

2015 Annual Report



Hearts of Gold

Registered Ecuadorian Foundation

A Big thank you...

Thank you for making 2015 yet another remarkable year for Hearts of Gold! I've had the privilege of being Executive Director for close to one year now, with 2015 marking our second year as a legal foundation in Ecuador.

I continue to be excited about the changes that happen every day with our young and vibrant organization and inspired by the growth of our partner's. What inspires us? It is the changes we see in our partners' eyes as they receive the help and support they need. Each one of our partners knows that you are there for them, whether they are an organization who helps kids, a food bank, or an individual family. The one-on-one relationship offered by Hearts of Gold helps grow our partners' skills in program design and administrative capacity, increasing their confidence in their own ability to achieve. This community's support powerfully impacts the incredible changes we see in our partners prog-

ress throughout the year and, hopefully, for a lifetime.

Our dedicated staff has done an incredible job this year to expand our outreach while strengthening our programs and services.

We have once again been able to increase the value of services delivered by 44% from 2014 to 2015 to a total of \$109,501.75.

A few program highlights include:

- ♥ Partnering with the Province of Azuay to open the very first food bank in the province and the second in the country.
- ♥ Creating a thematic Language Integration Program with the City of Cuenca.
- ♥ Providing over 26,559 nutritional lunches for the children of El Arenal.
- ♥ Increased program outreach from 2012 to 2015 by 698%.

Our ongoing goal is to keep our overhead low while increasing our services to our partners, and you truly make this possible! Hearts of Gold grows each year due to our continually expanding community who comes together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission.

A big thank you to all of our generous donors, businesses, and community partners, our incredibly dedicated volunteers, and our committed staff and board, all of whom have played a huge role in our positive change this year! Because of you, we have served more organizations than ever before, seen impressive results, logged in record volunteer hours, and increased our community support. I am thrilled to share this year's "story of change" with you. Thank you again!

Natasha Verkley

Hearts of Gold Director

WHO WE ARE

WHAT IS HEARTS OF GOLD?

The Hearts of Gold Foundation is a non-profit organization in Cuenca, Ecuador that works with existing grassroots organizations to empower the work that they do. We strive to advance our partner organizations' capacities and community leadership, and to design holistic programs providing for at-risk children and families. We are a community of solidarity bridging the gap between Ecuadorians and expats and investing in leading community changemakers.

VISION

Connect global and local citizens to foster an environment where everyone enjoys lives of hope, health and dignity in Ecuador.

MISSION

To partner and strengthen the capacity of community-based nonprofits to ensure that communities achieve ways of life in Ecuador.

A REGISTERED ECUADORIAN FOUNDATION

In 2015 Hearts of Gold celebrated its two-year anniversary as a Registered Ecuadorian Foundation. Our Foundation status allows our partner programs, some of which who are not Foundations themselves, to live under our umbrella and abide by legal requirements of the Ecuadorian government.

Legal Name: Fundación Hearts of Gold

Foundation Type: Level 1

Registration #: 0000051266

RUC #: 0190395251001

Governing Body: Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES)

- To search our official registration certificate click here: <http://www.sociedadcivil.gob.ec/directorio>



Hearts of Gold

Registered Ecuadorian Foundation

What we do...

THE PARTNER AGENCY PROGRAM

The Partner Agency Program (PAP) encases the diverse services Fundación Hearts of Gold offers to our local community under one direct program. It evolved from our response to the unique needs of grassroots community initiatives and struggling non-profit organizations in Cuenca, Ecuador.

Under the PAP, community leaders who have dedicated their lives to serve at-risk children and families can receive the critical assistance & training needed to expand and strengthen their service programs.



Impacts of the Partner Agency Program



Family at El Arenal



Language Program

90

nonprofit professionals trained on government documents and reporting on behalf of MIES.

2 pilot round-table discussions with nonprofit directors to learn the depth of service problems they face for their institution and for their beneficiaries.

3550

Impacted lives of children and families throughout Ecuador to date.



Delivered

\$109,501.75

in services and direct funding to over

10

different community programs and initiatives in 2015.

OUR YEAR REVIEW...

5 PARTNERS

12 PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

3,550 LIVES IMPACTED.

PRIMARY PARTNERS

♥ CETAP-LUCY

- An early stimulation center dedicated to the well-being of 35 children in the rural community of Chilcapamba. It provides pre-school programs, after-school programs, various disability and trauma therapy programs, sexual education courses, and individual and family counseling.
- Provided academic and therapy sponsorships to 30 children.
- Donated school supplies and shoes for 45 students.
- Contributed to the construction of "Casita de Chloe," a new office for the center's therapy services.

♥ FUNDACIÓN EL ARENAL

- A foundation serving 84 children and adolescents from one of the poorest sectors of Cuenca. It features an after-school program, an educative counseling program, and also a nutritional lunch program. El Arenal is a safe haven for many children whose families work long days in marketing booths in the Feria Libre, the city's largest "Mercado."
- Contributed to tutoring sessions and educational material for the children of El Arenal.
- Supported the foundation's move to a safer, more affordable and accessible building.

♥ NOVA EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- An inclusion school where special needs children and normal children are educated together, fostering acceptance and compassion between children. Special needs students receive Special Courses to help cultivate their independence and personal growth and participate in creative therapies, such as horse therapy.
 - Facilitated teacher training to build capacities of school's staff.
 - Sponsored a child to participate for the academic year. Raised funds for a roofing project.

Did you know that 75% of Ecuadorian foundations close within 3 years?

PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

♥ LANGUAGE INTEGRATION PROGRAM

- Hearts of Gold Volunteers teach free English classes to young Ecuadorians and in exchange the Municipality of Cuenca offers complimentary Spanish classes and cultural excursions to expats. This program, the first of its kind in Cuenca, pioneers a new way to foster relationships between Ecuadorians and the expanding Expat community.
 - Took place at 8 Cultural Centers in Cuenca in its pilot year (2015-2016)
 - Provides two 1.5 hour classes per week to over 200 children



♥ MIKHUNA FOOD BANK

- The first official food bank in the Azuay province opened its doors in fall 2015. The Mikhuna Food Bank serves 500 families from the lowest economic sector of Azuay through programs to improve diets and eliminate malnutrition.
 - Raised \$5,000 investment capital towards startup costs and renovations.
 - Coordinated in-kind donation of industrial kitchen at a value of \$5,000.
 - Painted the new space with Love Cuenca.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Anita Fund

Hidalgo Family Support

The Japa Housing Project

Hearts of Gold values its grassroots work with Community Leaders that direct Community Initiatives. We work alongside advocates directing projects such as The Anita Fund, which provides medical assistance to a mother in need, The Japa Housing Project, which is constructing a house for a family living in extreme poverty, and Hidalgo Family Support, which gives a family coming from domestic and sexual abuse a second chance.

♥ The Hidalgo Family

- With sexual abuse awareness training from Fundación El Arenal, Maria Hidalgo, a mother with learning disabilities, escaped an abusive home with her 3 children. Hearts of Gold supported the Hidalgo family to secure permanent housing, employment, and food.

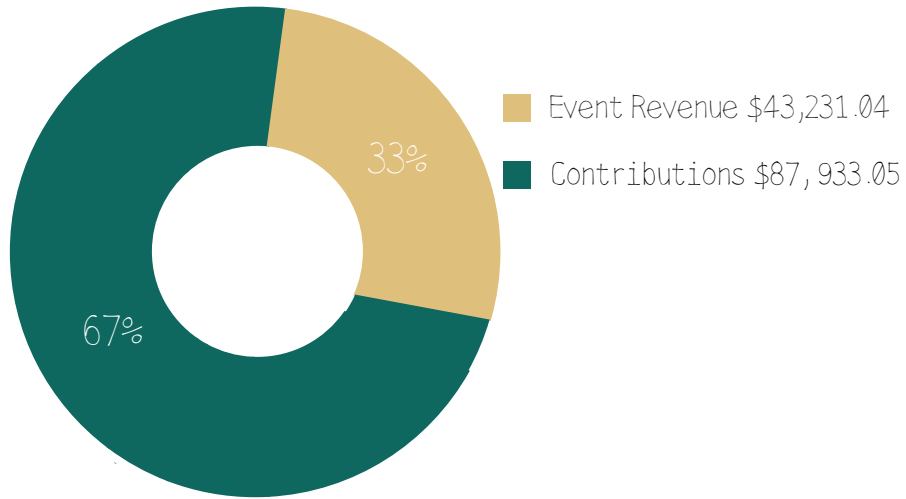


♥ The Christmas Canasta Program

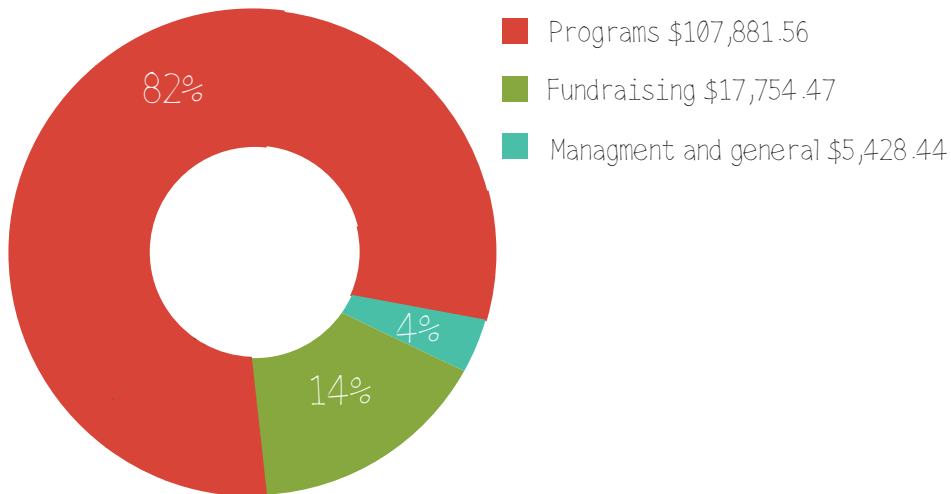
- Hearts of Gold distributed nearly \$4,000 in Christmas Canastas (Baskets), a cultural tradition in Ecuador, to provide healthy food and treats to vulnerable families of our partner foundations in the holiday season.

Financial Summary

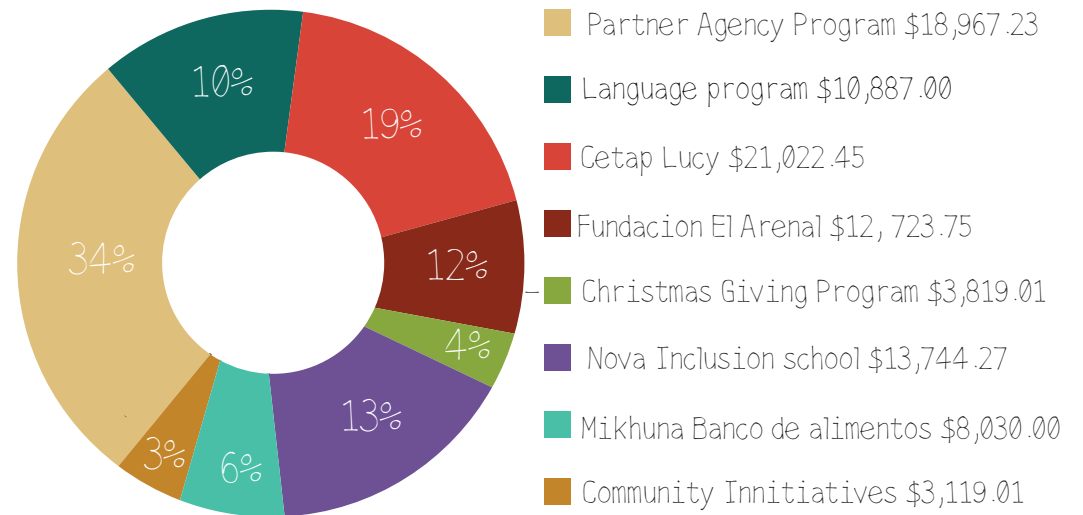
REVENUES \$131,164.09



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



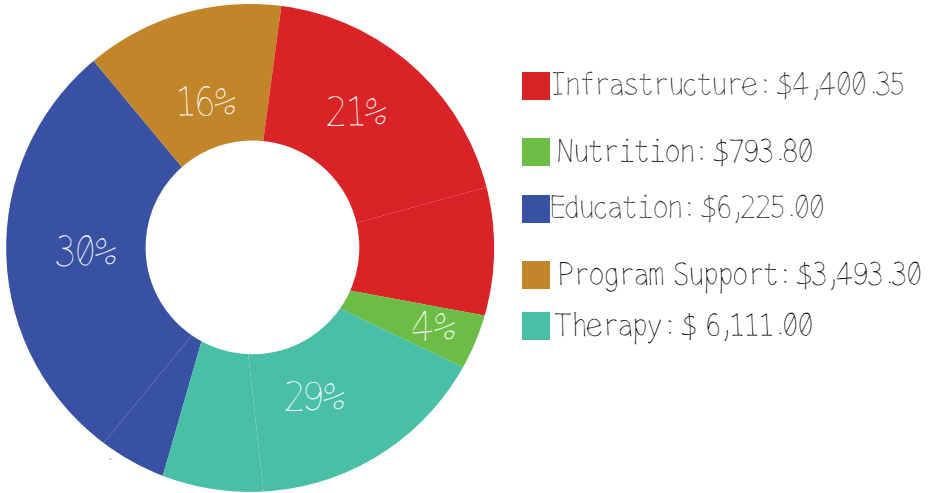
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



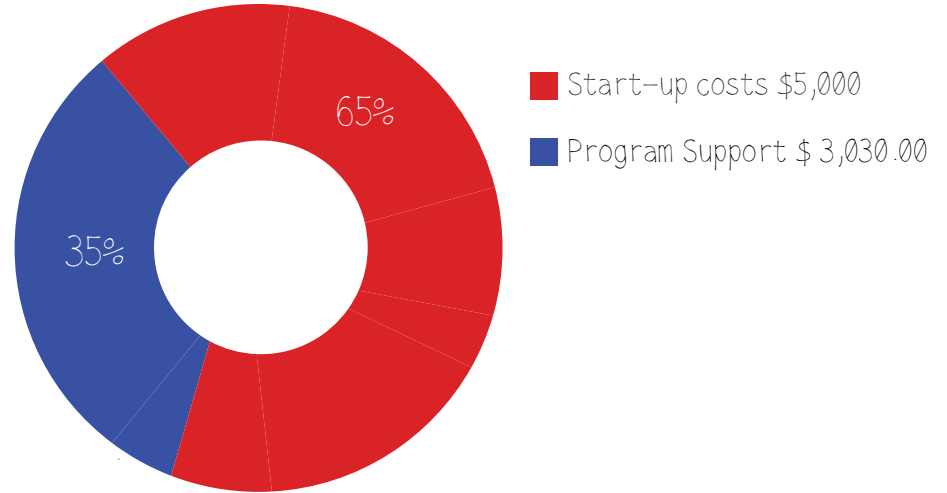
2015

Program Activities

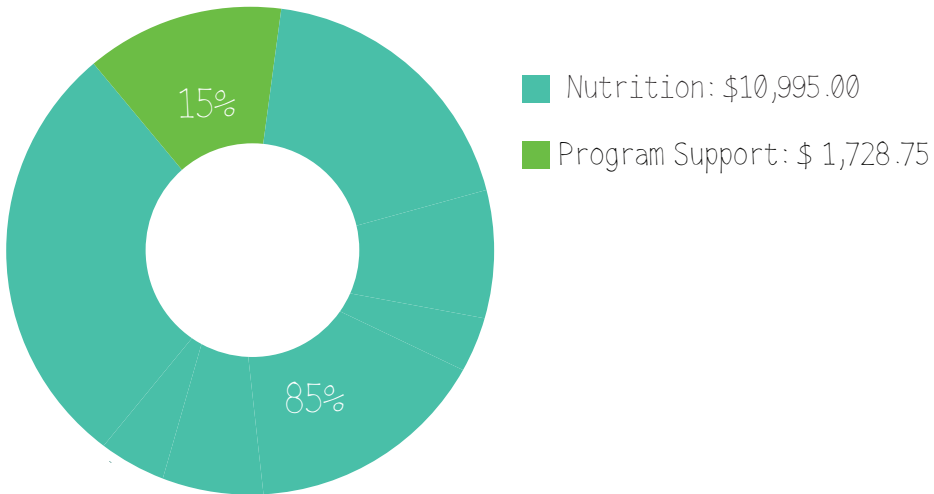
CETAP \$21,022.45



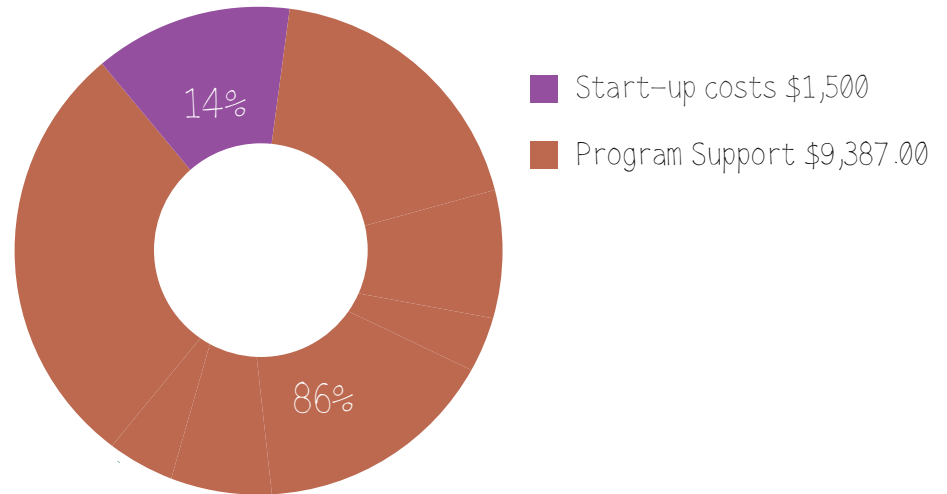
Mikhuna Food Bank \$8,030.00



EL ARENAL \$12,723.75

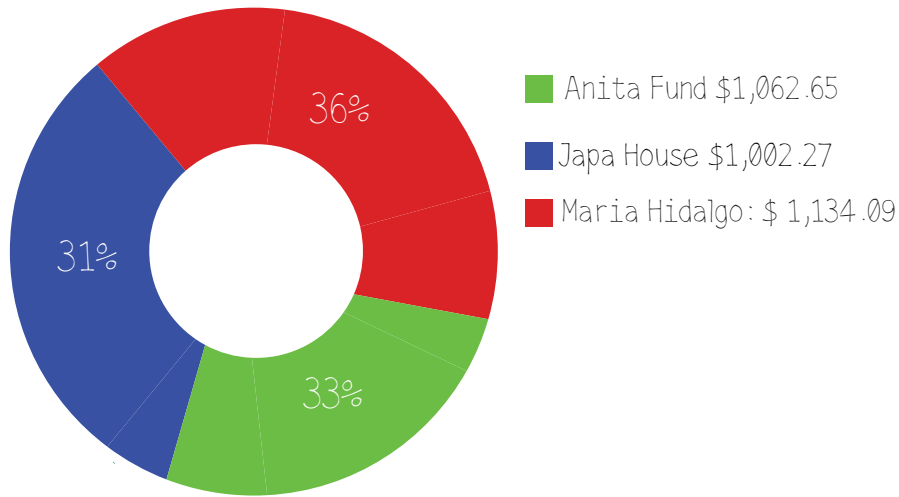


Language Program \$10,887.00

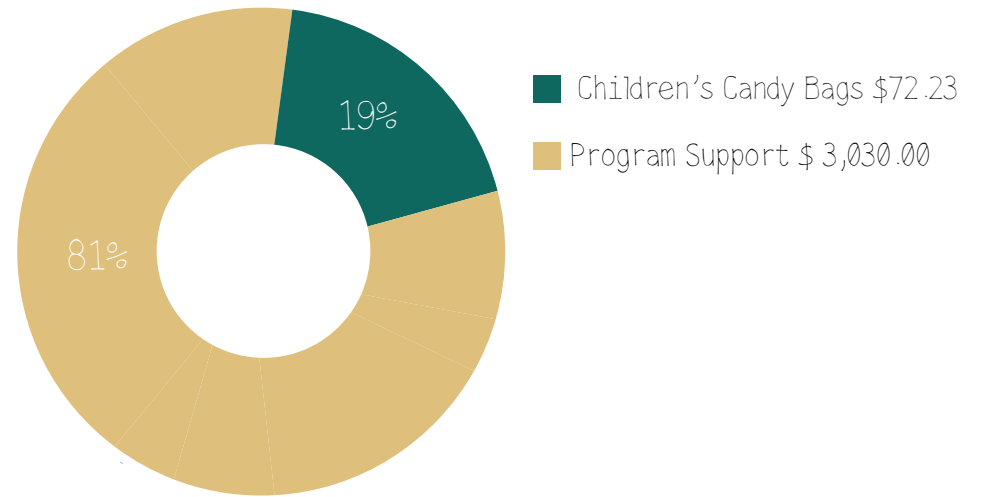


Program Activities (cont'd)

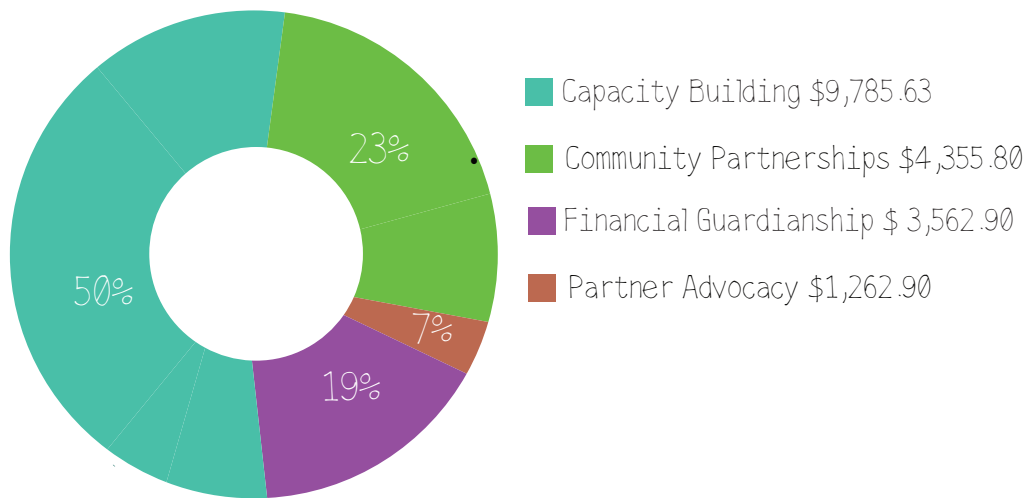
Community Initiative's \$3,119.01



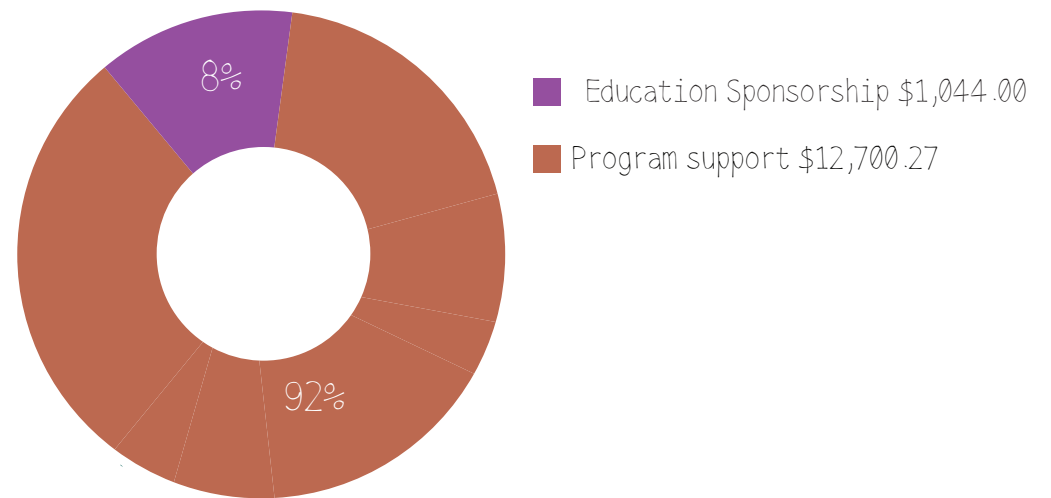
Christmas Giving Program \$3,800.00



Partner Agency Program \$18,967.23



NOVA \$13,744.27



Donate to Hearts of Gold

Empower local communities by supporting grassroots aid efforts. Your donation to Hearts of Gold will help local nonprofits become sustainable and more effective by developing their institutional capacities and program services through the Partner Agency Program.

Share Your Talents

Join other community members and connect compassion with activism through volunteering. Work with the Hearts of Gold Foundation behind the scenes of events, put your skills to work in our office, or dedicate time to one of our partner programs.

Get Involved

Make an Impact

CHANGE A LIFE

Support Your Favorite Cause

By supporting an organization, you can leave an impact on not just one child and family, but on a community for generations to come. Our partners serve poor communities in services such as nutrition, education, health, and economic autonomy.

Make an In-Kind Donation

Give a new purpose to old treasures or idle items by donating them to the Hearts of Gold Foundation. Your generous gifts can go a long way to bringing joy to a child or helping a single parent. We gratefully accept a wide-variety of gifts; from clothes, toys and goods to furniture and appliances.

When you give through Hearts of Gold, you're giving more than just a dollar amount. You're giving hope to children, families, and elderly individuals who are living in poverty right now.

HOW TO

Donate to

Hearts of Gold

YOUR
DONATION
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.

Make A Tax-Deductible
Donation from the U.S. or
Canada

Visit <http://www.cafamerica.org/> and search "Fundación Hearts of Gold" to make a tax-deductible donation of \$500 or more.

Make An Online Payment

Visit

<http://heartsofgoldfoundation.org/donations/>

Contact Our Office

Call our office at +593-7-405-6197 to learn more about how to make a donation via phone, wire bank transfer, or cash donation.



Hearts of Gold



We have been trying to grow on our own for almost two decades, helping not just the kids of NOVA, but also helping the families in our communities, those that don't know how to deal with down syndrome, autism and some other disabilities. During this time, we been constantly knocking on doors, sending letters and trying to find a way to get the financial and technical help we needed. Very few times have we been able to get some help, but most of the time we didn't even have an answer. Since we met Hearts of Gold, we feel we have somebody to rely on.

Priscila Morales

NOVA Educational Center