



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Twister





TABLE OF CONTENTS

3-4

Message from the President
& Board of Directors

5

About Us

6

Projects

7

Financial Summary

9

In The News

8-13

Events

14

Our Sponsors

15

Our Team

16-17

Donors

18-20

Grant Program



MESSAGE **FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

NEACOL has made a positive difference in the lives of more than 18,000 children since our inception ten years ago. 2023 marked our 10-year anniversary, and it was a year filled with extraordinary milestones that will enable us to sustain and accelerate our mission to support thousands of more Colombian children in need.

In 2023, NEACOL supported three impactful projects in Colombia – Fundacion Educadora Infantil Carla Cristina in Caldas, Antioquia; Fundación Origen (Origin Learning Fund) in Rioacha, Guajira; and Fundación Cindes in Pereira, Risaralda.

Fundacion Educadora Infantil Carla Cristina facilitated the delivery of 300 kits of Monstruo Terapia, a program that not only enhances children's emotional development but also nurtures their emotional skills. Fundacion Origen successfully implemented a program focused on teaching Colombian sign language to deaf children, utilizing O-lab, an application developed by the foundation that can be used with low-cost equipment and offline. Fundacion Cindes offered an inclusive educational program for children with disabilities or vulnerability, empowering them to achieve comprehensive development and significantly advance their learning process.

Continued on next page



MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Continued

The year kicked off with a volunteer appreciation night at El Penol restaurant in Brookline. Throughout the year, three Mix & Mingles were held, fostering connections among our dedicated members. A Tertulia in April provided a platform for in-depth discussions with the organizations we supported, offering valuable insights into their projects. Additionally, two events at Anna's Taqueria featured the participation of New England Revolution and New England Patriots players, who rolled burritos in support of NEACOL. At the forefront of our fundraising efforts was the 10-Year Anniversary Gala at the Marriott in Burlington on November 11. NEACOL Youth rounded off the year with their annual toy drive in December.

We also proudly launched our new website, a significant step towards enhancing our online presence and communication.

Furthermore, the NEACOL Projects Committee initiated a call for proposals, inviting nonprofit organizations in Colombia to submit nutrition-focused projects. Four outstanding organizations – Resguardo Indigena Zenu, El Voalo, Angeles Somos, Corporación Proyectandote Al Futuro, and Oasis by Fondacio – were selected to receive our funds, contributing to the positive impact we strive to achieve in the communities we support.

As the President and Chair of the Board, we wish to convey our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and members. The success of this year and the progress in fulfilling our mission of supporting Colombian children in need are indebted to the dedication and talent of our committed volunteers. Their invaluable contributions have made this year truly remarkable.

Marcela Danesh
President

Isabel Wright
Co-Chair of the Board of Directors

Danielle Jennings
Co-Chair of the Board of Directors



ABOUT US

NEACOL is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization based in Massachusetts, comprised 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 Colombian children in need. 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 2012, a group of friends in Boston along with the consul of Colombia Monica Pinzon explored this question. They realized that they could make a social and economic impact on the daily life of thousands of Colombian children who were living in poverty. This is how the New England Association for Colombian Children (NEACOL) was born. The goal was to channel resources from the New England area that addressed needs for Education, Health and Nutrition for children in Colombia.

In December 2014, NEACOL received the official 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts. The same year, NEACOL provided its first grant to fund an initiative in education. As of 2024, we have distributed \$390,000 to 37 projects serving 19,000 children in need.



PROJECTS

NEACOL supported three educational projects that impacted 680 children in 2023

Fundación Educadora Infantil Carla Cristina

Project: **MonstruoTerapia**

Location: **Caldas, Antioquia**

Beneficiaries: **300 children**

The project included the delivery of 300 kits of Monstruo Terapia, a strategy that strengthens children's emotional development and emotional skills. Each kit has four stuffed animals and four books that are designed to teach and accompany children and adults to manage their own emotions and overcome their daily fears.

Fundación Origen (Origin Learning Fund)

Project: **Leaning Together**

Location: **Rioacha, Guajira**

Beneficiaries: **200 children**

Inclusive education, digital skills development as well as communicative and STEAM for the deaf, indigenous and migrants. The program focused on teaching Colombian sign language to deaf children. This was achieved with the use of O-lab, an application developed by the foundation that can be used with low-cost equipment and also offline.

Fundación Cindes

Project: **For the Right of Equality and Opportunities**

Location: **Pereira, Risaralda**

Beneficiaries: **180 children**

Offered an inclusive educational program for children with disabilities or vulnerability that enables them to achieve comprehensive development and significantly advance their learning process. This was achieved through a pedagogical model that integrates academic, playful, recreational, artistic, cultural and vocational training processes.

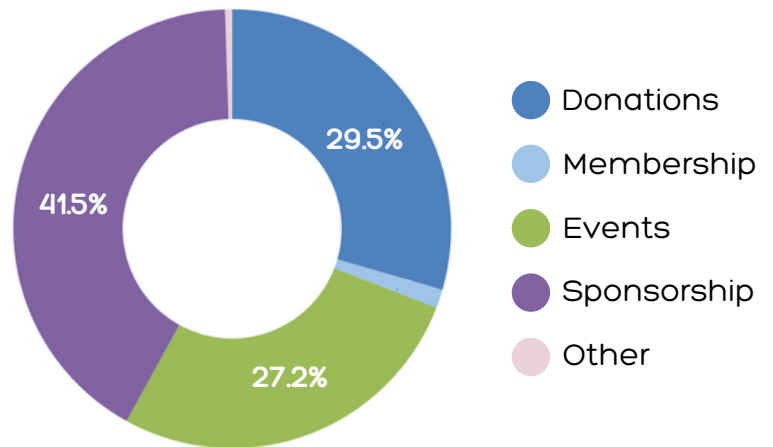


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

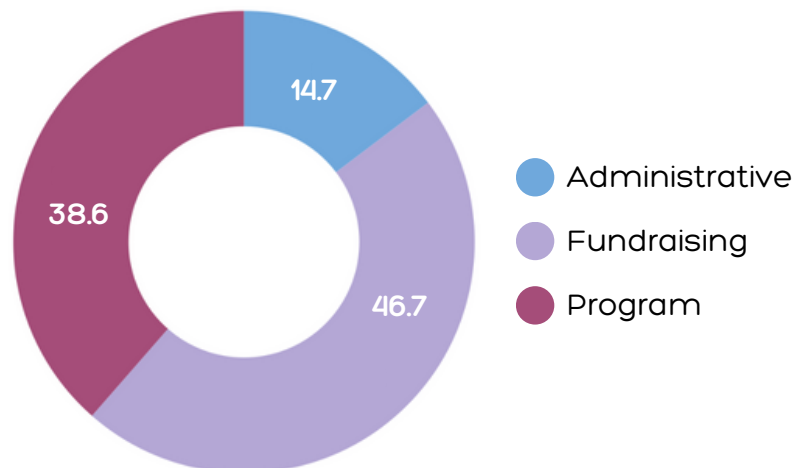
Income

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Donations | 45,598 |
| Membership | 2,105 |
| Events | 41,987 |
| Sponsorships | 64,106 |
| Other | 822 |
| Total Income | 154,617 |



Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Administrative | 15,253 |
| Fundraising | 48,479 |
| Program | 40,000 |
| Total Expenses | 103,731 |



Other Income 575

Change in Net Assets 51,461

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 121,213 |
| Net Assets at End of Year | 172,674 |


10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



11 November 7:30pm
2023 Formal attire

Boston Marriott Burlington
1 Mall Road, Burlington, MA

Dinner & Live Music for the
benefit of Colombian Children

Be the  that Illuminates the
Lives of Colombian Children

EVENTS

10-Year Anniversary Gala

Be the Star that Illuminates the Lives of Colombian Children: Our 10 Year Anniversary Gala was held on November 11 at the Boston Marriott in Burlington. We were sold out three weeks prior to the event, with approximately 312 attendees. The gala generated new income of \$85k.





EVENTS

Anna's Taqueria

Two events were held at Anna's Taqueria: one with the New England Revolution and another with the New England Patriots. The total amount raised from these two events was \$5,600.

New England Revolution Rolling Event

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, New England Revolution winger Omar Gonzalez rolled burritos and shared his time with NEACOL members.

New England Patriots Rolling Event

On October 3, New England Patriots players Lawrence Guy and Pharaoh Brown prepared burritos to benefit NEACOL at Anna's Taqueria in Newton.





EVENTS

Tertulia

Amplifying Impact: A Tertulia, hosted by NEACOL's Mariana Benincore, with Nonprofit Organizations Supported by NEACOL. The tertulia with the organizations we supported in 2023 was held on April 27. The participating organizations were Fundación Educadora Infantil Carla Cristina, Fundación Origen (Origin Learning Fund), and Fundación Cindes.

Colombian Independence

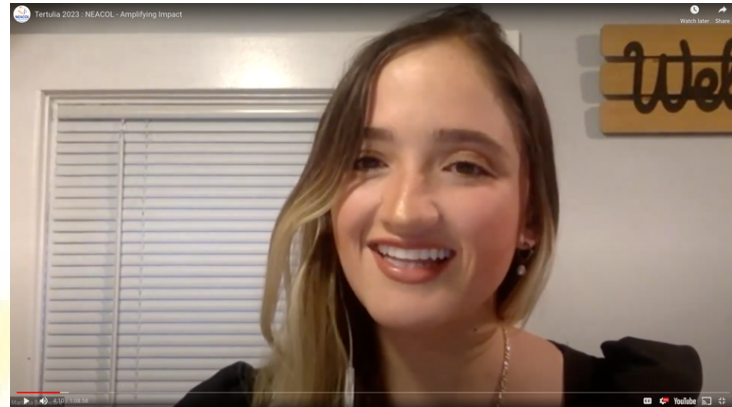
Participated in the Colombian Independence event at City Hall on July 20 and in the Colombian Festival in Revere on July 23.

Visit ship "GLORIA"

We were honored to visit the ARG GLORIA ship during its visit to Boston on August 24.

Donor Appreciation Event

The Gala Development team held a special event to express gratitude to our donors. This gathering, held on September 14, drew an attendance of 34 people in Boston.





EVENTS

Volunteer Appreciation Night

We hosted our volunteer appreciation and gala wrap up meeting on December 7. At this meeting, we presented the gala results and also recognized Javier Borrero, our Marketing Chair, as our Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding commitment, exemplary service and passion for NEACOL.



Toy Drive

NEACOL YOUTH held its Annual Toy Drive in December and delivered 30 toys to Camino a Casa, a division of Heading Home (a nonprofit that serves homeless children and their families in Greater Boston).



IN THE NEWS

Media coverage for NEACOL in 2023 was extensive relative to year's past, the achievement of our 10-year anniversary, and the Gala celebration in November. Also, our partnerships with the Patriots and the Revolution and the celebrity event Anna's Taqueria was extensively covered.



Encuentro Latina with NEACOL's Maria Fernanda Canton



Las Parceritas Gala Coverage with correspondent Mirna Ramos



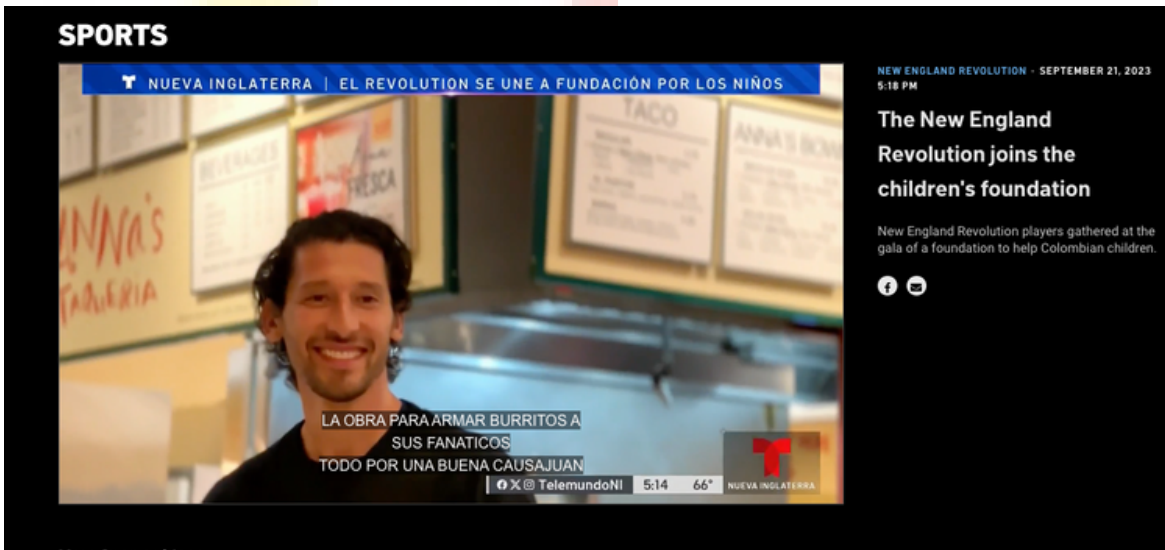
Special invitation to the NEACOL GALA. Interview with Javier Borrero

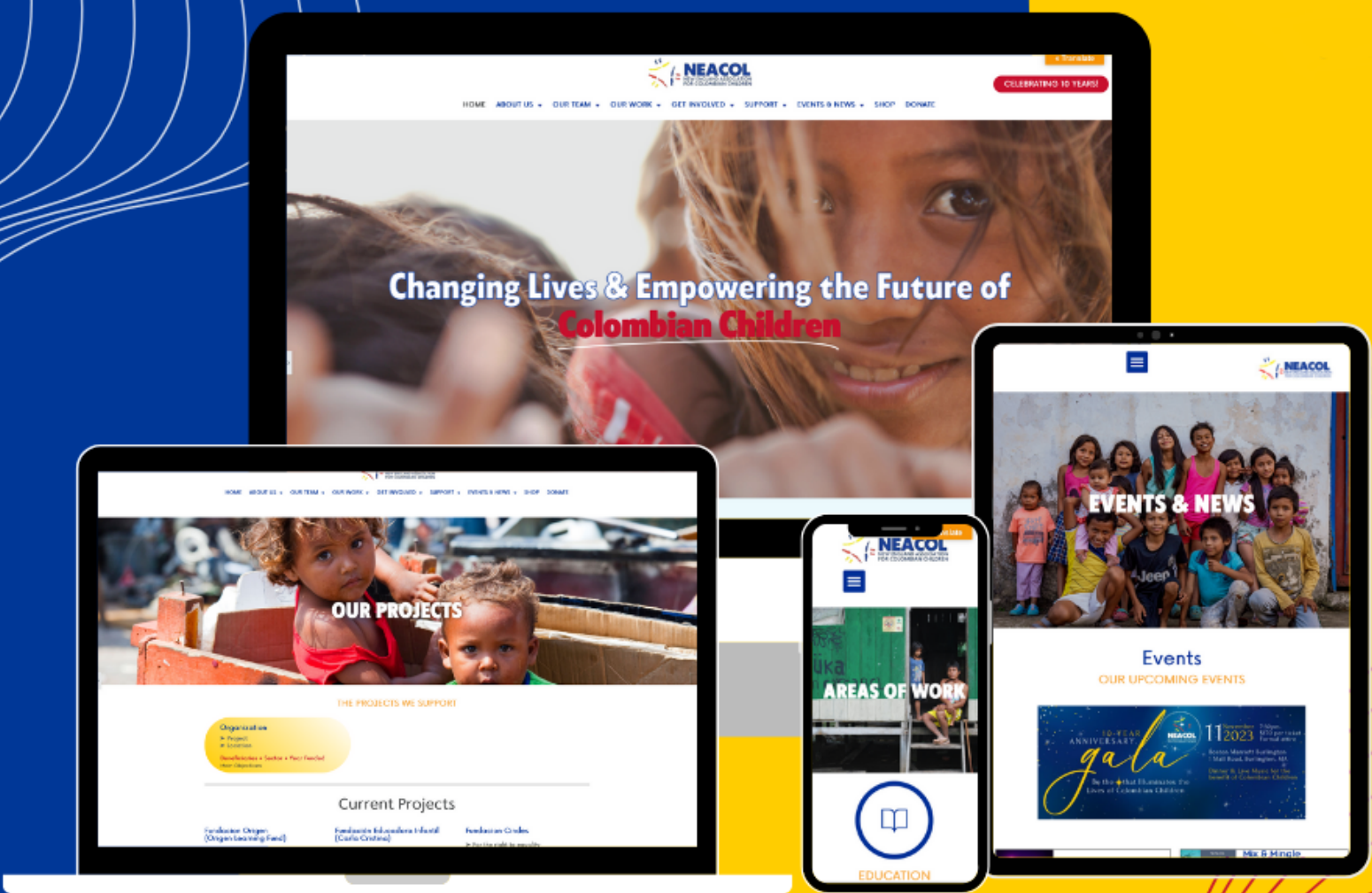


El Mundo Coffee Time, with NEACOL's Maria Fernanda



El Mundo Coffee Time, with NEACOL President Marcela Danesh



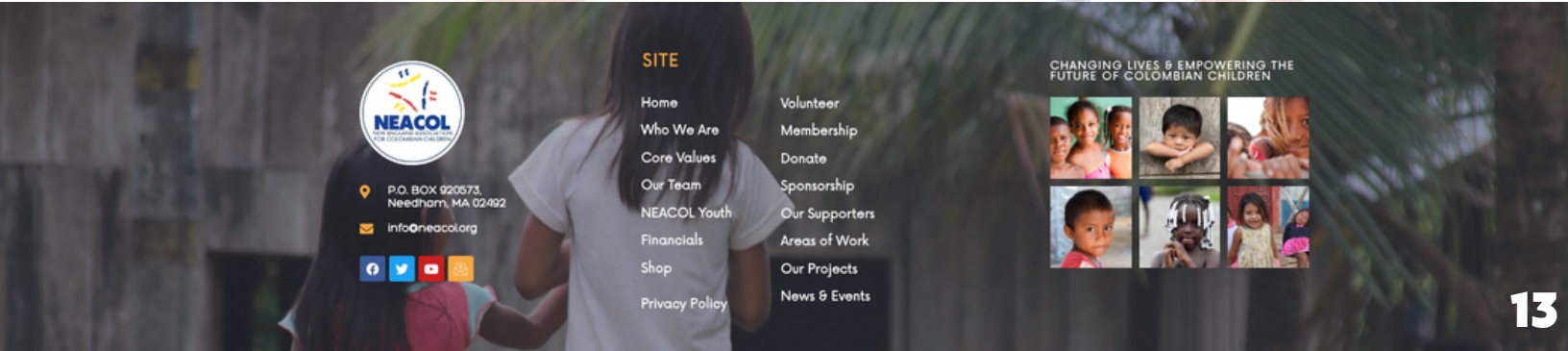



www.neacol.org



NEW WEBSITE

On May 5, 2023, we proudly unveiled our new website at neacol.org! We can all take pride in how it effectively reflects and highlights our mission, our dedicated team, our core values, and most importantly, the children for whom we strive to create a better life.



OUR 2023 SPONSORS

AMBASSADOR



VISIONARY



CHAMPION



BENEFACTOR



OUR PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Isabel Wright (Co-Chair)
Danielle Jennings (Co-Chair)
Akram Rafla
Ricardo Rodriguez

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Marcela Danesh (President)
Dominick Costanzo (Vice President)
Juan Guillermo Pardo (Treasurer)
Julieth Romero (Secretary)

MEMBERSHIP

Mauricio Barrero (Chair)
Maria Claudia Aguirre
Maria Isabel Garipey

EVENTS

Valentina Alzate (Chair)
Nicolas Mantilla-Aguirre
Mariana Benincore
Christina Brooks
Eduardo Canton
Adriana Cedeno
Emilia Lopez
Frank Pinto
Natalia Torres

FUNDRAISING

Margarita Escallon (Co-Chair)
Ruth Molina (Co-Chair)
Viviana Alzate-Catano
Carolina Amador
Victoria Makrides

MARKETING

Javier Borrero (Chair)
Maria Fernanda Canton
Gloria Lara
Maria Odriozola
Sofia Walker

PROJECTS

Marta Rafla (Chair)
Olga Lopez (Co-Chair)
Nancy Gomez
Catalina Lotero
Maria Elvira Restrepo
Laura Torres
Carolina Buitrago

IT

Mauricio Barrero (Chair)
Diana Arias
Michael Horton

NEACOL YOUTH

Margarita Duque-Escallon
(Youth Coordinator)
Isabel Wright (Board)
Isabella Wright (Founder & President)
Sebastian Romero (Vice)
Sophia Agronovich (Secretary)
Gabi Diaz
Hernan FitzGerald
Sophia Irizarry
Katie Mercer
Estrella Sanchez
Vanessa Villalba

GALA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Akram Rafla (Co-Chair)
Javier Romero (Co-Chair)
Carolina Amador
Mauricio Barrero
Margarita Escallon
Julio Mantilla
Alexander Montoya
Monica Neuman
Carlos Peralta
Monica Pinzon
Mariaclara Ordonez-Restrepo

GALA OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Jenny Romero (Chair)
Marta Rafla (Co-Chair)
Maria Claudia Aguirre
Nicolas Mantilla-Aguirre
Valentina Alzate
Carolina Amador
Laura Cardona
Adriana Cedeno
Celia Correa
Margarita Escallon
Catalina Lotero
Luisa Lugo
Maria Mara
Juliana Salgado Mendoza
Maria Clara Schichilone

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Natalia Arias • Diana Avila • Rocio Borrero • Camilo Botero • Nicole Brooks • Dominic Costanzo
Joseph Costanzo • Alicia Horton • Desmond FitzGerald-Lara • Hernan FitzGerald-Lara • Sophia Irizarry • Lina
Jimenez • Wilfer Martinez • Alicia Restrepo Marquez • Angela Molina • Valentina Munoz
Andres Ramirez • Sebastian Romero • Andrea Villarreal • Isabella Wright • Alan Londono Yespe



DONORS

Thank you to all our donors

This list does not include anonymous donors and those who choose to keep their names private

\$10,000

CCR Wealth Mgtm - Mark Palmerino
 Medihelp/Seatech Marine Products - Carlos Zarate
 The TJX Companies, Inc.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anna's Taqueria
 Divine Kitchens LLC - Magued and Mariette Barsoum
 MicroCAD Training & Consulting, Inc.

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Chiuve Company PC - Ron & Karen Chiuve
 De Greiff - Wakhloo Charitable Fund
 FAE Law -John Altomare
 Paul Sherman and Lynn Hsu
 Rafla Family

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Andre, Marilyn, and Erik Danesh Charitable Fund
 Andres Escallon, Margarita Duque and Family
 Che! Empanada - Albie Alvarez-Cote
 Clemencia Robledo
 Dental Partners of Boston - Sergio Guzman
 Fitzgerald & Company, Llc - Desmond Fizgerald and Gloria Lara
 Javier and Jenny Romero Family
 Jossier & Angela Delgado & Tai
 Juan Guillermo Pardo
 Keller Williams Realty - Seydyss Barreto
 Latino Equity Fund
 Laura Torres
 Lazaro Orlando Lopez
 Marcela Danesh
 Maryellen Jennings - The Jennings Family
 Patricia Lara Salive
 PRO Heating and Cooling - Sean Pike
 Restrepo Properties LLC - Wilfer Martinez
 Yugo Nakai

\$500 to \$999

Adam Elman - Attorney at Law
 Adriana Oyola
 David Restrepo
 Edgar Casado
 Eric Shumway
 Imelda Trevail
 Javier Borrero Photography
 Jim Cote
 Marilyn Koutrakis
 Miguel Medina
 Patrick McCarty
 Peter Wright
 Riascos Urrea Family
 Vide Birdge Financial - Ana M St Louis

\$100 to \$499

Albert Arcese
 Alejandro Marmorek
 Alexander Montoya
 AnaMaria Paez-Ulpino
 Andrea Ruiz
 Andrew Amuro
 Bernardo Romero
 Carlos Barrero
 Carlos Cuervo
 Carlos Peralta
 Carlos Robledo
 Carolina Alarco Lopez
 Carolina Amador
 Carolina Cala Sasso
 Carolina Lara
 Claudia Restrepo
 Claudia Urrea
 Daisy Mejia
 Danielle Jennings
 Diana Arias
 Diana Grass
 Diana O Cardona
 Diego Villegas
 Dina Kahrman
 Eduardo Canton

DONORS

\$100 to \$499

Eduardo Reyes Caro
Emilia Lopez
Eneida Roman
Eric Arcese
Erin Jennings
Esteban Toro
Frank Pinto
Gail Herzig
Gaston Marzoratti
Hernan Arboleda
Javier Prieto
Jennica Patino
Jennifer Quintero
Jhoel Andujar
Jhonathan Romero Fontalvo
Joel Schwartz
John and Karin Demallistre
John Donahue
Jorge Quiroga
Juan F Lopera
Karen Cajiao
Karen Taborda
Kathleen Phelps
Kelly Morales
Lizzette Ospina-Yemo
Luc Levensohn
Luisa F. Lugo
Maier Avendano
Marc Mingolelli
Margarita Restrepo
María Fernanda Cantón
Maria Jose Rueda
Maria Scichilone
Marialsabel Lyons-Gariepy
Marilyn Rivero-Noelte
Mario A Rodriguez
Marlene & Duncan O'Brien
Martha Cecilia Viasus
Martha Reyna-Medina
Maryann Houle
Mauricio Osorno
Melanny Dominguez
Michael Horton
Michelle O'Berg
Milagros Cruz
Nicolas Mantilla-Aguirre
Oscar Escobar
Pilar Moreno
Regina Wing
Rosanna Tavana (Jimenez)
Rubiel Patino
Sam Rafla
Sandra Restrepo
Sid Gehlot
Stacey Ryan
Stephen Wilchins
Susan Appe
Susan Collings
Susana Lyons
Timothy Voss
United Way of Massachusetts
Bay and Merrimack Valley
Victoria Makrides
Viviana Bozon
Wilfredo A. Miguez
William Mandell

\$1 to \$99

Adalgisa Barrero
Adriana Buendia
Adriana Cedeño Cano
Alba L Colina
Alejandrina Velez-Villa
Alejandro Marzoratti
Alejandro Saldarriaga
Alexander Mundo
Alicia Restrepo
Alma Castro
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Angela Gomez
Angela Jimenez-Rodriguez
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Marcela Molina
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Marie Claire Naveira
Marilyn Jerez-Cotton
Marisol Amaya-Aluigi
Martha Sola-Visner
Martin Montoya
Maureen Hughes
Mauricio Barrero
Merelyn Hong
Mikey Brooks
Milton Rico
Monica Neuman
Nadja Young

Natalia Andrea Arias Agudelo
Natalia Aponte Reyes
Natalia Torres Gomez
Nestor Uribe
Nicole Brooks
Noemi Soler
Omar Saldana
Ortiz Julio
Patricia Ruiz
Paula Lotero
Penelope Valdez
Randal Ripley
Rene Espinoza
Ricardo A. Rodriguez
Roma Hatton
Ruth Molina
Samira Bustillo
Sandra Ocampo
Santiago Cuervo
Sergio Arroyave
Stephanie De Avila
Stephen Pascoe
Sue Kaplan
Valentina Alzate
Viviana Alzate-Catano



GRANT PROGRAM: NUTRITION

Funding Priorities

The New England Association for Colombian Children's (NEACOL) 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.

The 2023 Call for Proposals prioritized funding to organizations in 2024 that directly addressed children's nutritional needs.

"The right to food is recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living"

- 21,337 cases of acute malnutrition in early childhood were reported in 2022 by health institutions.
- At least 257 children died of malnutrition in Colombia in 2022.
- There is an increase of 34% in malnutrition as a result of a dramatic increase of food insecurity in Colombian households.
- 86,9% of children ages 13 to 17 years old do not meet the fruit and vegetable requirement recommended by the World Health Organization.
- Mothers do not have the necessary knowledge on how to feed their children.
- There is an increase in the number of malnutrition cases in the territories of Cesar, Meta, Magdalena, La Guajira, Bolivar, Choco, Atlantico, Arauca, Amazonas, Tolima in comparison with 2014 and 2019.

GRANT PROGRAM: NUTRITION

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 is dedicated to achieving its objectives by strategically allocating resources to organizations capable of delivering a substantial and verifiable impact. Eligibility for support is restricted to non-profit agencies focused on serving Colombian children, particularly in the realms of education, health, and nutrition.

This call for support is open to children up to 17 years of age. NEACOL believes in directing resources to nonprofit entities that meet the outlined criteria and eligibility requirements. Therefore, grants will not be awarded to private individuals, programs serving children outside of Colombia, programs with sectarian or religious purposes, and programs with political affiliations.

However, stand-alone programs within umbrella organizations may qualify for capacity-building support if they fulfill specific criteria. These programs should be situated in highly vulnerable and impoverished regions with elevated rates of acute malnutrition. Eligibility is exclusive to established nonprofit agencies located in Colombia that focus on serving Colombian children.

Following the 2023 research findings, NEACOL prioritizes organizations engaged in nutrition-related efforts, particularly those with limited access to supporting nutrition programs. This approach ensures a targeted and impactful allocation of resources in line with our mission.

Based on the results from the research for 2023, eligible organizations should be working in the area of nutrition, and NEACOL prioritizes organizations that:

Have limited access to supporting nutrition programs.

Continued on next page

GRANT PROGRAM: NUTRITION

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Projects are judged on the ability of organizations to meet the eligibility criteria established by NEACOL.

NEACOL seeks to award grants where the amount invested can have a significant and verifiable impact. When reviewing grant proposals, NEACOL considers the following:

- The organization has to be a legitimate non-profit charitable organization, such as a 501(c)(3) corporation.
- The organization needs to have a sound plan for using the funds to strengthen its capacity to benefit Colombian children's educational needs, particularly affected by the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 global pandemic.
- Proposal completeness, clarity, and conciseness are considered.
- The organization has to provide evidence that the project can reasonably be expected to meet its goals.
- Funds requested have to be consistent with the project's goals and with the size of the target population that it benefits. Proposed projects have to have a start date of January 2, 2024.
- The size of the population that the project will benefit is taken into account.
- The organization has to provide evidence that grant funds will help secure future funding, support an affiliation, ensure its stability, or achieve other benefits.
- Organizations that have received grants from NEACOL are eligible to apply; however, priority is given to those organizations that have never received a grant from NEACOL.
- Grant funds are not intended to support annual operating expenses.
- A cost-effective project impact evaluation is considered.

Additional considerations include the potential to ensure successful program implementation by sharing program costs with funds from other sources, since NEACOL funds might not be sufficient.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The NEACOL Project Committee reviews all preliminary and final applications before it makes funding recommendations to NEACOL's Board of Directors, Executive team, and active volunteers. The Board, the Executive team, and active volunteers make final decisions on projects pre-selected by the project's committee. The Board makes final decisions on amounts of awards. The review process takes up to five months to complete (See Timeline Summary). Proposals that do not meet the application deadlines or grant guidelines are eliminated. Applicants that are rejected are promptly notified. Applicants that are selected for a grant award are notified by email.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

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

Volunteers: Please add the list of volunteers that we listed at the gala booklet. Also, add Carolina Buitrago under the Project's Team.

¡Gracias, NEACOL!



Thank you! Thank you!