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Annual Report



CENTRO
INFANTIL
de los Angeles

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“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up”

Pablo Picasso

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MISSION

Centro Infantil de los Ángeles **provides free, high-quality early childhood education** to low-income families in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Our programs afford working parents (mostly single mothers) the comfort of knowing that their children are fed, nurtured, and taught in a safe and caring environment. Free childcare enables parents to work and **make a better life for their children**, who are more prepared to succeed in primary school and beyond.

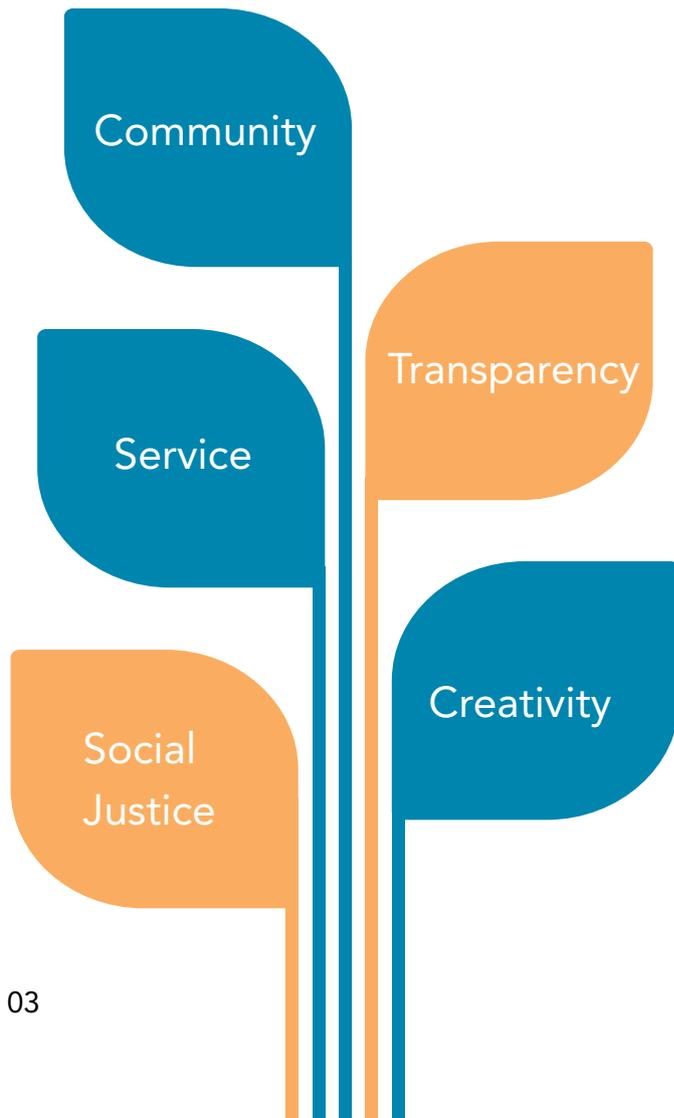


VISION

A generation of San Miguel de Allende **children to be empowered to live the lives they desire and deserve**, with the skills and confidence in themselves to thrive however they wish. No child will fall behind in education or development due to a lack of resources or support.



CORE VALUES



LOCATION



WHAT WE DO

Centro Infantil de los Angeles (Centro Infantil) provides excellent early childhood development that ensures **children's rights through health, nutrition, and educational programs**. We provide outstanding education for all our students, encourage gender equality, improve mental and physical health, and support every family's economic growth through upcoming expert lead workshops in entrepreneurialism.

We believe that education is the backbone for better futures. Our program provides a holistic learning approach to 120 students to prepare them to enter first grade. Our curriculum incorporates a **human rights and gender perspective** as well as a sustainability aspect to standard pre-k learning. In addition to our innovative curricula, our strengths-based approach works with students and their families to improve overall family nutrition, provide better economic opportunities for parents, and increase community engagement.



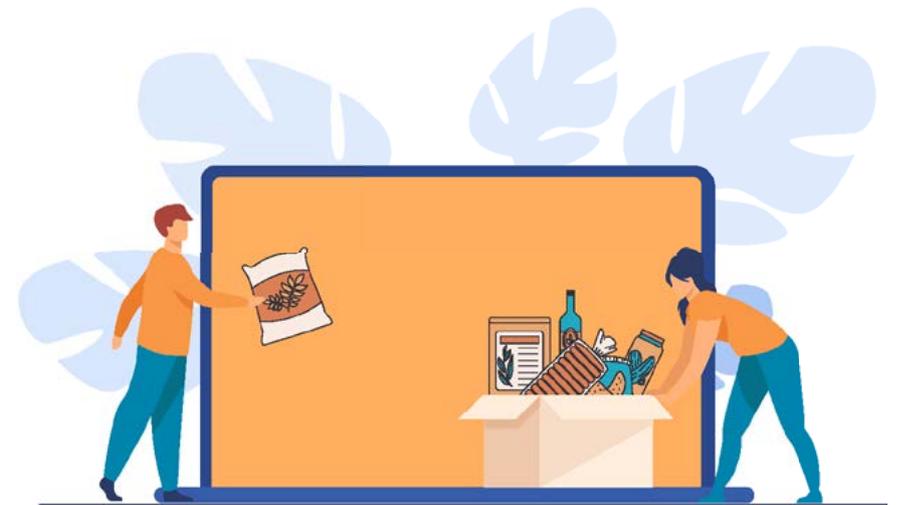
Centro Infantil was certified as a preschool in 2007, and since then our graduates have had an excellent record for staying in school and achieving above average academic results. A detailed study of 10 of our graduating classes revealed that **Centro Infantil graduates earned higher average grades than their peers in San Miguel** and in the entire State of Guanajuato. Given that our students come from the poorest families in San Miguel, we are extremely pleased and proud of these results. It is typical that academic performance increases with socio-economic strata, and the results that our students have obtained speak to the quality head start that we are giving them. It demonstrates that with care, compassion, and outstanding teaching young people from even the poorest families can continue their educations, perform above average, and have bright futures before them.

2020 IN REVIEW

This pandemic has shown us that education is vital as many children today cannot go to school. Thankfully, our program was able to continue through distance learning. Our Director trained Centro Infantil teachers to prepare and deliver weekly lessons and other resources for educational activities in the home. We provided parents with materials, schedules, teaching tips, and the hands on, support that they need to help their children continue learning.

Early in **COVID19 and quarantine in Mexico** (April 2020), Centro Infantil conducted individual family wellness checks and evaluations. These evaluations included employment status, household income, number of dependent family members in one house, and monthly expenses. Based on our findings, Centro Infantil identified families who were especially at-risk

or were already in crisis due to COVID19. These families make less than \$100 a month, which is far from enough to meet their basic needs. To tackle these issues, **we reached out to our individual donors and created a COVID19 Crisis Campaign to raise money and provide additional support** including special food deliveries face masks, digital thermometers, and other supplies. In 2021, Centro Infantil will continue to conduct wellness checks and evaluations with the most at risk families and to help them get back on their feet by providing food and other resources to the extent that we are able.





STATISTICS/RESULTS



1. Education

Daycare

As many of our supporters know, in May of 2020 our board of directors made the difficult decision to temporarily close our daycare effective in July. Of the 76 children whom we were serving in the daycare, 40 graduated to our preschool and began classes in August. We assisted the 7 daycare teachers in their job search, and all now have found other employment. We understand **how crucial childcare is for working parents** which is why we are working hard to find the resources to reopen the daycare as soon as possible.

Preschool

Our preschool numbers held steady in 2020 with 120 students aged 3 to 6 in our preschool – sixty in the morning session and 60 in the afternoon. In July 40

students graduated from our daycare and went on to first grade in the public schools, and we admitted 40 new students from our daycare in August.

Director Patricia Palacios responded quickly when Mexico closed in-person classes in May, as we pivoted to deliver quality remote learning. **Patricia and the teachers prepared online classes as well as educational materials and activities for those families without access to internet.** We also upgraded the internet connections of our teachers so that they could work more effectively and at the same time be safe by practicing social distancing. Thanks to Patricia and her team of 6 teachers our students continued learning effectively with the invaluable assistance of their parents. We are very grateful that our wonderful parents have been eager to help their kids learn at home during the pandemic.

Our six preschool teachers held online class four times a week with their and provided activities and homework to those families who did not have access to internet. Each Monday those families received homework to turn in by the end of the week. We had a total of 408 online classes for the 17 weeks of fall classes.



In addition to our regular curriculum, Elizabeth town College student volunteers from their Center for Community and Civic Engagement Program provided English classes once a week. All of our students received these classes – from our three-year-olds to our six-year-olds – each class learned about colors, shapes, animals, fruits, vegetables and more. **Our students loved learning English** and had an amazing time singing and watching fun videos with the volunteers. Last semester we provided over 50 English classes and had fun activities during our end of year event – all to allow our kids the opportunity to continue practicing English.



As we begin 2021, our classes will remain online through the end of June. We are waiting to hear from the Guanajuato Ministry of Education if we will resume in-person classes **for the 2021-2022 school year or have hybrid** – online and in-person classes. Either way, our kids will be learning to the best of their abilities!



EOY Education Achievement Results:

88%

Can write their name

92%

Can solve math problems by counting

97%

Use dialog and communication to solve problems

408

Online classes

50+

English Classes

88%

Of families with access to internet



2. Health and Nutrition

In January, we arranged for the San Miguel Health Center to provide every child with their required vaccines and vitamins. At the beginning of quarantine our Director Patricia Palacios Cortes conducted check-ins with each individual family to understand their economic and health requirements. Each family was provided information regarding COVID19, state health protocols and places to receive treatment if symptomatic.

Before COVID shut down in person learning in May, Centro Infantil was serving over 440 substantial hot meals and snacks a day to all our students. From January to May we provided **196 children with hot meals and snacks while monitoring their nutrition levels.** All of this was done with the vital support of Feed the Hungry, which is a highly respected San Miguel NGO dedicated to fighting hunger in our region.

With the support of Feed the Hungry we continued to provide critical nutrition to our families even after school closures. **Every two weeks, families received a "dispensa" or grocery allotment from Feed the Hungry for each family.** Dispensas weigh approximately 30 pounds and they include non-perishables such as pasta, rice, cereals along with milk, and some produce items. We identified 40 families for whom the dispensas weren't enough, and with our own funds we provided additional food and cleaning supplies which included items such as mops, brooms, sponges, soap and detergent. Together, Centro Infantil and Feed the Hungry provided more than 2,500 dispensas and over 640 cleaning supplies packages to 200 families.

2,500

Groceries Provided

640

Cleaning supplies packages

400+

Family check ins

The health, social, and economic environment in San Miguel is constantly changing, and this is especially so since the pandemic struck. Centro Infantil makes every effort to adapt and to ensure that we are serving our target population in the best ways possible. We conduct annual check-ins and evaluations of our families to guarantee their needs are met. Based on last years diagnostic, we learned that **our families want to achieve their economic and educational goals** which is why we are planning to pilot the Women and Children Allies Network (WECAN).





3. Entrepreneurialism and Livelihoods Project

Gender inequality is a problem worldwide. Although each country and region vary, **the ability of women to make life choices to meet their own needs is significantly less than men.** The consequences are less education, inferior employment, lower wages, less or no opportunity to own property, and few social and political participation opportunities.

In Mexico, being a woman means facing several obstacles to your full development. According to the World Economic Forum, **Mexico is ranked 64 out in the 149 countries of the 2019 gender disparity report**¹. Machismo and a patriarchal system severely

¹https://www.equalmeasures2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/EM2030_2019_Global_Report_English_WEB.pdf

affect opportunities for women. For example: Mexican women work primarily in the domestic sphere and men in the public sphere and as providers of household income². This gendered division of labor has caused inferior opportunities for women where they continue to be responsible for in home care activities and are therefore limited to outside opportunities.

According to UN Women, **the empowerment of women and their participation at all levels and sectors of economic activity is essential** for five specific developmental objectives: (1) building strong economies, (2) establishing more stable and fair societies, (3) achieving development and human rights objectives. (4) improving the quality of life of women, men, and communities, and (5) promoting business objectives and practices³.

²Instituto Nacional de la Mujer. 2012 http://cedoc.inmujeres.gob.mx/docVWumentos_download/101231.pdf

³ONU Mujeres, 2011 Principios para el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres: la Igualdad es buen negocio, pág. 4, http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/partnerships/businesses%20and%20foundations/women-s-empowerment-principles_2011_es%20pdf.pdf



In February of 2020, Centro Infantil conducted a baseline survey regarding the economic needs and priorities of participating mothers. Based on this diagnostic, Centro Infantil has taken the initial steps to implement **a new pilot program that will provide tools to the women who head the families of our students to improve their life opportunities.**

This project will ensure women are respected for their community contributions, develop healthy relationships that protect them from violence, break the cycle of poverty, and provide training and employment opportunities. **It empowers women by providing personal development workshops and business training delivered by community experts.** It will provide women with the tools to become community leaders and build better futures for their families.

Centro Infantil strives to identify and meet the needs of our community. Our program **provides childcare to women** so they can work while having peace of mind knowing their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment. We support women as they develop their personal goals, acquire new technical skills to improve their existing businesses, increase their incomes, and break the cycle of poverty.

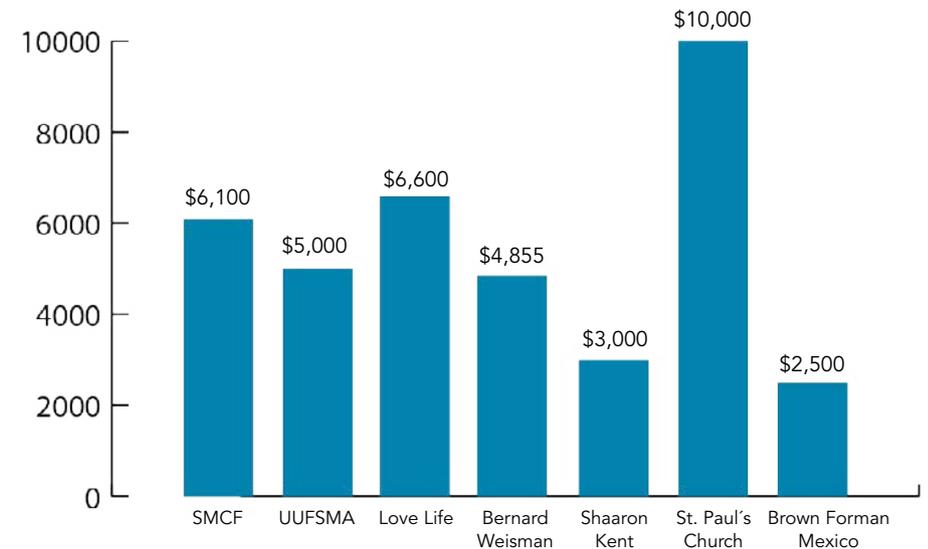


2020 FINANCIALS

Centro Infantil has always received financial support from local organizations in San Miguel de Allende. In 2021 our development team will expand its reach by connecting with international foundations in order to identify new funding partners that support our goals and provide a sustainable future for Centro Infantil de los Angeles and its participants.

In 2020 secured \$43,455 in funding from various foundations and private agencies:

Grants 2020





Individual Donors

Centro Infantil received 55% of its funding in 2020 thanks to individual donors. These donors went above and beyond when responding to our needs as an organization. **We would like to thank each one of you for the continued support you provide us.** Because of you we were able to reach our goal to help those families most in need who were affected by COVID19 and its repercussions.

Sponsorship Program

Sponsorships are a major pillar of our support system, and we are genuinely grateful to our sponsors for their valued support. Their contribution is meaningful, important, and deeply appreciated. The sponsorship program consists of regular updates about our students and what is happening at CILA. At the

end of 2020 we had **36 sponsors or 30% of our kids sponsored.** As part of our strategic fundraising plans, we hope to increase that to over 50% by the end of 2021.

Our strategies to reach this goal include better outreach, a new sponsorship page on our website and a new campaign to get 21 sponsors in 2021. Stay tuned and make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and the blog on our website to learn more.





Volunteer Program

Centro Infantil instituted its volunteer program over 15 years ago, and since then have over 2000 volunteers from 15 countries – a total of approximately 150,000 volunteer hours.

Last year, our volunteer program started strong with volunteers from all over the world including, England, Denmark, Canada, and United States. From January to May, we had approximately 11 volunteers help at our daycare and preschool before the pandemic hit Mexico. Thank you for making those first few months of 2020 so memorable for our kids:

- Felice Brokaw
- John and Dominick Zumbo
- Phillipa Burgin
- Isabel Corona
- Rosemarie Dakota
- Randi Coen Gilbert
- Helene Toulotte
- Nina Rysholt DyekjÆr

Although we had many interested volunteers for the 2020 summer and fall school year, due to international travel restrictions and safety protocols this program shifted to virtual volunteerism. From May to December, we had a variety of work carried out by volunteers. This work included social media management, website design, English classes, and donor mapping. Even though these volunteers preferred to help us in person they still provided a huge impact on our work – for that reason we would like to personally thank each one of you:

- Synclair Gonzalez
- Mikayla Close
- Sarah Hartzinger
- Matthew Sutton
- Cristal Negro
- María Fernanda Vizcarro Lin
- Mariana Lorena Cruz Vélez
- Paula Altamirano Patiño
- Regina Anguiano Rueda
- Sofía Véliz Ríos
- Ana Camila Serrano Aguilar
- Eugenio Robles Tinoco
- Gabriel Ismael Estrada Martínez
- Julián Alfredo Hernández Vite
- María Fernanda Chagoyán Guerra



We are well aware that current restrictions due to COVID19 will continue into the summer or fall of 2021. Because of this, Centro Infantil is at a turning point where we can reorganize the program by conducting new forms of outreach to gain new volunteers as well as improve overall rates of returning volunteers.

A new aspect of this program and a way to generate new volunteer opportunities is the launch of the Volunteer Network. In 2021, Centro Infantil will roll out the creation of the volunteer network. The goal of this network is to **increase volunteer communication and opportunities through collective stories and experiences.** Past and present volunteers can join the network through a Digital Platform for exclusive use of exchanging information, tell stories, help with fundraising and find new contacts to help Centro Infantil increase overall awareness, funding and volunteer opportunities.

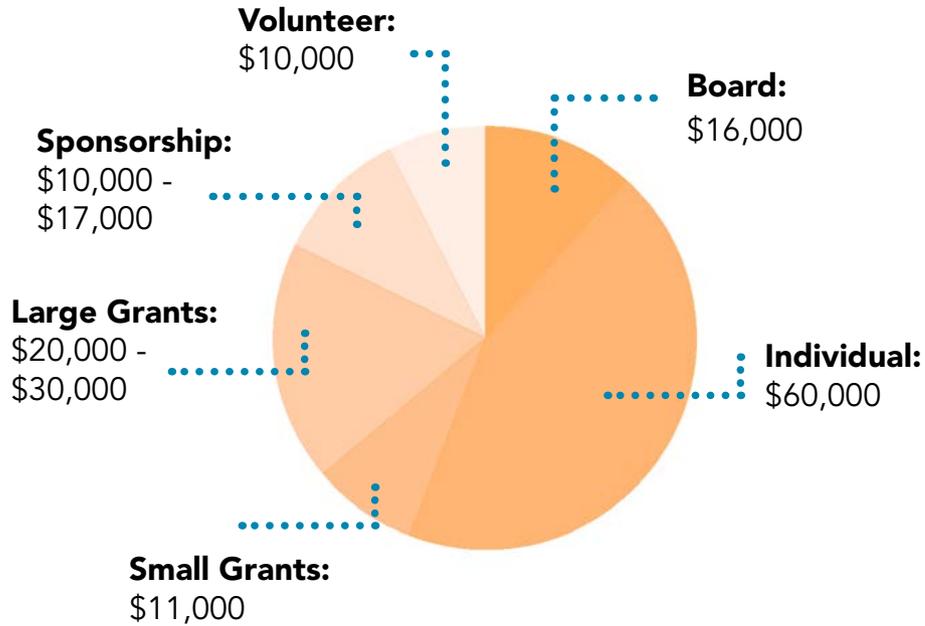
CENTRO INFANTIL DE LOS ÁNGELES

Consolidated Financial Statements
31 December 2020
Currency US Dollar

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	
ASSETS		REVENUE	
Cash	51,877	Donations	106,604
Investments	10,000	Interest	2,410
Real Property	439,059	Asset Valuation Change	36,776
TOTAL	500,936	TOTAL	145,790
LIABILITIES		EXPENSES	
Current	195	Operating	186,365
Long Term	0	Fund Raising	6,417
TOTAL LIABILITIES	195	TOTAL	192,782
TOTAL	500,741	NET INCOME	(46,993)

LOOKING FORWARD 2021

Income Goals 2021: \$127,000 - \$144,000



Our development staff is intact, and we look forward to meeting or exceeding our 2021 goals through a multifaceted strategy including personal communication, strengthened donor retention, peer-to-peer fundraising, our volunteer program, and executive giving through the board of directors.



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL:



It has become a cliché to say, “2020 was a year like no other,” but indeed it is true. Fortunately, the strong leadership of our Director Patricia Palacios Cortes and the tireless efforts of our teachers and our development staff have guided us successfully through the worst of the pandemic, and we are anticipating better times in 2021 and beyond. Even the darkest night has thousands of stars, and we are deeply grateful to all of those stars who make Centro Infantil possible – some are long term donors and some are new friends that we made in this past year. The support that all of you provide us is important, meaningful, and deeply appreciated.

