



ANNUAL REPORT



2024



MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since our founding 11 years ago, NEACOL has positively impacted the lives of over 24,000 children through 41 projects and \$425,000 USD in donations. In 2024, as we celebrated our 11th anniversary, we reached milestones that will help us strengthen and expand our mission, bringing hope and support to even more Colombian children in need.

In 2024, NEACOL supported five projects – four in Colombia and one in Massachusetts – benefiting approximately 1,000 children.

- Resguardo Indígena El Volao in Necoclí, Antioquia: This project provided clean water to indigenous children by installing 17 water filters (each with a 60-liter capacity) in nine schools within the community.
- Ángeles Somos in Arroyo Grande, Cartagena: This initiative promoted sustainable food production for children and families through agricultural projects.
- Corporación Proyectándote al Futuro in Corregimiento Llano Rico, Chocó: Focused on improving early childhood nutrition, this project emphasized the critical importance of proper nutrition for young children.
- Altos del Cabo by Fondacio in the Eastern Mountains of Bogotá: This program supported holistic human development and environmental sustainability.
- ConEducación Corp through the Paving My Way to College program in Massachusetts: In partnership with the Consulate of Colombia in Massachusetts, this program helped Colombian students access higher education by providing 40 hours of workshops, virtual sessions with families, ongoing English classes, and scholarships for English courses and higher education opportunities.

These initiatives reflected NEACOL's commitment to empowering communities and creating lasting opportunities for children in need.

In 2024, NEACOL hosted events that strengthened our community and mission.

- Three Mix & Mingles fostered connections among members.
- Our Tertulia provided insights from supported organizations.
- The Volunteer Summer Outing in August brought volunteers together.
- Anna's Taqueria - Celebrity Rolling Event featured New England Revolution players supporting NEACOL.
- NEACOL participated in major events, including:
 - Empoderando Sueños Symposium (Harvard University)
 - Colombian Service Fair (Consulate of Colombia)
 - Fostering Social Impact in Colombia (Medellín Chamber of Commerce)
- Our 11-Year Anniversary Gala at the Burlington Marriott on November 16 was a fundraising highlight.
- NEACOL Youth wrapped up the year with their annual toy drive in December.

MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Continued

These events reinforced our mission and expanded support for Colombian children in need. Furthermore, the NEACOL Projects Committee launched a call for proposals, inviting nonprofit organizations in Colombia to submit health-malnutrition focused projects.

As a result, four organizations – Environmental Women, Instituto para Niños Ciegos y Sordos, Fundación Patronato María Auxiliadora, and Medical Teams – were selected to receive our funding, helping to create a lasting positive impact in the communities we support.

As the President and Chair of the Board, we would like to express our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and members. The success of this year and the progress we have made in fulfilling our mission to support Colombian children in need are a testament to the dedication and talent of our committed volunteers.

Marcela Danesh

President



Isabel Wright

Co-Chair of the Board of Directors



Danielle Jennings

Co-Chair of the Board of Directors



Marcela Danesh
President



Isabel Wright
Co-Chair Board of Directors



Danielle Jennings
Co-Chair, 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.

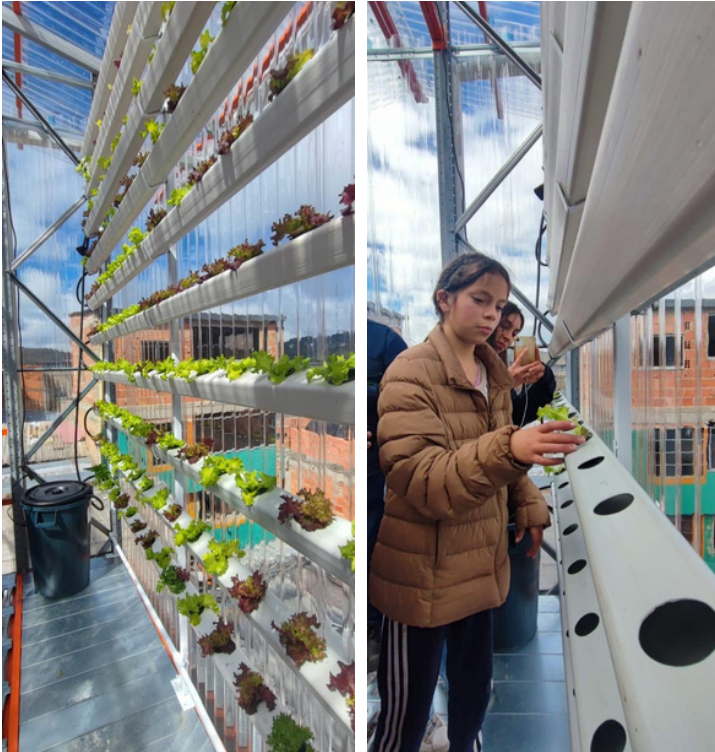
The idea is now supported throughout the world by many Colombians and friends of Colombia who wanted to invest socially in programs to improve the life conditions of children in need.

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. This first project impacted the lives of 270 impoverished children from Valle del Cauca, Colombia. As of 2024, we have committed to \$425,000 to 41 projects serving 24,000 children in need.

PROJECTS

In 2024, NEACOL supported five projects — four in Colombia and one in Massachusetts — benefiting approximately 1,000 children.

Altos del Cabo by Fondacio



PROJECT

Integral Ecologic Center

LOCATION

Eastern mountains of Bogotá

IMPACT

200 children up to age 18.

OBJECTIVE

Established a Center for Integral Ecology focused on teaching urban agriculture and promoting healthy eating practices to children in Bogotá.

Resguardo Indigena Zenu, El Volao



PROJECT

Access to potable water

LOCATION

Municipio de Necocli, Antioquia

IMPACT

541 children between ages 6 and 17

OBJECTIVE

Provided clean water to indigenous children by installing 17 water filters (each with a 60-liter capacity) in nine schools within the community.

PROJECTS

Corporación Proyectandote Al Futuro



PROJECT

Early Childhood Nutrition

LOCATION

Corregimiento Llano Rico, Choco

IMPACT

100 children up to age 5.



OBJECTIVE

Focused on improving early childhood nutrition, this project emphasized the critical importance of proper nutrition for young children.

Angeles Somos

PROJECT

Nutritious food production

LOCATION

Arroyo Grande, Cartagena

IMPACT

143 children up to age 18.

OBJECTIVE

This initiative promoted sustainable food production for children and families through agricultural projects.



ConEducación



IMPACT

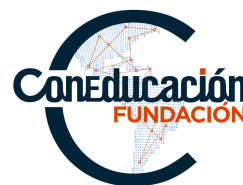
18 children between the ages of 14 and 21.

PROJECT

Paving my Way to College

LOCATION

Massachusetts



OBJECTIVE

In partnership with the Consulate of Colombia in Massachusetts, this program helped Colombian students access higher education by providing 40 hours of workshops, virtual sessions with families, English classes, and scholarships for English courses and higher education opportunities.



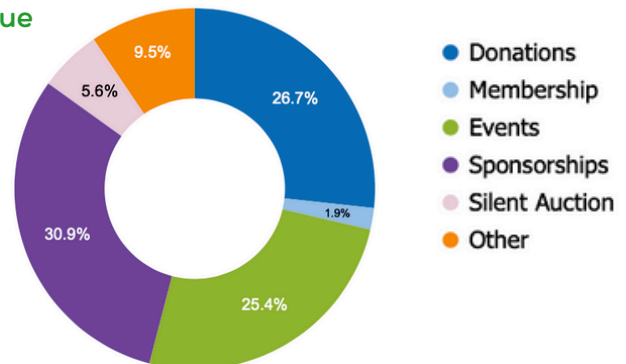
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025

Revenue

Membership	1,976
Sponsorships	31,622
Donations	27,377
Events	31,783
Other Income	9,718
Total Income	102,478

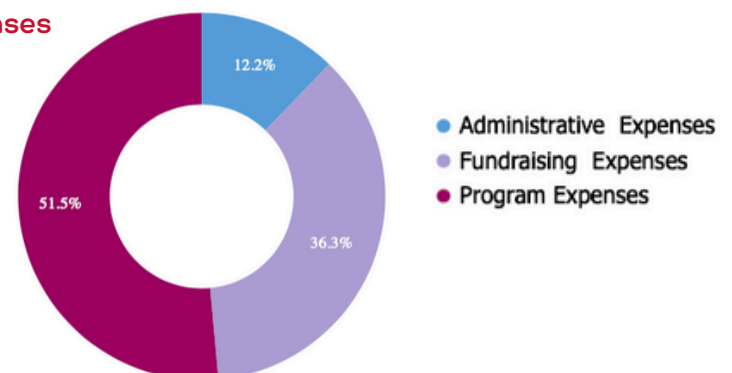
Revenue



Expenses

Administrative Expenses	12,333
Fundraising Expenses	36,627
Program Expenses	51,911
Total Expenses	100,871

Expenses



Change in Net Assets

Net Assets beginning of year	172,674
Total Net assets End of Year	174,281



EVENTS

11-Year Anniversary Gala

NEACOL celebrated its 11th Anniversary Gala on November 16, welcoming over 200 guests and achieving its financial goals. We extend our thanks to our attendees, sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making the evening – Fall in Love with NEACOL: Transforming the Lives of Colombian Children – a resounding success.



EVENTS

NEACOL Mix & Mingles

We're thrilled to embrace the opportunity to connect with NEACOL members and turn this social gathering into a recurring event. One of the key benefits of NEACOL membership is the chance to network with fellow members and foster a strong community united by a shared purpose: supporting Colombian children in need. Three NEACOL Mix and Mingles were held in 2024.

Thursday, March 21 at Brewer's Fork in Charlestown • Thursday, June 1 at La Cantina Winery in Franklin
Thursday, October 17 at Kings in Back Bay



Amplifying Impact: A Tertulia

The tertulia with the organizations supported by NEACOL in 2024 was held on April 18 from 7:30 to 8:30pm EST. The participating organizations included Altos del Cabo by Fondacio, Corporación Proyectándose al Futuro, Resguardo Indígena Zenú El Volao, and Ángeles Somos.



EVENTS

Empoderando Sueños

During Women's Month on March 30, NEACOL attended the first symposium in honor of Colombian Women at Harvard University – "Empoderando Sueños." We were honored to be part of this event with the representation of NEACOL's Colombian women, founders and volunteers.



Colombian Service Fair

NEACOL was proud to participate in the First Colombian Services Fair, organized by the Consulate of Colombia. The event took place on July 12 and 13 at the Madonna Queen of the Universe National Shrine, located in East Boston, MA. With an attendance of over 4,000 people, this fair was an excellent opportunity to learn about our organization and how to help Colombian children.

Volunteer Summer Outing

On August 25, NEACOL volunteers gathered for a summer outing – a wonderful opportunity to connect, enjoy camaraderie, and strengthen our bonds. Volunteers were encouraged to bring their immediate families along to join in the fun. Generously hosted by Marta and Akram Rafla at their summer home on Cape Cod.



EVENTS

Anna's Taqueria - Celebrity Rolling Event

On September 24, Anna's Taqueria and the New England Revolution teamed up once again to raise funds for Colombian children. Soccer fans, families, and a dedicated group of NEACOL volunteers came together to enjoy delicious burritos made by soccer stars Xavier Arreaga and Dylan Borrero.



Fostering Social Impact in Colombia

On September 25, Projects Committee Co-Chair Olga Lopez virtually represented NEACOL at Tikso 2024, Makaia's flagship event, which brought together key stakeholders from diverse sectors to advance social impact and sustainable development. Held at the Medellín Chamber of Commerce for Antioquia.



tikso 2024
by makaia

Evento internacional

**Tecnología, Innovación
y Cooperación
para el Impacto Social**



EVENTS

Gala Wrap Up Celebration

NEACOL held its Gala Wrap-Up Meeting on December 6, celebrating the success of this year's event. Our thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers, whose hard work and commitment are the foundation of our organization.



NEACOL Annual Toy Drive

The NEACOL Annual Toy Drive supported the children of Camino a Casa, a division of Heading Home, a Boston organization dedicated to providing emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for homeless children and their families. This year the Toy Drive brought smiles to 40 children.



IN THE NEWS

Media coverage for NEACOL in 2024 was extensive relative to year's past, the achievement of our 11-year anniversary, and the Gala celebration in November.



Hora del Café - Interview with Maria Fernanda Canton and Javier Borrero (October 11, 2024)



Encuentro Latino TV Show - Angel Salcedo interviews Javier Borrero (November 3, 2024)



Hora del Café - Interview with Marcela Danesh (November 7, 2024)



Periódico La Voz (October 10, 2024)



Periódico El Mundo (October 31, and November 14, 2024)



El Planeta (October 14, 2024)

OUR 2024 SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS



OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

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

Executive Team

Marcela Danesh (President)
Dominick Costanzo (Vice President)
Juan Guillermo Pardo (Treasurer)
Natalia Torres (Secretary)

Membership

Mauricio Barrero (Chair)
Adriana Cedeno
Natalia Torres

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Frank Pinto (Chair)
Christina Brooks
Mariana Benincore
Natalia Torres

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Ruth Molina (Co-Chair)
Victoria Makrides
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Clara Lopez Ospina
Maria Claudia Aguirre

IT

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2024 Gala Planning

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Dominick Costanzo (Co-Chair)
Adriana Cedeno
Frank Pinto
Isabel Wright
Juan Guillermo Pardo
Maria Clara Schichilone
Maria Claudia Aguirre
Mariana Benincore
Mauricio Barrero
Nicolas Mantilla-Aguirre
Ricardo Rodriguez

A special thanks to all our on-site Gala volunteers

Alicia Restrepo Marquez, Andres Ramirez, Bela Cuervo, Christina Brooks, Claudia Sarmiento, Danielle Jennings, Desmond FizGerald-Lara, Diana Arias, Erika Tatiana Saenz Agudelo, Felix Metral, Hernan FizGerald-Lara, Gloria Lara, Hux Metral, Joseph Costanzo, Laura Torres, Lina Jimenez, Manuela Villa, Michael Brooks, Natalia Arias, Natalia Torres, Nicolette Do, Oscar Escobar, Rocio Borrero, Rosaura Roa, Santiago Cuervo, Valentina Munoz, Victoria Makrides



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Thank you to all our donors

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

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Donors from \$2,500 to \$4,999

Guidance Point Advisors, LLC

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Andre, Marilyn, and Erik Danesh Charitable Fund

Andres Escallon, Margarita Duque and Family

Anna's Taqueria

Carlos Restrepo- RP Headshots

Che! Empanada - Albie Alvarez-Cote

Clemencia Robledo

Deb McNeil

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee of the First Parish UU Needham church - Victoria Makrides

Eastern Bank Foundation

Fitzgerald & Company, LLC - Desmond FitzGerald and Gloria Lara

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Susan Collings

Vladimir Ramirez

Continued on next page

DONORS

Donors from \$100 to \$499

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Supporters of Our Fundraising Auction

Carlos Cuervo
Lee Hatton
Lina Jimenez
Marcela Danesh
Martin Marro
Vladimir Ramirez



GRANT PROGRAM: MALNUTITION

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 improving the living conditions of Colombian children in need. NEACOL's grant program addresses three broad areas aligned with its mission: health, education, and nutrition. The 2024/2025 Call for Proposals provided funding to health organizations meeting the needs of children up to 18 years old experiencing malnutrition.

The Health Ministry warned of the potential exacerbation of childhood health situations with the climate phenomenon of El Niño: increased droughts and effects on the agricultural activity for food production. The OPS calls for the strengthening of timely attention to the at-risk population, requiring medical staff training, education materials, and medical supplies.

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.

GRANT PROGRAM: MALNUTITION

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

Projects will be judged on the ability of the organizations to meet the eligibility criteria established by NEACOL for 2025.

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

- 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's nutritional needs.
- Proposal 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 the size of the target population it benefits. Proposed projects must have a start date of January 2, 2025.
- Size of the population benefited by the project.
- The organization must provide evidence that grant funds will help secure future funding, support an affiliation, ensure stability, or achieve other benefits.
- Organizations that have received grants from NEACOL are eligible to apply; however, priority will be given to those that have never received a grant from NEACOL.
- Grant funds are not intended to support annual operating expenses.
- A cost-effective project impact evaluation.

Additional considerations:

- Potential to ensure successful program implementation by sharing costs with other sources since NEACOL funds may not be sufficient.

REVIEW PROCESS

NEACOL's Project Committee reviews all letters of intent and extended proposals, the evaluation process will take up to four months to complete. The Project committee will select the finalists and present their recommendations to NEACOL's Board of Directors. Proposals that do not meet the application deadlines or grant guidelines will be eliminated. Applicants who are rejected will be promptly notified. Applicants who are selected for a grant award will be notified by email.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

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