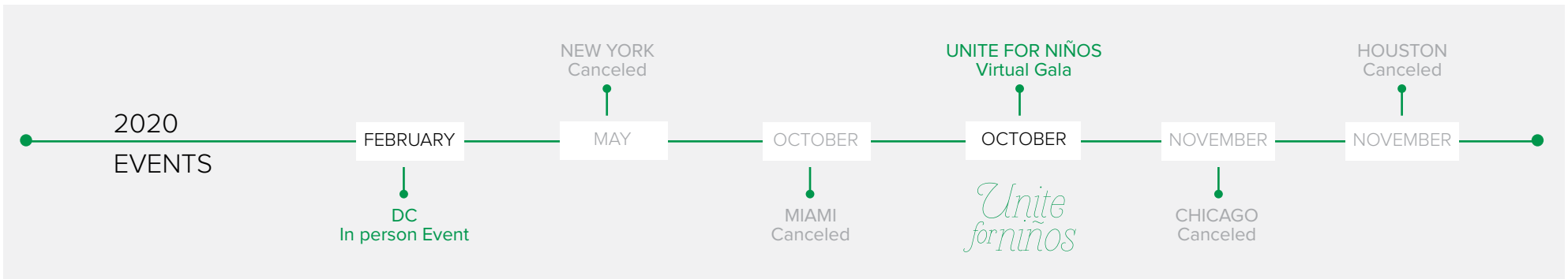
paddles, we still got to celebrate our students, child sponsors, sponsors, and the extraordinary support of our generous Familia Fabretto in our creative Virtual Gala (from our couches)!

Our Unite for Niños Virtual Event raised over \$500,000! We are so humbled and grateful for those of you who remained beautiful friends and advocates for Fabretto despite experiencing struggles of your own.

We look forward to seeing you in person soon and hopeful that future virtual events will be successful for la Familia Fabretto!

Abrazos y gracias,

Chrissy Strasser Steel
Director of Development





PLANNED GIVING BE A PART OF OF THE PADRE FABRETTO LEGACY SOCIETY

The Fabretto story began in 1948 when the Salesian missionary Padre Rafael Maria Fabretto left his hometown of Vicenza (Venice Region), Italy and journeyed to Nicaragua. Padre Fabretto, quick to immerse himself in the local community, was deeply moved by the plight of the impoverished children he encountered. For more than four decades, Padre Fabretto sustained the Oratorios despite many adversities.

Padre Fabretto's Legacy lives on through our students, teachers, staff, and the thousands of donors, friends, churches, and companies who believe in his mission and spirit of service.

On behalf of Fabretto Children's Foundation, 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.

Visit fabretto.org/planned-giving/ or send us an email at plannedgiving@fabretto.org to learn more.

"As a longtime supporter and investor in Fabretto's mission and work in Nicaragua, I know the positive impact its education and nutrition programs have on the youth and rural communities. I have seen Fabretto grow over the years with a dedicated team, strong leaders and an innovative, holistic and agile approach to development needs. I include Fabretto in my bequest plans to help grow the Long Term Investment Fund and sustain its life-changing contributions to children and society." - George Long





HAPPY 100TH YEARS, PADRE FABRETTO!

Every year, on July 8, we celebrate Padre Fabretto's birth and his invaluable legacy of love. Last year, Fabretto education centers honored his centennial with a virtual reading marathon that brought together children and youth from all of our education centers. The celebration also included original songs and poems dedicated to our founder.

In preparation for the cause of his sainthood, at the request of the Bishop overseeing the task, our

colleague, Cornelio Alfaro, traveled to Rome in 2020 to study at the Vatican the requirements and processes for canonization. As we gather testimonies and evidence of Padre Fabretto's life and works, we are also producing a documentary.

When Father Fabretto first set foot on Nicaraguan land, he did not imagine that many years later his legacy would be more alive than ever. The humble oratorios he once built still stand in

the teachers who serve children each day with the same love and spirit of service, the students who grow to become servant leaders in their own communities, and in the committed supporters who also make up an integral part of La Familia Fabretto. Thank you for being part of this legacy.

[Watch the documentary trailer](#)



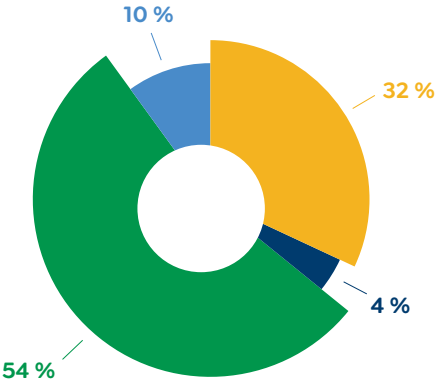
Cornelio Alfaro receives his diploma from the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2020 TOTAL REVENUE

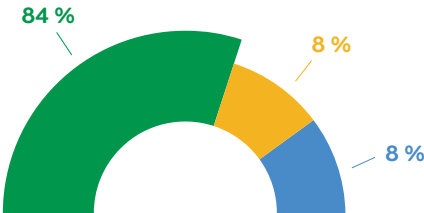
\$4.1M

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



INVESTMENT

- Programs
- Administration
- Fundraising





GRACIAS

Thank you for reimagining a better future for our communities. Your support allowed us to go above and beyond in one of the most challenging years. 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 2020.

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