



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2022, NEACOL supported three projects in Colombia — Corporacion 900 Metros De Cultura in Puerto Lopez, Meta; Fundacion Acesco in Malambo; and Fundacion Ximena in Medellin.

Corporacion 900 Metros De Cultura sought to reduce the rates of malnutrition, school dropouts and disease caused by the consumption of non-potable water by children, through the construction of potable water stations; Fundacion Acesco contributed to the food security of children through the implementation of home gardens for self-sufficiency of vegetables for families; and Fundacion Ximena provided comprehensive nutritional care and immunization for children under five.

NEACOL was still affected by the pandemic in 2022; however, we were able to host a few in person events.

We started the year with an online cooking class to celebrate Valentine's Day where Chef Nataly taught us how to prepare cinnamon rolls. In April, we had a volunteer meeting where we shared our core values and had the opportunity to mingle.

Our main fundraising event for the year was a brunch at Peka Restaurant. It was a magical afternoon where we enjoyed each other's company and left empowered to continue our mission to transform the lives of Colombian children in need.

Also in the fall, NEACOL hosted its annual "Celebrity Rolling" event at Anna's Taqueria. In collaboration with the New England Revolution and through the generosity of Anna's Taqueria, NEACOL was able to raise funds to support inclusive education programs in Colombia which will positively transform the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Our celebrity soccer players, Matt Polster and Colombian soccer player Dylan Borrero, prepared different dishes, as their fans enjoyed interacting with them and getting soccer gear autographed.

In addition, NEACOL Youth launched a kick-off meeting with a BBQ at Margarita and Andres Escallón's home. The BBQ was well attended by youth volunteers, parents and NEACOL Board members.

In November, we hosted the NEACOL Open Night, where we shared information about our mission and volunteer opportunities, networked and had fun singing Karaoke.

We closed the year with NEACOL Youth members visiting the greater Boston and East Boston communities to bring joy and hope to dozens of children. These children received a Christmas present thanks to the support of generous donors and ALPFA Boston members.

We are grateful to the executive team whose terms ended in January 2023. They have tirelessly given their time and resources to champion our mission and have been integral to the important advances we have made. Our organization moves forward with the new executive team, elected in 2022, to help lead us into 2025, and we are very optimistic about the future.

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 and 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



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# 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 the life conditions of Colombian children in need.

## OUR VISION

A more prosperous life for Colombian children.

## OUR HISTORY

In 2012, 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 2022 NEACOL developed the "Let Me Be Part of It" campaign, focusing its efforts for the first time in its history in Education + Inclusion giving the opportunity to children with disabilities. The projects selected were:

- Learning Together: Inclusive education, digital skills development as well as communicative and STEAM for the deaf, indigenous and migrants.
- "MonstruoTerapia:" The project includes the delivery of 300 kits of Monstruo Terapia, a strategy that strengthens children's emotional development and emotional competence in parents and caregivers.
- For the right to equality of opportunities: Offers an inclusive educational program for children with disabilities or vulnerability that enables them to achieve comprehensive development and advance significantly in their learning process.

With these three new projects supported in 2022, NEACOL has now benefited more than 18,302 Colombian children since its inception in 2013.



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# PROJECTS

## CORPORACIÓN 900 METROS DE CULTURA

**Project:** Implementation of a "potable water zone" at the Yaaliakeisy Educational Institution.

**Location:** Puerto Lopez, Meta.

**Beneficiaries:** This project will impact 614 children from 8 to 18 years old, and 28 over the age of 18.

NEACOL, in cooperation with "Corporacion 900 Metros de Cultura", provided drinking water to the students of the Yaaliakeisy school in Puerto Lopez, Meta. Their mission is to reduce diseases caused by the consumption of non-potable water, and in turn reduce the rate of school drop outs and malnutrition at the Yaaliakeisy Educational Institution

## FUNDACIÓN ACESCO

**Project:** "Hambre Cero en Casa" responds to the most critical needs related to food insecurity of 120 children between the ages of 3 and 13, prioritized by their conditions and risk of malnutrition.

**Location:** Malambo, Atlántico.

**Beneficiaries:** 120 children, 120 families and approximately 360 people in total

The project contributed to the food security of 120 students at risk of malnutrition from the Huellas de la Esperanza Educational Corporation in the municipality of Malambo (Atlántico) through the implementation of home gardens for self-sufficiency of vegetables in their family nucleus.

## FUNDACIÓN XIMENA RICO LLANO

**Project:** "Creser + Saludables"- a humanitarian aid initiative to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Location:** Medellín

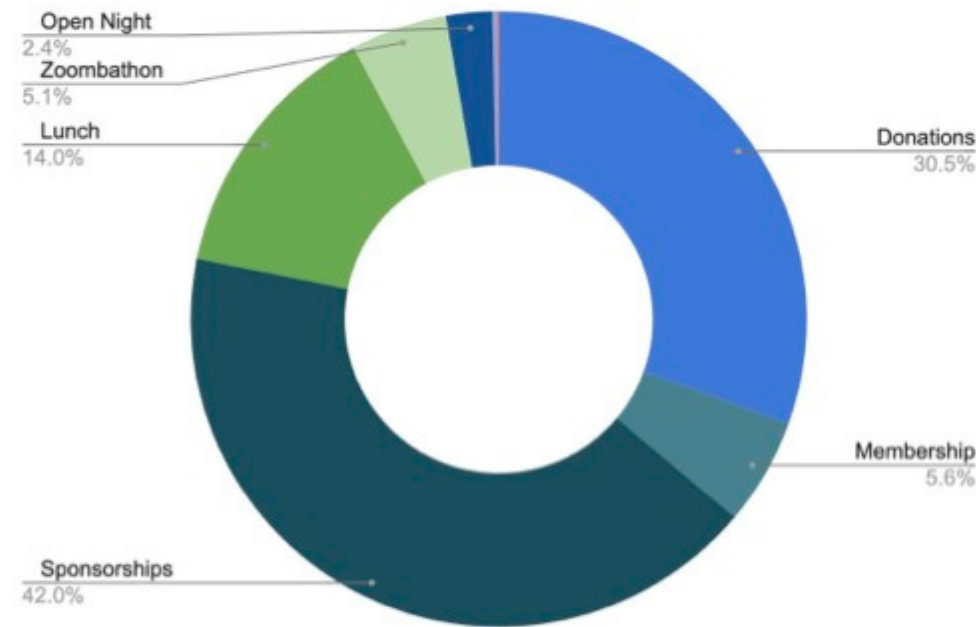
**Beneficiaries:** 1,300 children in addition to parents

This project provided comprehensive nutritional care and immunization for children under 5 years of age belonging to 1,300 families whose income was affected by the covid-19 pandemic and the necessary confinement.



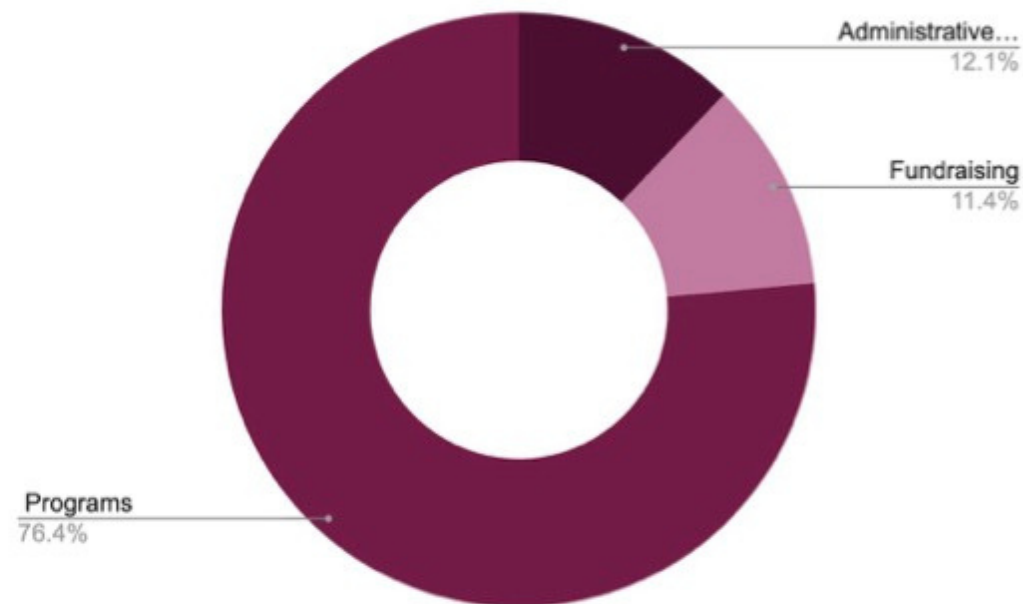
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## REVENUE



Lunch	6,970.02
Open Night	1,209.12
Zoombathon	2,510.24
Sponsorships	20,900.00
Membership	2,786.39
Donations	15,165.53
NEACOL T-Shirts	85.00
Other Income	80.52
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 49,706.82</b>

## EXPENSES



Administrative Expenses	4,889.05
Fundraising Expenses	4,615.00
Program Expense	30,833.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 40,337.05</b>

<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,369.77</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 111,843.48</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 121,213.25</b>



## EVENTS

### **Fundraising Brunch at PEKA Restaurant - June 4**

Thanks to everyone who participated in one way or another in our first fundraising effort of this year! It was a magical afternoon where we enjoyed each other's company and left empowered to continue our mission to transform the lives of Colombian children in need.

### **Zoombathon Virtual - via Zoom - September 17**

Our third Zumbathon united Zumba and fitness fans from different parts of the country and the world as they indulged with different rhythms led by five different instructors. We enjoyed an afternoon filled with music, smiles and movement, all while creating opportunities for a better future for Colombian children. We had a great time and are grateful to our instructors and all the participants who danced and donated to our life-changing cause.

### **Anna's Taqueria and the New England Revolution - September 21**

In collaboration with the New England Revolution and through the generosity of Anna's Taqueria, NEACOL was able to raise funds to support inclusive education programs in Colombia which will positively transform the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Our celebrity soccer players, Matt Polster and Colombian soccer player Dylan Borrero, prepared different dishes, as their fans enjoyed interacting with them and getting soccer gear autographed.

All customers who visited Anna's Taqueria during our event contributed to our cause, as all proceeds from those sales went directly towards NEACOL's funding efforts. We enjoyed an evening of great food, community-building and network and passion for soccer! The event was a goal for NEACOL and for New England Revolution fans who had the opportunity to meet their favorite players. Thanks to all who joined us!

### **NEACOL Youth Connect**

#### **September 24**

NEACOL Youth launched a kick-off meeting with a BBQ at Margarita and Andres Escallón's home. The BBQ was well attended by youth volunteers, parents and NEACOL Board members. The agenda included activities and a slide show presentation of the goals and ideas to plan for the year, led by Isabela Wright. New registration forms were shared with parents and youth members. The team agreed to meet monthly to plan for future events like the Toy drive in December

### **Christmas Presents - December**

We closed the year with NEACOL Youth members visiting the greater Boston and East Boston communities bring joy and hope to dozens of children. These children received a Christmas present thanks to the support of generous donors and ALPFA Boston members.





## MEMBER EVENTS

### NEACOL Valentine's Day

We celebrated Valentine's Day 2022 with a wonderful online cooking class with Colombian chef Nataly teaching us "Step by Step" how to make a Crujientes Rollos de Canela.

### NEACOL Volunteers' Meeting - April

Being a NEACOL volunteer is truly a rewarding experience, as you get to have fun while doing good. Working closely with the wonderful individuals of our community, it's a great learning and networking opportunity.

### NEACOL Open Night - November

We are grateful to those who joined us for our Open Night to learn more about our mission and volunteer opportunities, as well as to network and have fun singing Karaoke!







## IN THE NEWS

El Mundo Boston



El Mundo Boston is the oldest Latino outlet in Massachusetts. In 2022 they interviewed us and published information about our first Fundraising Brunch at PEKA Restaurant, the Zumbathon Virtual event and Anna's Taqueria and the New England Revolution fundraising activity.

### Encuentro Latino

Encuentro Latino is a Local/National/International TV program that is broadcast on Television. The interview was shared on social media and Youtube and NEACOL President presented to the audience what we are, our causes, projects and events..

### Social Media Channels



INEACOL has a presence in social media channels such Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter, LinkedIn and Youtube. With a clear marketing strategy NEACOL presence is being noted by a drawing audience everyday.





# DONORS

**Patinum: \$5,000 to \$9,999**  
The TJX Companies, Inc.

**Gold: \$2,000 to \$4,999**  
MicroCAD Training & Consulting, Inc

**Silver: \$1,000 to \$1,999**  
Andre Danesh  
Andres Escallon & Margarita Duque  
Clemencia Robledo  
Fitzgerald & Company  
Jay Rao  
Laura Torres  
Marcela Danesh  
New England Revolution  
The Rafla Family

**Bronze: \$500 to \$999**  
Antonio De Trizio  
Borrero Photography  
Josser & Angela Delgado & Tai  
Lazaro Orlando Lopez  
Luis Riascos  
Seydyss Barreto

**Patron: \$350 to \$499**  
Angela Gomez  
Gloria Lara  
Javier Borrero  
María Fernanda Cantón  
Monica Lacouture  
Nadja Young  
Valentina Alzate

**Friend: \$100 to \$349**  
Adriana Oyola  
Agustin Fernandez  
Alejandrina Velez-Villa  
Alexander Montoya  
Amanda Gibbs  
Angela Gil-Cepeda  
Argiro De Carvajal  
Brendan Burke  
Carlos Botello  
Catalina Lotero  
Christina Arcese-Brooks  
Claudia Urrea  
Danielle Jennings  
Eduardo Reyes Caro

Elizabeth Ulloa-Murray  
Ella Mae Kaba  
El Penol 3 Restaurant  
Fernando Diaz  
Forever Splendor Med SPA  
Frank Pinto  
Gian Luca Fiori  
Icela Moreno  
Isabel Wright  
Ivonne M Rodriguez  
Jhonathan Romero Fontalvo  
Johnny Vasquez  
Jose Lopez  
Juliana Angel  
Karen Taborda  
Kris Hallberg  
La Cantina Winery  
Lina Jimenez  
Lina Maria Barrero Duarte  
Lucia Ortiz  
Luis Chamorro  
Manuela Toro  
Marcela Aldaz-Matos  
Margarita Cabal  
Maria Claudia Aguirre  
Maria Elvira Restrepo-Toro  
Maria Isabel Gariepy  
Maria Martin  
Maria Merino  
Martha Rodriguez  
Mauricio Barrero  
Michael Barry  
Michael Horton  
Milagros Cruz  
Nancy Gomez  
Nestor Rojas  
Olga Lopez  
Pure Strategies, Inc. Corporate  
Match for Manuela Toro  
Ruth Molina  
Steven Emde  
Victoria Lara

**Supporter: \$1 to \$99**  
Adriana Acosta  
Alberto Cardenas  
Aleksandra Zalewska  
Alexandra Manrique  
Amparo Coddling  
Amy Levesque  
Angela Gil  
Angela Widom

Angelica Gomez  
Argiro De Jesus Carvajal  
Barbara Marx  
Carolina Alarco Lopez  
Catherine Bromberg  
Cecilia Carrera  
Christina Brooks  
Christina Jeffrey  
Claudia Mantallana  
Claudia Santiago de Almanza  
Daniel Acuna Hurtado  
David Hernandez  
Dax Bayard-Murray  
Diana Anderson  
Diana Arias  
Diana Pardo  
Diego Grauman  
Dominick Costanzo  
Eduardo Canton  
Elisa Tavilla  
Elisabeth Zweig  
Emilia Lopez  
Entela Izzo  
Eric Schlesinger  
Erika Lopez Bertieri  
Gala J. Lopez Sierra  
Guillermo Gonzalez  
Hepzi Fonseca  
Ibeliza Jaffe  
Isabel Ceron  
Javier Romero  
Jenn Zocco  
Jennifer Lee  
Jessica Andersen  
Jessica Barreto  
John Butterworth  
Jonathan Chow  
Juan Guillermo Pardo  
Julieth Eliana Romero Castaño  
Julio Mantilla  
Kathryn Tarlin  
Kelly Washburn  
Kelly y Alfredo Morales Zuluaga  
Laura Buendia  
Lina Catlin  
Maier Avendano  
Manisha Sinha  
Marcin Zalewski  
Margarita Restrepo  
Maria Carolina Buitrago  
Maria Odriozola  
Maria Scichilone

Maritza Allen  
Marlene & Duncan O'Brien  
Martha Mendoza  
Martha Sola-Visner  
Miguel Mendez  
Milton Rico  
Monica Serna  
Nancy Hargreaves  
Nicole La Hoz  
Oliver Lyons  
Patricia Zorrilla  
Pauline Smith  
Pia Collins  
Regina Wing  
Ricardo A. Rodriguez  
Rocio Borrero  
Rubiel Patino  
Sandra Ocampo  
Sandy Le  
Senora Epps  
Sharon Weidenaar  
Stephanie Edwards  
Stephanie Palmer  
Swati Basu  
Trevor Laliberte  
Vacide Isler  
Victoria Makrides  
William Peña  
Yenitza Vazquez  
Zoila Ricciardi  
Zulim Crum



# SPONSORS

## Platino



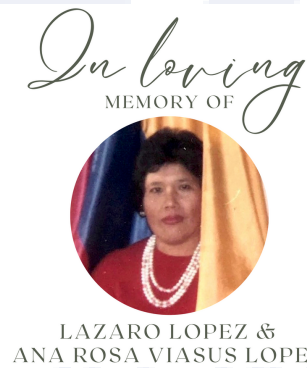
## Plata



## Oro



## Bronze



## Amigo



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# GRANT PROGRAM: EDUCATION & INCLUSION

NEACOL's grant program serves our mission: to provide financial resources to support Programs that contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of Colombian children in need.

NEACOL's grant program addresses three broad areas that are aligned with its mission: health, education, and nutrition.

During 2022-2023 NEACOL prioritized funding for organizations that directly address children's educational needs.

A UNICEF study highlights the risks associated with the prolonged school closings related to the Covid 19 Pandemic. In Colombia the major challenges in education are experienced by children and adolescents from rural or remote areas, regions impacted by the armed conflict, members of indigenous groups and other underprivileged communities.

The ministry of education says that 102,000 children and adolescents abandoned their studies between March and August of 2020 in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Many children could not continue their studies because of lack of internet or the necessary tools for virtual learning.

The Lab of Economics of Education (LEE) found that less than half of the students that attend public schools (around 8 million) have access to computers or the internet.

Children with disabilities returning to classes after the pandemic face great challenges. Studies have shown that children between 3 and 5 years old with no disabilities have an 11% higher school attendance rate than preschool children with disabilities. In elementary school 1.2% of the children have a disability. In Middle and High School 12% of the children have a disability.

## 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.





## GRANT PROGRAM: EDUCATION & INCLUSION

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](http://www.neacol.org). Late or incomplete applications are not accepted. Please follow application guidelines.





# VOLUNTEERS

## Board of Directors

- Isabel Wright
- Marcela Danesh
- Gloria Lara
- Danielle Jennings
- Angela Gomez
- Isella Moreno
- Maria Fernanda Canton
- Margarita Escallon

## Marketing Committee

- Javier Borrero - Chair
- Angela Gil - Co-Chair
- Marta Peña
- Gloria Lara
- Maria Claudia Aguirre
- Maria Odriozola
- Carlos Botello
- Dominic Costanzo

## IT Committee

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

## Executive Team

- Maria Fernanda Canton - President
- Maria Isabel Gariepy - Vice President
- Catalina Lotero- Treasurer
- Laura Buendia - Executive Team Assistant
- Julieth Romero - Secretary

## Membership & Events

- Valentina Alzate- Chair
- Cristina Brooks
- Frank Pinto
- Eduardo Canton

## Projects Committee

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

## NEACOL Youth

- Margarita Escallon
- Maria Isabel Wright
- Isabela Wright

