



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGING LIVES & EMPOWERING
THE FUTURE OF COLOMBIAN CHILDREN





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Message from the President & Board of Directors

In 2021, NEACOL continued to provide financial support to the nine projects we began to fund in 2020. They include – Fundación Soydo in El Cesar; Fundación A-Kasa in Santander de Quilichao, Cauca; Hermanas Capuchinas in Potrerito playa community, Riohacha, Guajira; Fana in Suba in Bogotá; Fundación Las Golondrinas in Córdoba, Antioquia; Fondo De Protección Infantil de Neiva Huila; Pan de Vida Cer in Cundinamarca, YMCA of East Boston, MA, and Emmaus in Haverhill, MA.

With Covid still very much active in 2021, it was still difficult for us to host in-person events. We did, however, host a few in-person. Our main event was a peer-to-peer online crowdfunding campaign, “Holding Hands for Healthy Children,” and achieved our fundraising goal by raising over \$32,000. This campaign was launched at a brunch at Latina Kitchen & Bar, where we presented the campaign and the projects we were supporting. The online campaign enabled us to reach donors, both locally and internationally.

We also hosted two Tertulias through Zoom; one with Sussie Jaramillo, Creator of Encantos, Emmy-nominated Latino-inspired bilingual nursery rhyme series; and one with Fundacion Respira, where Paola Molina spoke about Mindfulness. For Valentine’s Day, we had an online cooking class with Chef Andres Abril where we learned how to prepare Tiramisu. We also held a Zumbathon, a virtual zumba class with certified instructors, including our president, Maria Fernanda Canton.

We had a photography event, Photography for a Cause, where Borrero Photo and Video donated 80% of the proceeds from this event to NEACOL. Members had their family and individual photographs taken.

We also participated in the community festival event in East Boston, where we had a NEACOL table and shared with the community what we do.

We attended a New England Revolution Soccer event, where we mingled with our volunteers before the game and watched the Revolution vs Orlando City. Participants at this game received discounted tickets.

We closed the year with a social gathering for our volunteers and a Toy Drive.

As president and chair of the board, we would like to express how grateful we are for our sponsors, donors and members. Thanks to our committed talented volunteers, we were able to have a wonderful year and accelerate our mission of supporting Colombian children in need.

Maria Fernanda Canton
President

Marcela Danesh
Chair, Board of Directors





Making a Difference in Childrens' Lives

NEACOL is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization based in Massachusetts, composed of Colombians and friends of Colombia committed to volunteering and collaborating to support social initiatives for the benefit of Colombian children. Our goals are to generate innovative ideas, raise awareness, and channel resources to provide a better quality of life for underprivileged Colombian children. The three areas of focus for NEACOL are education, health and nutrition.

OUR MISSION

NEACOL'S mission is to generate resources to support social programs and unite efforts that will contribute to improving life conditions of Colombian children in need.

OUR VISION

A more prosperous life for Colombian children.

OUR HISTORY

In 2013, a group of Colombians in Boston along with the consul of Colombia Monica Pinzon started a conversation on how to bring help to Colombian children affected by poverty. The idea was welcomed and is now supported throughout the world by many Colombians and friends of Colombia who wanted to invest in social programs to improve the life conditions of these Children. In December 2014, NEACOL received the official 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts. NEACOL started to work on raising awareness and providing grants to local organizations in Colombia supporting specific projects focusing on improving the education, health and nutrition of disadvantaged children. The same year, NEACOL provided its first grant to fund an initiative in education. This first project impacted the lives of 270 impoverished children from Valle del Cauca, Colombia. Early in 2015, NEACOL funded a second project in nutrition that benefited 156 Colombian children and their families. Today, over 250 people from Colombia and friends of Colombia living in New England have joined the organization and have committed to NEACOL's mission. The organization is composed of 100% energized, engaged and dedicated volunteers united by a common goal of bringing opportunities to Colombian children in need.

In 2021 NEACOL focused its efforts on the area of Malnutrition as a consequence of COVID 19 with the Holding Hands for Healthy Children campaign. Three new projects were selected: Zero Hunger at Home - Malambo Atlantico, Drinking Water in Villavicencio Meta and Creser More Healthy in Medellin Antioquia arriving to a total of sixteen thousand Colombian children benefited from our contributions since NEACOL's inception in 2013.



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Projects

EMAUS - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Food Relief Program
- **Location:** Haverhill, Massachusetts
- **Beneficiaries:** 40 families, 43 adults, 91 children

Emmaus sought support from NEACOL to operate its food relief program for Latinx children during the covid-19 outbreak. Funds from NEACOL were applied towards providing families who reside in Emmaus apartments with food and supplies during the months of the outbreak. www.emmausinc.org

YMCA OF GREATER BOSTON, EAST BOSTON BRANCH - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Feeding Children and The Community
- **Location:** East Boston, Massachusetts
- **Beneficiaries:** on average, 150 children

The YMCA of Greater Boston serves the community of east Boston that is a majority Latinx, especially Colombian families, and children, with daily meals and provides pantry bags and meals directly to homes of those affected by the covid-19 crisis. www.ymcaboston.org

GOLONDRINAS - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Hand in Hand with Vulnerable Covid-19 Families
- **Location:** Cordoba, Antioquia
- **Beneficiaries:** 200 families, 240 adults, 200 children

With NEACOL's support and donations, Golondrinas delivered grocery kits consisting of nutritional food to children up to 5 years old, and pregnant women suffering from malnutrition. www.fundacionlasgolondrinas.org

ASOCIACIÓN PAN DE VIDA CER - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Bread of Life for The Neediest Households
- **Location:** Cundinamarca
- **Beneficiaries:** 445 families, 900 adults, 1,112 children

The Asociación Pan de Vida Cer has worked to support communities overcoming social challenges caused by poverty since 2003. They delivered essential grocery kits to families that were isolated and quarantined during the pandemic.

www.pandevidadacer.org

FUNDACIÓN PARA LA ASISTENCIA DE LA NIÑEZ ABANDONADA, FANA - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Nutritional Support for Vulnerable Children and Their Families
 - **Location:** Suba in Bogotá, Colombia
 - **Beneficiaries:** 188 families, 431 adults, 380 children
- Due to covid-19, FANA had to close their child care program and the children they were serving were not receiving the previously provided nutritional support and going hungry. FANA delivered essential groceries to the families of children that attended their child care program. www.fundacionfana.org

FONDO DE PROTECCIÓN INFANTIL DE NEIVA "MERCEDES PERDOMO DE LIÉVANO" - 2020/2021

- **Project:** Feeding Lives
- **Location:** Huila
- **Beneficiaries:** 83 families, 170 adults, 250 children

The Fondo de Protección Infantil de Neiva "Mercedes Perdomo de Liévano" is a home for children ages 7 to 17 that have been victims of poverty and abuse. They delivered essential supply kits to the children and families that were currently isolated and quarantined. www.albergueinfantilneiva.org.co

FUNDACIÓN HERMANAS CAPUCHINAS GUAJIRA - 2021

- **Project:** Community Dining Area "Padre Francisco"
- **Location:** Potrerito Playa Community, Riohacha, Guajira
- **Beneficiaries:** 34 families, 80 children

Provided food packages, fresh potable water, deworming medication, and vitamins for 80 children.

FUNDACIÓN SOYDOY CESAR - 2021

- **Project:** Nutrihuertas for The Arahuaco Indigenous Communities
- **Location:** El Cesar, Colombia

• **Beneficiaries:** 40 families, 80 adults, 240 children
Brought sustainable support to the food security of children from the Arahuaco community of Gunchukwa indigenous reservation in Colombia, through food production and nutritional education.

FUNDACION A-KASA 2020/2021

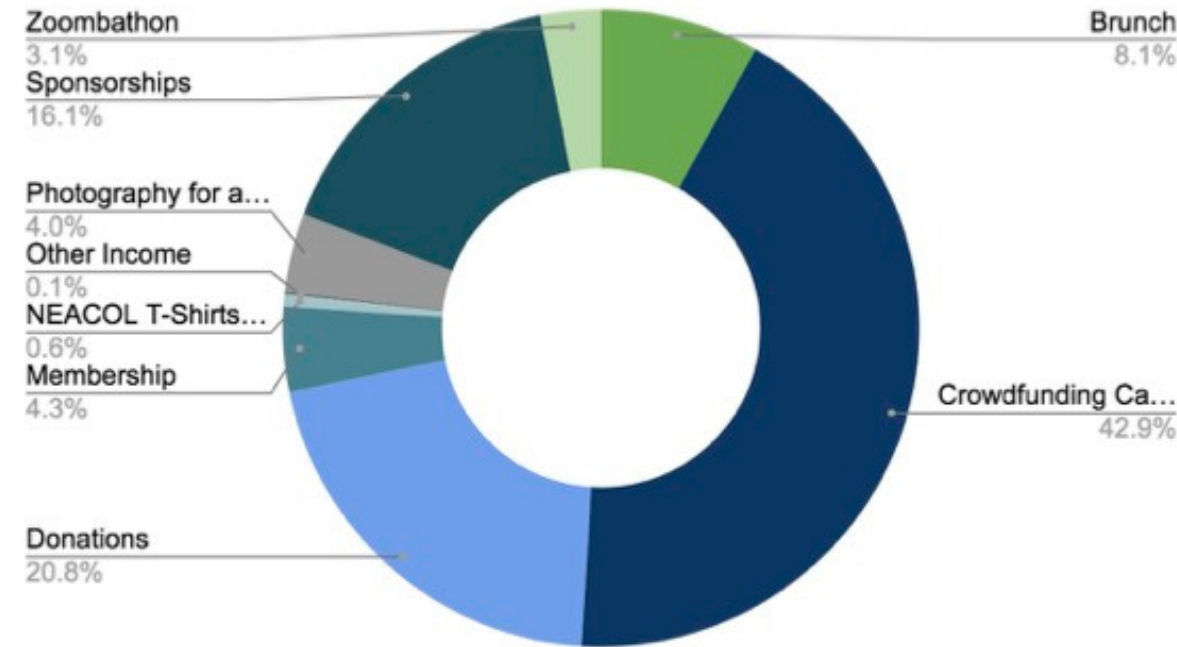
- **Project:** Quilichao Family Gardens
 - **Location:** Santander de Quilichao, Cauca
 - **Beneficiaries:** 32 families, 45 adults, 105 children
- Provided Training and supplies for 150 families to create and maintain their own healthy individual vegetable gardens. The program was for families of children with disabilities.



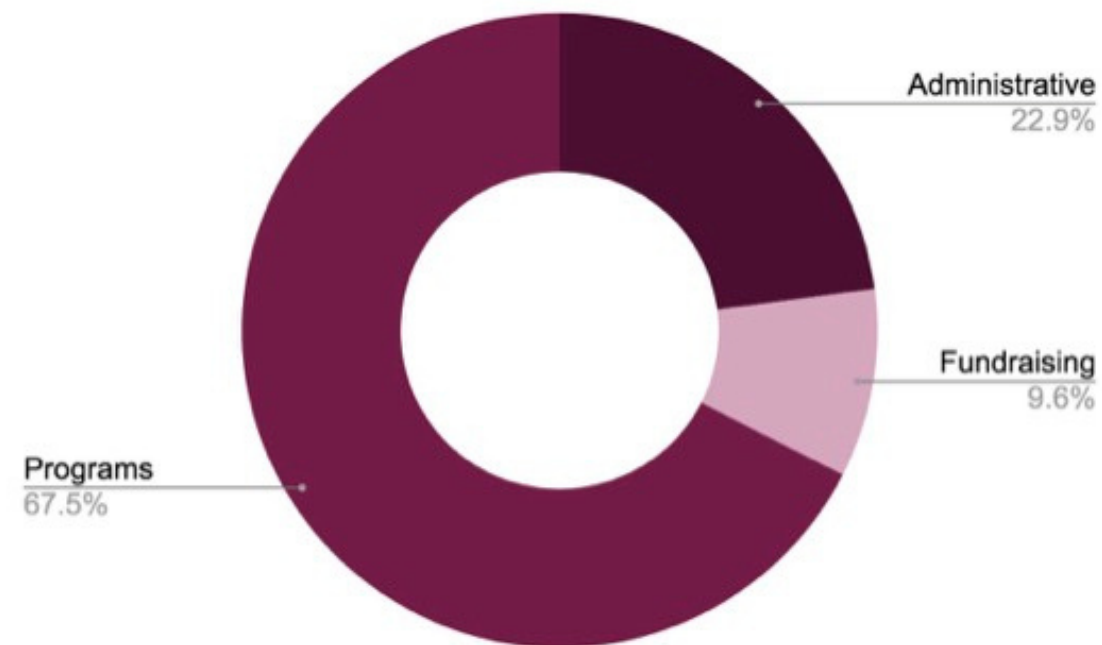


Financial Summary

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Brunch	\$ 5,778.93
Crowdfunding Campaign	\$ 30,731.85
Sponsorships	\$ 11,550.00
Donations	\$ 14,883.40
Membership	\$ 3,082.40
Zoombathon	\$ 2,204.80
Photography for a cause	\$ 2,850.00
NEACOL T-Shirts & Masks	\$ 440.40
Other Income	\$ 86.36
Total Income	\$ 71,608.14

Administrative Expenses	\$ 9,802.45
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 4,117.32
Program Expenses/Project Donation	\$ 28,900.00
Total Expenses	\$ 42,819.77

Change in Net Assets	\$ 28,788.37
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 83,055.11
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 111,843.48



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Events

Valentine's Day Cooking Class

We celebrated Valentine's Day with a wonderful online cooking class. On February 13 Colombian chef Andres Abril taught us how to make a delicious Tiramisu from scratch. Member participants enjoyed cooking in the comfort of their homes. This was a delicious and entertaining activity for the whole family!!

First Tertulia NEACOL - Susie Jaramillo

On May 6 NEACOL members and their friends and families enjoyed a "Tertulia," a virtual gathering with guest speaker Susie Jaramillo. Susie shared with us her journey as an artist and entrepreneur to become the Co-founder, President, and Chief Creative Officer of "Encantos," an award-winning entertainment-driven edtech company that honors our Latinx nursery rhymes. An exciting and moving speaker, she discussed how everything "Encantos" does is in service to the child, and develops literacy and learning skills by marrying entertainment, education, and technology..

Zoombathon

Again at the request of our members, we had our third Zoombathon on Saturday, April 24. This Zoombathon was held with the participation of three Zumba licensed professionals in different rhythms and had an audience in countries such as Colombia, Argentina and the United States.

Community Festival

Participation in a community festival event in East Boston
NEACOL joined the festival to increase visibility and awareness of the organization among the Colombian community of East Boston.

Second NEACOL Virtual Tertulia - "MINDFULNESS"

On Wednesday, June 23, Paola Molina Nichols gave us a session of Mindfulness, a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations. Paola is a Systematic Clinical Psychologist and Regional Director of the "Fundación Respira" in Colombia Specialized in Eco-Psychology / Koru-Transformation.

Photography For a Cause

"Photography for a Cause" in September brought together family, friends, and members of NEACOL in an activity where fun and interest in photography made it possible to collect funds for the projects that NEACOL is carrying out.

New England Revolution

To unite the members of NEACOL, an event was organized with the support of the NEW England Revolution at the Gillette Stadium, combining the passion for the mission of NEACOL and the passion for soccer, which is prevalent among Colombians.

Holding Hands for Healthy Children

Brunch at Latina Kitchen & Bar - Sunday, October 24. Fundraising event for family and friends of NEACOL, where the Holding Hands for Healthy Children crowdfunding campaign was presented and launched.

Crowdfunding Campaign

In 2021 we launched the Holding Hands for Healthy Children fundraising campaign to feed vulnerable children and families during this difficult time. Thanks to the support of more than 460 donors we surpassed our goal of \$30,000! Our goal was ambitious as this campaign funded 3 separate projects in Colombia to fight malnutrition and its health consequences aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-Person Volunteer Meetings (August and December)

In August, the volunteers meet again in person for the first time after the pandemic in the house of one of the volunteers and in December during the night of the candles celebrating a Colombian tradition and integrating the members of NEACOL

Youth Toy Drive

With the donation of toys at the last volunteer event in December 2021, the members of NEACOL Youth brightened Christmas for the children of the YMCA



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NEACOL Youth



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In 2021 NEACOL introduced NEACOL YOUTH, an initiative that inspires middle and high-school students to participate in our mission of helping Colombian children while building the next generation of NEACOL leaders and change-makers.

NEACOL YOUTH will be supporting different programs through the year to increase the impact of the work we do. We are thankful to these young leaders for the commitment to our mission.





Donors

Platino: \$5,000 to \$9,999

The TJX Companies, Inc.
Veronica de Greiff

Oro: \$2,000 to \$4,999

Borrero Photo & Video
MicroCAD Training & Consulting, Inc
Paul Sherman

Plata: \$1,000 to \$1,999

Andre Danesh
Angela Widom
Gloria Lara
Jay Rao
Juan Candela
Marcela Danesh
Margarita Escallon
Margarita Restrepo
Xan Tanner

Bronze: \$500 to \$999

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Alberto Betancour
Albie Alvarez-Cote
Claudia Benton
Clemencia Robledo
Josser & Angela Delgado & Tai
Julian Osorio
Laura Burke
Lazaro Orlando Lopez
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Margarita Sanclemente
María Fernanda Cantón
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Marta Rafla
Michael Garity
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Patron: \$350 to \$499

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Amigo: \$100 to \$349

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Angela Pinilla
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Diego Andres Martin
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Elvira Radaca
Eneida Roman
Erika Lopez Bertieri
Everwood Day Camp
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Gala J. Lopez Sierra
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Lina Jimenez
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Mandy Belfort
Marcela Molina
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Supporter: \$1 to \$99

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Diana Castillo
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Diego Ruales
Dimitri Georgakopoulos

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Douglas Chavez
Dwala Toombs
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Elizabeth Paz
Elizabeth Rodriguez Polanco
Elizabeth Ulloa
Elizabeth Ulloa-Murray
Elsa Palmer Lucich
Elvina struga
Emily Currier
Emily Torres-Cullinane
Enrique Hernandez
Entela Izzo
Eric Kaplan
Eric Rothstein
Eric Starahona
Fabian Guerra
Felicia Bordick
Felipe Moreno
Felix Gutierrez
Fernando Lopez
Frances Stearns
Gabriela Gutierrez Caceres
Gayatri Aryan
George Guzzi
Gilda Paul
Gimena Alegre
Girish Venkatachaliah
Gladys Piedad Lopez
Gregg Bauer
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Jayme Wilder
Jennifer Ivers
Jenny Melguizo
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Jessica Serna
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Johana Muriel Grajales





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 Pratyush Moghe
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2021 Sponsors

Platino



Oro



Plata



Bronze



Patron



Amigo



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Grant Program: Nutrition

The Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing protests, and a national stoppage in Colombia in 2021 resulted in devastating violence and destruction all over the country. This situation provoked a serious humanitarian crisis, which has mostly affected children suffering from the lack of food available to their parents. The most vulnerable victims of this situation were the children of impoverished families who migrated to the big cities, and end up sleeping on the streets without shelter or food.

NEACOL's priority for 2021 was to address children's malnutrition and its health consequences, by supporting Colombian organizations working in the area of child malnutrition, and serving children up to 16 years old.

The mission of NEACOL's annual grant program is to leverage resources that support social programs and to coordinate efforts that improve the living conditions of Colombian children in need.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for grants are submitted in a two-step process.

The first step is the submission of a Letter of Interest that briefly describes the project. NEACOL reviews these letters and selects a short list of projects that best meet our organization's mission and goals.

The second step is the submission of a more extensive, detailed proposal by the short listed organizations, from which NEACOL selects grant recipients.

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

NEACOL believes that its goals can best be achieved by directing its resources to organizations that can provide a significant and verifiable impact.

Eligibility is limited to non-profit agencies serving Colombian children in the areas of education, health and nutrition.

NEACOL is committed to non-discrimination. We support organizations that use all reasonable efforts to recruit, hire, train, promote and serve persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law, except where such status is a bona fide qualification for the service being provided and is related to the organization's mission.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

NEACOL considers the following criteria for selecting the grant recipient finalists:

- The organization must be a legitimate nonprofit charitable organization, such as a 501(c)(3) corporation.
- The organization must have a sound plan for using the funds to strengthen its capacity to benefit Colombian children.
- The organization must provide evidence that grant funds will help secure future funding, support an affiliation, ensure its stability or achieve other benefits
- Proposals should align their priorities to the Plan Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (PNSAN) - National Plan for food Nutrition Security 2012-19
- Grant funds are not intended to support organizational annual operating expenses.
- Proposals' completeness, clarity and conciseness.
- The organization must provide evidence that the project can reasonably be expected to meet its goals.
- Funds requested must be consistent with the project's goals and with the size of the target population that it benefits.
- Size of the population that the project will benefit.
- Thoroughness of process for evaluating project impact.

Organizations can be standalone programs, or programs within umbrella organizations. Those under an umbrella organization must meet the following criteria:

- The umbrella organization provides the non-profit [501(c)3] status but not much more.
- The program has a separate budget and must raise its own funds to cover this budget (The umbrella organization may cover a small proportion of the administrative costs).
- There is a letter of agreement/understanding between the program and the umbrella organization.
- The program is central to the mission of the umbrella organization and serves a substantial number of its target population.

Grants are not awarded to the following types of applicants:

- Private individuals.
- Programs that serve sectarian or religious purposes.
- Programs that serve political purposes.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Organizations should have the potential to ensure successful program implementation by sharing program costs with funds from other sources, since NEACOL's funds may not be sufficient.

REVIEW PROCESS

The NEACOL Project Committee reviews all preliminary and final applications before it recommends a list of finalist organizations to be funded to NEACOL's president and Board of Directors. The NEACOL President and Board approve the selected list of project finalists and invite active volunteers to vote for a predetermined number of grant recipients to be selected by majority vote. The Board makes final decisions on the amounts of each award. It takes up to five months to complete the review process. Proposals that do not meet the application deadlines or grant guidelines are eliminated. Rejected applicants are promptly notified. Applicants that are selected for a grant award are notified by email when the Board of Directors makes its final decision.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Posted every year on our website: www.neacol.org. Late or incomplete applications are not accepted. Please follow application guidelines.



Board of Directors

- Gloria Lara
- Margarita Escallon
- Maria Isabel Wright
- Marcela Danesh
- Angela Pinilla
- Maria Fernanda Canton
- Gustavo Olano
- Jenny Romero

Executive Team

- Maria Fernanda Canton
- Maria Isabel Gariepy
- Catalina Lotero
- Laura Buendia

Membership Committee

- Sandra Ocampo
- Kirsten Guevara
- Eduardo Canton
- Margarita Restrepo- Chair

Volunteers

Events Committee

- Valentina Alzate
- Eduardo Canton
- Frank Pinto
- Maria Clara Aramburo-Chair
- Christina Brooks

NEACOL Youth

- Margarita Escallon
- Maria Isabel Wright
- Isabela Wright

Marketing Committee

- Sandra Ocampo - Co-chair
- Angela Gil - Co-chair
- Marta Peña
- Javier Borrero
- Gloria Lara
- Maria Claudia Aguirre
- Dominick Costanzo

IT Committee

- Mauricio Barrero - Chair
- Diana Arias
- Michael Horton
- Ricardo Rodríguez

Projects Committee

- Marta Rafla - Co-Chair
- Olga Lopez - Co-chair
- Maria Elvira Restrepo
- Laura Torres
- Karen Satana
- Nancy Gomez



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