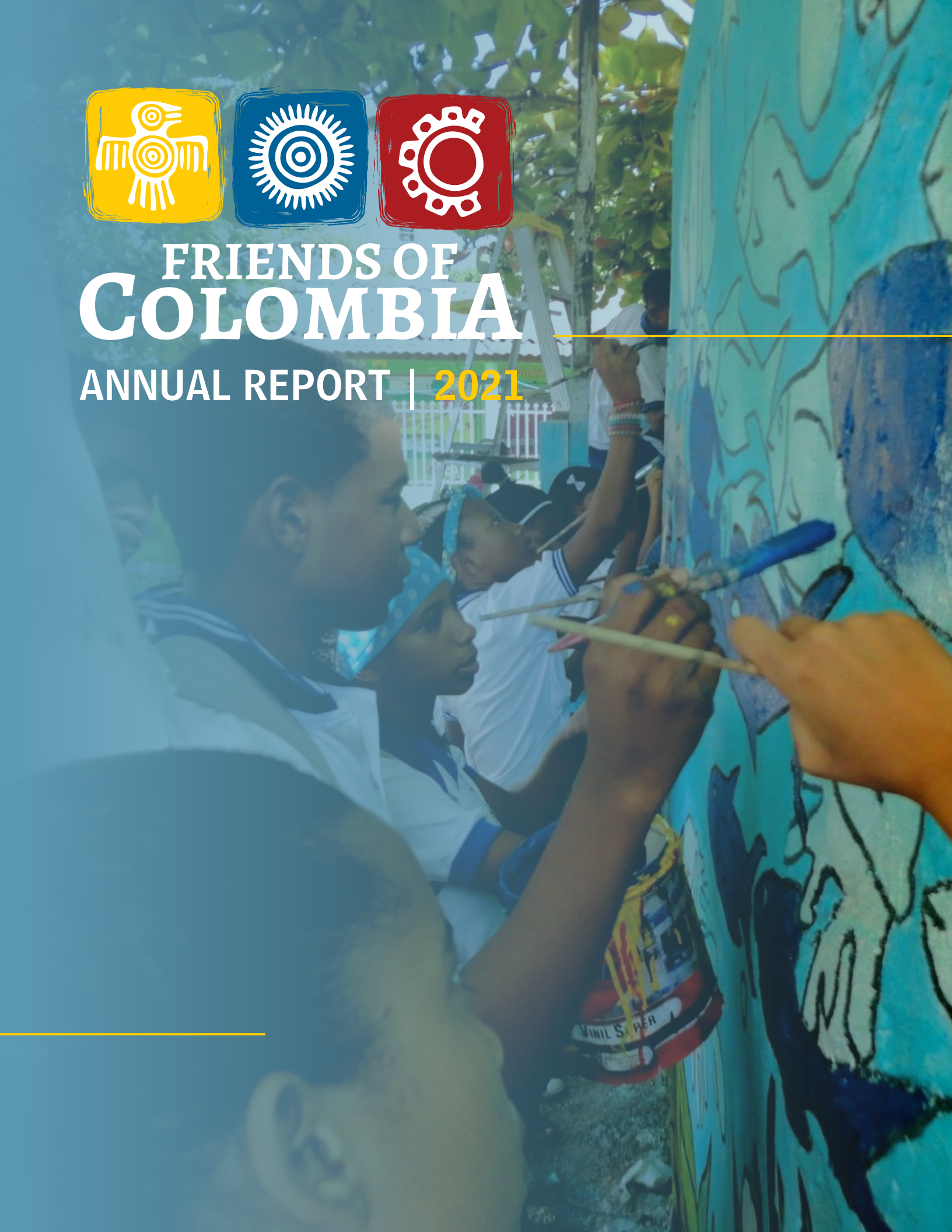




# FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021



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# President's Letter

Dear Friends of Colombia,

I never could have imagined a global pandemic dramatically changing our daily lives and impacting our partners and friends in nuestra querida Colombia when I became FOC President in 2020. COVID-19 reached the most remote corners of Colombia, disproportionately impacting those living in poverty. Over 125,000 people lost their lives from COVID in Colombia, and at least 1.45 million Colombians have fallen into poverty during the pandemic.

Despite the immense challenges—fueled as always by our mission to support community-based projects and organizations committed to the peace and prosperity of Colombia—we pushed forward and increased our impact in 2021. Thanks to the support, generosity, and creativity of our volunteers, donors, and Colombian partners, this year FOC:



- Renewed our focus on equity and inclusion in Colombia, providing support to grassroots organizations led by indigenous and afrocolombian visionaries.
- Responded to a humanitarian crisis in Cali and supported reconstruction efforts in Providencia after Hurricane Iota.
- Held our second small grants competition and supported seven outstanding projects.
- Donated more than \$35,000 to our grantee partners this year—and we're not done yet!

This letter marks my last as FOC President. Starting in 2022, Alyssa Galik (RPCV Colombia 2016–2018) and Jenna Glickman (RPCV Colombia 2012–2015) will take over as interim Co-Presidents. Meanwhile, I'll continue working with FOC as a member of the Social Events & Fundraising Committee. And although we are starting to see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, all of us at FOC are acutely aware that large swaths of the Colombian population continue to face economic, educational, and human rights challenges.

As we embark on our annual fundraising campaign, we aim to raise a total of \$20,000—more than double last year's goal, to advance the meaningful work of our longstanding partners (The Colombia Project, The Marina Orth Foundation, Paso a Paso, and The Magdalena Foundation) and new partner Colombia GLOW. FOC will also be making a donation to Tierra Grata in memory of the FOC members we have lost this year. With FOC's donation, these organizations will continue to provide educational and economic opportunities to our friends in Colombia.

Please help us reach our most ambitious annual fundraising goal ever by contributing to FOC online (<https://friendsofcolombia.org/donate-now/>) or by sending your tax-deductible contribution to:

**Friends of Colombia**  
PO Box 15292  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825

Donors who contribute \$75 or more will receive a 2022 calendar with illustrations from Sarah Shaw (RPCV 2013–2015), artist and FOC member. There are a limited number of calendars so donate as soon as possible to ensure you get your calendar by January 1st! As always, we are deeply grateful to all our wonderful friends and contributors for bringing FOC and our Colombian partners this far—which is very far indeed!

Thank you for your continued support and happy holidays,

**Michael Band**  
**President, Friends of Colombia**  
**RPCV Colombia 2011–2014**



# 2021 AT A GLANCE



During 2021, thanks to **105** separate contributions, FOC supported **19** community-based projects, donating a total of **\$36,935**



**7** FOC mentorship matches with LALA

**7** Small grant winners



**5** Continuing FOC partnerships

*(Paso a Paso, TCP Global, Magdalena Foundation, Marina Orth Foundation, Colombia GLOW)*

**7** Special fundraisers



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## KEY SECTORS

- Education
- Food Security
- Social Equality
- Disaster Relief
- Community Health
- Economic Development
- Women's Empowerment
- Environmental Protection
- Sustainable Ecological Tourism

# FOC'S GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT:



# 2021 FUNDRAISERS







# La Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas (ASOMI)



With your support, we made a \$5,000 contribution to La Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas (ASOMI). ASOMI is an organization of female elders, healers, and knowledge-keepers from five different tribes spanning 100,000 acres in the Andean Amazon region of Colombia: Sionas, Kofanes, Koreguajes, Ingas, and Kamentsas. Their bravery to continue fighting for the preservation of their land, rights, and cultures through community-based initiatives and policy advocacy is all the more courageous given the increasing risks they face as social leaders.

The funds that FOC provided have gone towards developing educational curricula for indigenous youth, technological equipment in rural areas to facilitate ASOMI's programs, and the preservation of indigenous land for medicinal and cultural practices.

## Discussing Race and Gender in 21st-Century Colombia



FOC's very own Dr. Taylor Ramsey (2011-2015) moderated an important discussion on race with three esteemed guests:

- Dr. Ángela Castro, Visiting Assistant Professor at Colorado College
- Dr. Monica Styles, Visiting Assistant Professor at College of Charleston
- Dr. Katherine Anson, Faculty - Languages, St. Mark's School of Texas

Your support allowed FOC to donate \$2,000 to organizations selected by the panelists, Asociación de Mujeres Afro-Colombianas and Batambora. (\$1,000 to each organization)

### Batambora

Located in the Afro-Colombia community of La Boquilla (north of Cartagena), this organization is dedicated to keeping traditional music and dance alive by offering music classes and jobs to young people in the community.

### Asociación de Mujeres Afro-Colombianas

Located in Cali, this organization seeks to improve the quality of life for Afro-Colombians through community projects that focus on ethnic, cultural, gender and generational perspectives.

### Quote from attendee:

*"The level of expertise among the panelists was terrific and their observations were both credible and particularly helpful in understanding the current situation in Colombia. Thanks again to Friends of Colombia Board who bring such variety of offerings to those of us remaining unalterably loyal to Colombia."*

- Pat Wand (1963-1965)



## Rumbaterapia - Virtual Dance Class

During our virtual dance party therapy event FOC raised a total of \$1,210 for an inspiring organization our dance instructor Alé Tracy Chavarriaga (@dancing.healer) worked with as a Peace Corps Volunteer (2016-2018) in La Guajira.

Mata e Pelo in Riohacha, La Guajira is a community action group that promotes Afro-Colombian identity and self-acceptance among women and youth. They used the funds to bring together gynecologists, psychologists, and other professionals to give workshops on feminine hygiene, and sexual and reproductive rights. They worked with vulnerable populations that included young adults and adults from disadvantaged neighborhoods, Venezuelan migrants and members of the LGBT community.

## Emergency Aid to Cali and other cities / Rotary Club



FOC was able to donate a total of \$6,150 to the Rotary Club in Cali. With FOC's financial assistance, our partners in Cali were able to purchase and deliver food and medical supplies to families in Cali, Pasto, Popayán, and Buga—four cities that have been hit especially hard by the current crisis in Colombia.

Beneficiaries of these important deliveries include: individual families, nursing homes, soup kitchens, and a homeless shelter.

Rotary Club Cali's Laura Guevara Ardila said, *"Thank you for the solidarity, empathy, and support that you have shown our country in this difficult situation. Without your help we would not have been able to impact as many lives as we have in such a short time."*

## Hurricane Iota Relief - Stand Up Providencia

In March 2021, Hurricane Iota was the first Category 5 storm to hit the San Andres Archipelago, causing widespread damage, particularly to the islands of Providencia and Santa Catalina. On Providencia, 98% of the infrastructure was damaged, causing 2,200 families and 6,500 people to lose their homes. Working with the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and other donors, FOC donated \$5,000 towards the construction of a community center in Providencia led by the Back Better Together alliance .

This community center will be the first common space on the island and will also provide a safe place to gather during future hurricanes. Construction of the building has been delayed due to supply chain issues and transportation challenges. Once the materials are on the island, the community center will take approximately 5 months to complete.

They also plan to offer the following services: humanitarian aid, psychosocial care, community social infrastructure, and community development.



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COLOMBIA

Chico y Proqui

Chico y Proqui

Chico y Proqui

# Cooking with Care Returns: Increasing Community Consciousness of Environmental Care

Cooking with Care made a triumphant return in August 2021 to raise \$1,725 for Los Peces Cuentan, a small community group working in Córdoba, Colombia. Two FOC members, Chef Carmen Galvis and Chef Jeremy Booth, led a virtual cooking class where they taught participants on YouTube Live how to make Frijoles Antioqueños. Funds raised during the class supported Los Peces Cuentan in delivering workshops based on the children's book *Chico y Proqui*, authored by the organization founders, to bring awareness about environmental conservation to kids and families living in and around the Sinú River Basin.

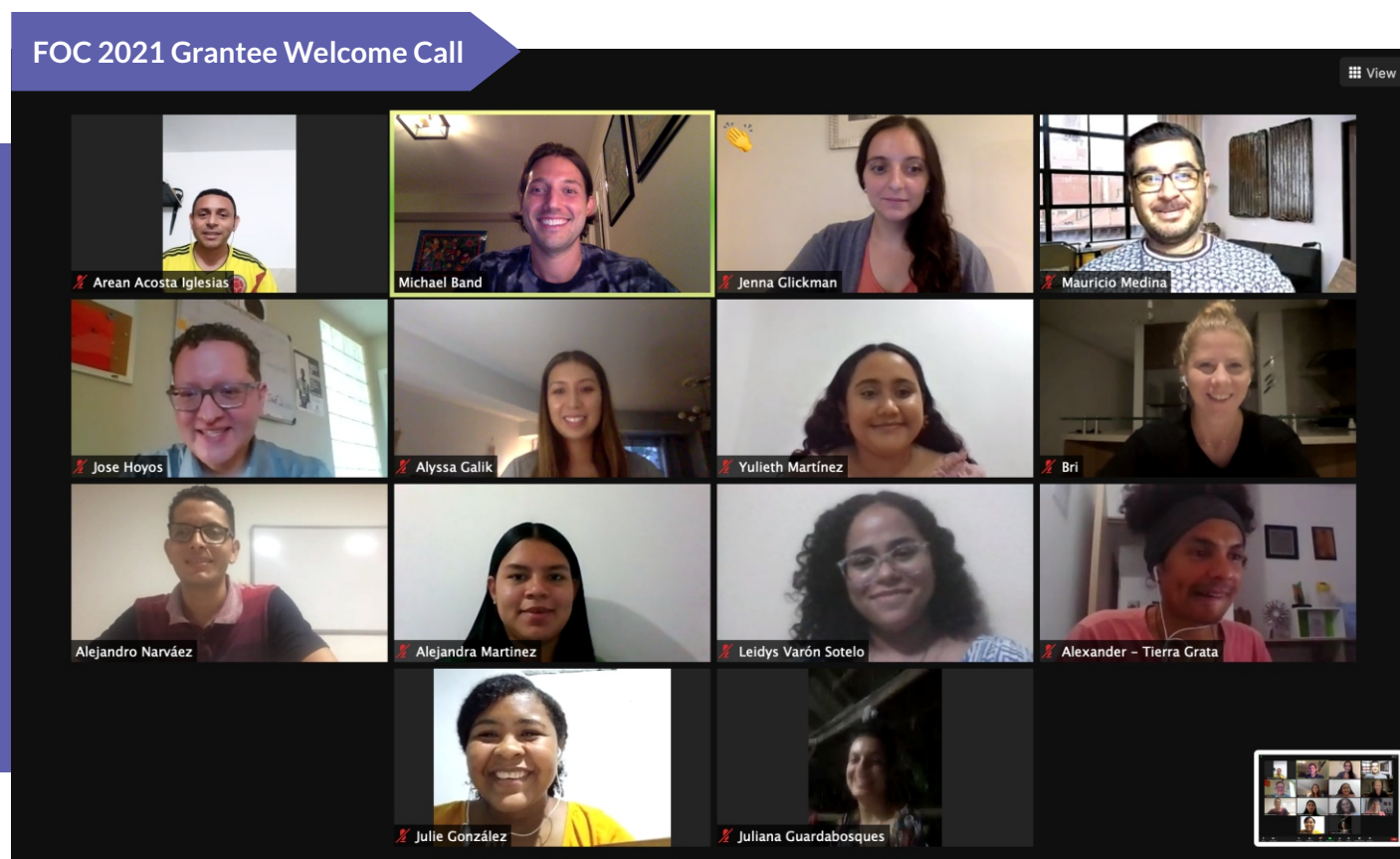
Los Peces Cuentan delivered 5 workshops from September to November 2021 to different communities that rely on fishing and other aspects of the Sinú River. Approximately 300 children attended the various workshops which used *Chico y Proqui*, an adventurous tale of two endemic fish combatting local issues such as climate change and overfishing, to demonstrate the importance of civic engagement in environmental protection efforts. Copies of the book were distributed to the schools and community centers where the workshops were held, ensuring sustainable community investment in the conservation of the environment.

*“Reaching the riverside communities of the lower, middle and upper Sinu River, with the canoe full of illusions, knowledge, and self-recognition, where Chico and Proqui showed each child the importance of conserving natural resources, is a priceless task. Thanks to FOC for making this possible.” - Lenys and Harold.*



# Small Grant Program

Last year, Friends of Colombia launched an innovative Small Grant Program to fund community projects in Colombia. We invited RPCVs, former counterparts, and grassroots organizations to apply for grants to fund their projects. In June 2021, FOC awarded grants to seven winners of this competition totaling \$10,250. Here are the project descriptions for our 2021 grantees:



# Camp GLOW



Costa Caribe  
\$1,520 USD

Camp GLOW used FOC grant funds to continue their young women's empowerment programs remotely.

Camp GLOW Colombia, originally started by Peace Corps Colombia volunteers in 2014, is now primarily run by Colombian women that previously participated in the camp. This year's funds went towards starting a podcast "Radio GLOW" and mailing out a GLOW magazine to camp participants on the Caribbean Coast.

GLOW reached more than 200 young women in 2021 through their magazine and Radio GLOW initiatives. They also increased their focus on economic development, intersectionality, and politics. They are currently working on a second virtual camp for December 2021.

# Fundación Koinonia



Cartagena, Bolívar  
\$1,170 USD

Fundación Koinonia used FOC grant funds to create a mobile library and fill it with books along with various other reading and writing materials.

This traveling library moved between three of the poorest neighborhoods in Cartagena where it will offer children aged 7-14 years old the opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills outside of school. This project also allowed the foundation to print and bind a collection of stories written by children in each of the three neighborhoods.

Fundacion Koinonia has completed six workshops, two in each of the three selected neighborhoods. A total of 60 children aged 7 - 14 years have attended the workshops.

During each workshop the children have access to all of the books and other materials that were purchased with the FOC grant. By the end of each workshop, each child creates his or her own story, which will be compiled with all the other stories and made into a book at a later time.

In addition, each child who participated in the workshop received his or her own reading and writing kit in addition to snacks and drinks, all financed by the FOC grant.



# Los Otros Yumbeños



Yumbo, Valle del Cauca  
\$1,510 USD

Los Otros Yumbeños is a project that increases environmental awareness and knowledge about local birds and plants in the municipality of Yumbo.

FOC funds supported the expansion of this project by funding the creation of an audiovisual micro-documentary about the diverse species of bird in the Yumbo region. The audiovisual documentary is used as an educational tool to teach students about the local birds and habitat in Yumbo.

The project has moved more slowly than they had hoped and anticipated due to challenges related to the climate, the health of interview participants, and security challenges in some filming locations.

Despite those challenges, the project has still accomplished the filming and interview data as planned in situations where that has remained feasible and is updating some locations for filming to complete the documentary based on shifting local conditions. Mauricio, the project contact, has requested 20 additional days to fully complete the micro documentary project funded by FOC.

# PROEDUPAZ



Suán, Atlántico  
\$1,440 USD

PROEDUPAZ used FOC grant funds to provide an initial supply of egg-producing hens, chicken feed, and other materials to families of children and adults with disabilities — a severely underserved population.

PROEDUPAZ also trained all project beneficiaries how to properly care for the chickens and sell their eggs. In addition to providing additional income and food security to 15 families, caring for chickens and selling eggs helps develop entrepreneurial skills and build confidence and self esteem among people with disabilities in the community.

After identifying 15 families of children or adults with disabilities with access to patios suitable for raising chickens, PROEDUPAZ conducted a series of workshops on chicken care and management, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, and self-esteem and family values. In October, PROEDUPAZ delivered 10 hens to each of the 15 families, and will continue to provide ongoing support to the families in the production and sale of eggs.



# Tierra Grata



**Costa Caribe / Costa Pacífica**  
**\$1,590 USD**

Tierra Grata used FOC grant funds to install ecologically friendly, solar-powered lights in rural communities on the Northern Colombian Coast.

These lights, which are placed in public spaces chosen by the communities, increase available safe spaces for evening activities. One of the dreams of Tierra Grata is to work with Colombian communities on the Pacific Coast where they know there are many socio economic challenges. Up until now Tierra Grata has exclusively worked on the northern coast of Colombia.



This is a special year for Tierra Grata because they completed their 100th project! Even though this is mostly significant to them internally, they would like to share it because it is a special accomplishment.

Finally, after a number of efforts and struggles to get connected, they installed 30 solar lights in Timbiquí, Valle del Cauca on the Pacific coast of Colombia!

# Guardabosques de la Sierra



**Santa Marta, Magdalena**  
**\$1,520 USD**

Guardabosques de la Sierra is an association of small cacao producers, formed in 2010 as part of an alternative development initiative to disincentivize illicit crop production.

With FOC grant funds the association expanded the capacity of its cacao bean dryer and upgraded its storage facility, as well as developed an income-generating tourist experience.

Construction is underway on Guardabosques de la Sierra's expanded bean dryer and upgraded storage facility! The expansion of the dryer alone will increase cacao production by 35%, and the new tourist experience will eventually employ three full-time staff.

# Salud y Vida Polonuevo - Grupo Deportivo Juvenil Club de Voleibol Jaguares



Polonuevo, Atlantico  
\$1,500 USD

In 2010, 17 youth from Polonuevo established an informal volleyball team in order to promote inclusion, healthy living and teamwork in the town. Last December, they decided to formalize the group and compete across the Colombian coast with other teams.

The FOC grant has provided sports and work out equipment, and team uniforms for the team. They now participate in an intermunicipal league with kids from across the Caribbean coast.

The team now meets 6 days a week in 8 separate training sessions, divided by gender and age. They have also continued their own fundraising to help with smaller initiatives, but that fundraising is a lot more manageable, the new equipment has helped propel the team and better prepare them to compete in the region helping them promote inclusion, healthy lifestyles, and teamwork.



*"In our society, the majority of problems youth face is due to a lack of opportunities, this is why Club de Voleibol Jaguares created this initiative through the sport to help our young people invest their free time in productive ways that generate value to their lives.*

*With the Salud y Vida Polonuevo we have seen great results that has greatly impacted the youth (male and female) and their families, I can say that the new sense of motivation isn't just in the sport, but personal as well as they know they can succeed in their projects; we don't see ourselves only as a club, but as a family where we all help each other to reach our goals.*

*I would like to thank FOC for helping our project, because with your help our Club de Voleibol Jaguares has new equipment and uniforms improving our trainings and productivity, the youth have the will, the attitude, and the skills to get ahead. Many thanks once again and blessings to you all." - Arean Acosta, Project Manager*

# LALA Mentorship Program

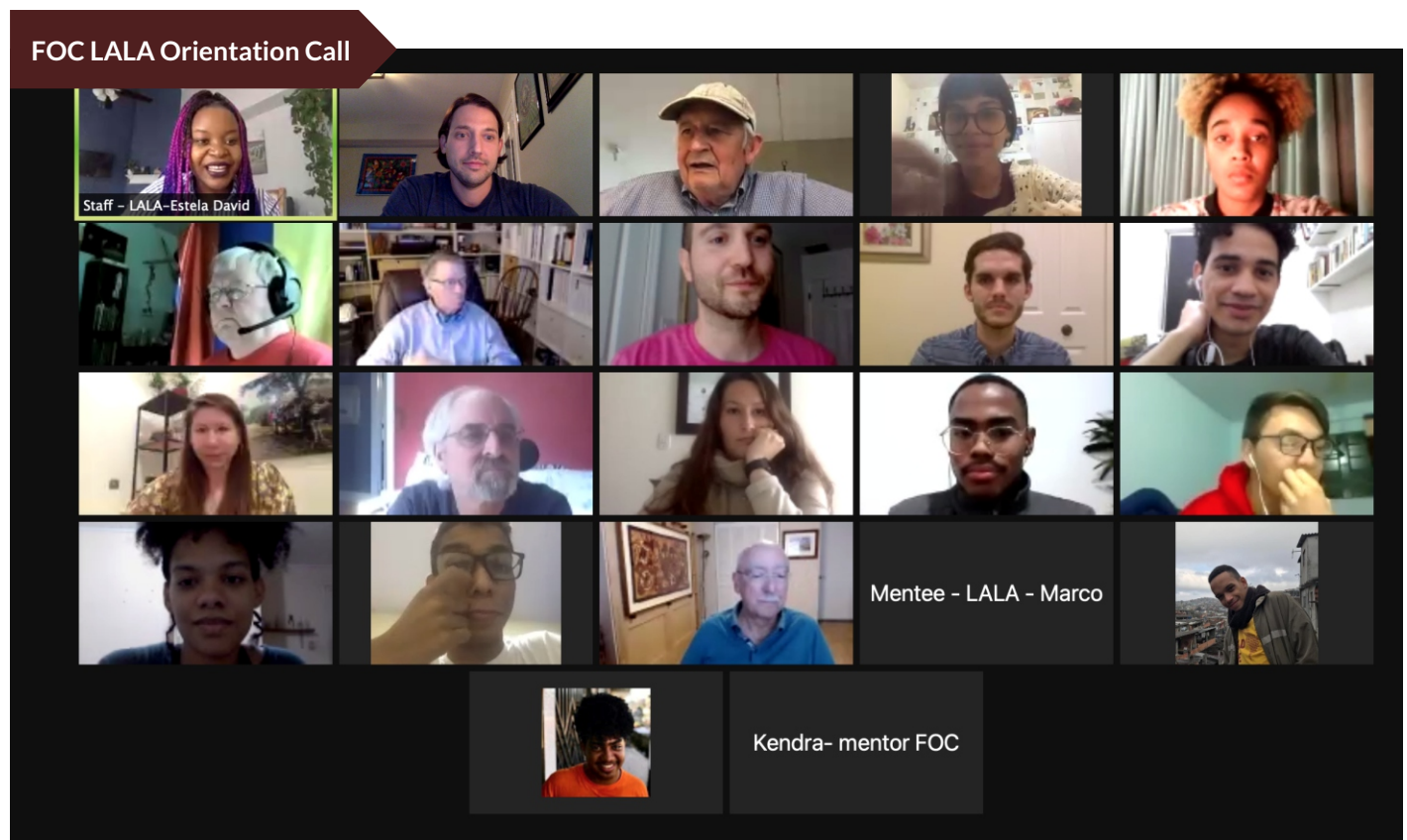


To expand FOC's collaborative partnerships with in-country organizations, we launched a mentorship program with the Latin American Leadership Academy in June. Based in Medellín, Latin American Leadership Academy (LALA) is a non-profit organization that leads social innovation and entrepreneurship programming for Latin American youth. LALA offers Bootcamps, an Academy, and Virtual Camps (V-Camps) to achieve its mission to find, develop, and connect mission-driven, principled young leaders across Latin America.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our FOC volunteers, we were able to match 12 mentors and mentees from the United States, Colombia, Brazil, and Paraguay! These pairs meet virtually almost weekly to practice conversational English, discuss and plan for professional goals, and share experiences ahead of LALA youth starting intensive Academy programming in February 2022.

Ideally, our two organizations will continue to support one another in the years to come by building on programming such as this, and connecting our networks for the further advancement and achievement of Colombian youth. For more information about LALA, please visit: <https://www.latinamericanleadershipacademy.org/>

If you are interested in engaging in this work, please contact *Alli Spring*, [alli.spring@gmail.com](mailto:alli.spring@gmail.com).



# Social Events

## Celebrating 60 Years of Peace Corps Colombia Group 1

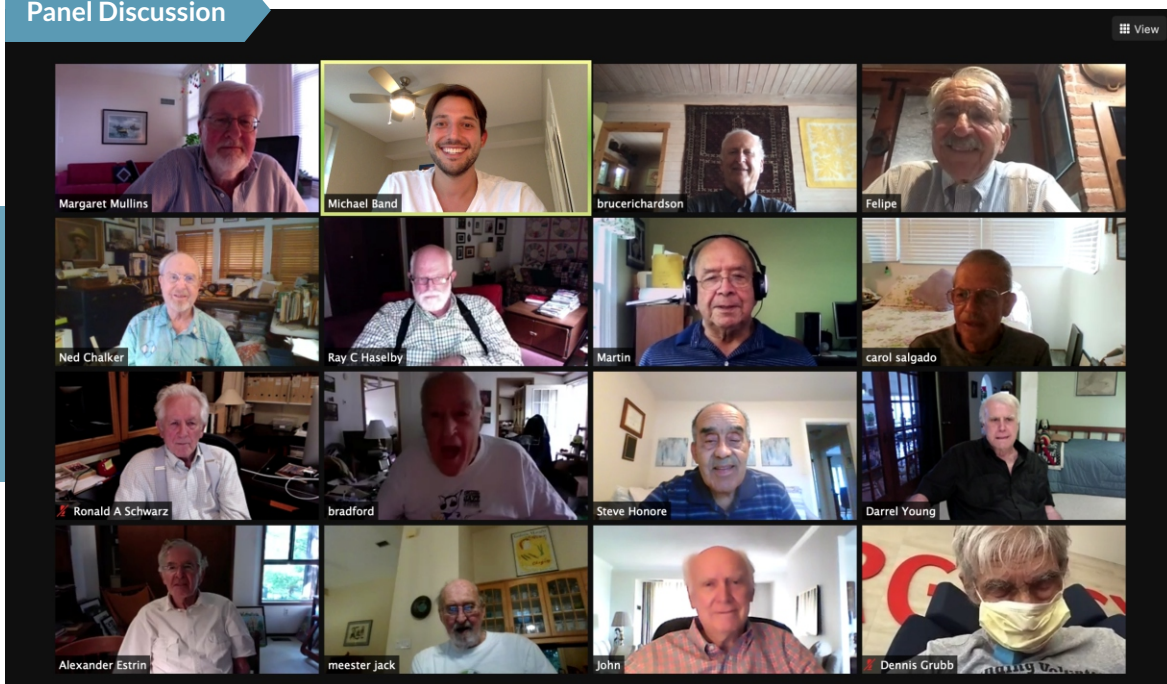
June 25, 2021, marked the 60th anniversary of the first Peace Corps group to begin pre-service training, our very own Colombia I cohort. To celebrate this anniversary, FOC provided a free online screening of *A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps* and hosted a panel discussion with:

- Tom Mullins, Peace Corps Colombia I group member
- Alana DeJoseph, Film Director, *A Towering Task*
- Matthew Carlson, Country Director, Peace Corps Colombia
- Daniel Avila-Camacho, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Colombia in the US

A recording of the event is [available here](#). Topics ranged from the history of Peace Corps Colombia, Peace Corps Colombia's plans for the future, how the pandemic and national protests have impacted nuestra querida Colombia, and much more!



### Panel Discussion



## Embassy Visit

Prior to returning to Colombia, Ambassador Francisco Santos hosted FOC at the Colombian embassy in Washington, D.C. in July. The dozen FOC members that attended enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres while we discussed the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps in Colombia and shared memories of our services with Ambassador Santos and other embassy staff.



## October Gathering

After nearly two years, we were finally able to have our first in-person social in October! We invited DC-area FOC members and friends to gather and talk about our favorite topic—Colombia! FOC members new and old showed up to enjoy some delicious food from La Fonda Paisa as well as some homemade treats. Some members got to meet in person for the first time and we welcomed new friends into our group, including some Colombian transplants and RPCVs from Colombia and other countries.

Katheryne Kramer (RPCV Turkmenistan) said, *“it was a great social event that showed the spirit of the RPCV community and it inspired me to learn more about Colombia.”*



# Financial Report

## 2021 Financials (as of 11/23, not including year-end donations)

Revenues	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Membership & Donations	\$ 36,688.27	Programs & Grants	\$ 36,935.00
Other Revenue	\$ 133.26	Administration	\$ 2,378.09
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 36,821.53</b>	Fundraising	\$ 5,197.49
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 44,510.58</b>

Earmarked Donations (still need to donate)	Amount
Marina Orth Foundation	\$2,000.00
TCP Global	\$1,500.00
Paso a Paso Donation	\$6,500.00
Magdalena Foundation	\$2,000.00
Camp GLOW	\$1,500.00
Tierra Grata	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>

### 2021 Geographic Breakdown

#### Departments that FOC donated to:

Bolívar - \$3,760 (Batambora \$1,000 + Fundación Koinonia \$1,170 + Tierra Grata \$1,590)

Atlántico - \$3,990 (FISDE \$1,050 + Club de voleibol Jaguares \$1,500 + Proedupaz \$1,440)

Bogotá - \$1,000 (Amuafrac \$1,000)

La Guajira - \$1,210 (Colectivo Mata 'e Pelo \$1,150 + \$60 bounceback)

Córdoba - \$1,725 (Chico Y Proqui \$1,725)

Magdalena - \$4,520 (Paso a Paso \$3,000 + Guardabosques \$1,520)

Putumayo - \$5,000 (ASOMI \$5,000)

Valle del Cauca - \$7,660 (Rotary Club Cali \$6,150 + Los Otros Yumberos \$1,510)

Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina - \$5,000 (Stand Up Providencia \$5,000)

Across Caribbean Region (Camp GLOW - Virtual) - \$3,070 (Donation in January: \$1,550 + Donation in July \$1,520)

**TOTAL: \$36,935.00**

# In Memoriam

The 60th anniversary of Peace Corps and Colombia Group 1 was sadly met with many losses in the FOC family. We hope that our end of year fundraising efforts can be made in memory of them. We will continue to support our ongoing partnerships in Colombia and hope to make an additional donation to Tierra Grata to support sanitation and health projects in disadvantaged areas on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Colombia.

We will continue to update our webpage with remembrances of those we have recently lost (<https://friendsofcolombia.org/in-memoriam/>).

In memory of:

- Dennis Grubb
- Margarita Sorock
- Susan Mazer
- Dan Wemhoff
- Irv Dubinsky
- Frederick Jaspersen
- Rene Fernand Cardenas

If we missed anyone, please email [president.friendsofcolombia@gmail.com](mailto:president.friendsofcolombia@gmail.com) with a paragraph about the person and we will add them to our website.



# Board Members



President  
**Michael Band**  
2011–2014, CII-3,  
Education  
La Boquilla, Bolívar



Vice President  
**Alyssa Galik**  
2016–2018, CII-8,  
Education  
Manzanillo Del Mar,  
Bolívar



Treasurer  
**Jenna Glickman**  
2012–2015, CII-4,  
Education  
Barranquilla,  
Atlántico



NPCA Liaison  
**Pat Wand**  
1962–1965, CI-8,  
Buesaco, Nariño

# Committee Members

## Communications Team

**Goal/Activities:** Manage communication strategy and operations for Facebook, LinkedIn, the FOC Newsletter, and other outreach.

- Cesar Castro**, 2012–2015, C2-4, Tubará, Atlántico
- Jerry Norris**, 1961–1963, C1-6, La Plata, Huila
- Jeremy Booth**, 2013–2015, C2-5, Barranquilla, Atlántico
- Ned Chalker**, 1961–1963, C1-1, Titiribi, Antioquia
- Laura Leiva**, FOC Communications Intern

## Membership Committee

**Goal/Activities:** Manage the Mentorship program, LinkedIn page, networking / career panels, and other opportunities.

- Maya Cross**, 2016–2019, C2-8, Manatí, Atlántico
- Alli Spring**, 2012–2014, C2-3, Cartagena, Bolívar
- Michelle Dileo**, 2016–2019, C2-8, San Jacinto, Bolívar

## Social Events/Fundraising Committee

**Goal/Activities:** Organize social events like virtual cooking and art classes, DC happy hours, and FOC fundraising/marketing materials.

- Michael Band**, 2011–2014, C2-3, La Boquilla, Bolívar
- Sarah Shaw**, 2014–2016, C2-5, La Boquilla, Bolívar

## Grantmaking, Monitoring & Evaluation Team

**Goal/Activities:** Manage FOC grant application process and evaluation/reporting standards. Review and select grantees.

- Brianna Castro**, 2012–2015, C2-4, Tubará, Atlántico
- Danny Butterfoss**, 2015–2016, C2-7 Response, Suan, Atlántico
- Christina Kuntz**, 2012–2014, C2-3, Cartagena, Bolívar



# Thank you

FOC needs your support! Our work is entirely funded by your generous gifts. Your donations make all of our programs possible. There are many ways you can support FOC:

- Make an online donation here: <https://friendsofcolombia.org/donations/> or send your gift to PO Box 15292, Chevy Chase, MD 20825.
- Select Friends of Colombia Corporation as your charity on <https://smile.amazon.com/>
- Join an FOC committee
- Write a story for our website.
- Tell your friends about FOC and share this report with them.
- Follow us on [Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn](#).

Thank you to everyone – members, donors, leadership teams, and partners in the field – who has helped us in our pursuit of bringing the people closest to the pain closer to the power.

**Contact info:**

[president.friendsofcolombia@gmail.com](mailto:president.friendsofcolombia@gmail.com)

**Address:**

Friends of Colombia

PO Box 15292

Chevy Chase, MD 20825





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