



# 2017 Annual Report

Contributors:

Daina Ruback, President  
Michael Kozuch, Board of Directors  
Fany Morales, Country Director



[www.camigasfoundation.org](http://www.camigasfoundation.org)

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## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

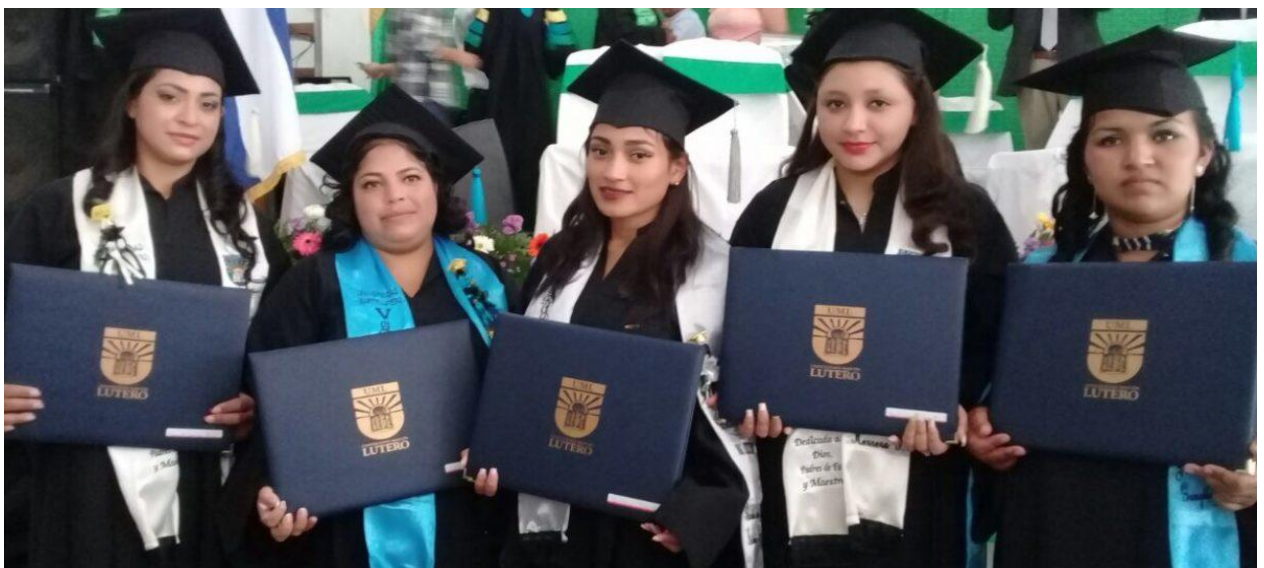
It has been an exciting year for us as we relaunched Círculo de Amigas as a new organization, now called **Círculo de Amigas Foundation**. I have been honored to step in to continue the work of the amazing women who have held this position before me, who created and developed and fostered this important program, which impacts so many lives both in Nicaragua and the U.S.

The highlight of our 2017 was the graduation of 10 of our university students! This accomplishment can truly not be overstated. These young women have achieved what less than 10% of students in Nicaragua have the opportunity to achieve. They graduate with degrees in nursing, teaching, rural development, veterinary medicine, and more.

As I reflect on this great success, I am so thankful for the broad community of support the Círculo de Amigas Foundation enjoys. Our dedicated sponsors and donors, active board members, and incredible Nicaraguan staff and tutors helped these students every step of the way.

This is the mission and vision we will continue to carry into 2018, as we work hard to recruit additional sponsors and funders which will enable us to expand the educational offerings and opportunities for our students in Jinotega.

My warmest thanks,  
Daina Ruback, *President*





# Programs and Impact



## Our Students

First and foremost we exist to help our student girls achieve what they thought was impossible given their limited resources. While the number of student sponsorships will fluctuate throughout the year we are always striving to add more students and support those girls in most need as long as our funding permits.

- **44 students sponsored**
- **10 university graduates**

## Our Community Impact

In 2017, the Círculo de Amigas Foundation (CDAF) reached thousands in the small city of Jinotega by working with various government organizations and outreach groups.

- **4,960 total direct and indirect beneficiaries.** These individuals include our sponsored students, participants of workshops, attendees of health clinics, visitors of our community library, hospital patients who received supplies from our student's community service projects, and more!

## Cooperation with Local Agencies

An important part of our program is the relationship that CDAF maintains with local agencies to bring programs that support our students and keep CDAF in good standing.

The following groups are essential to maintaining a vibrant program at the center:

- University of Martin Lutero de Jinotega
- Ministry of Health
- National Police
- The Mayor's Office
- Ministry of Education
- CEPS



# CDAF Programs

## Tutoring

In January of this year we had 13 girls that were at risk of losing their sponsorship because of poor grades. To meet their needs we placed a renewed effort into our tutoring program and the results paid off. Only two lost their sponsorship and one is repeating her year.

With a little personal attention, we realize the importance of our tutoring program and we are looking into be more effective across more subjects beyond the math and technical subjects.

To this end, we are thrilled to be offering a new level of sponsorship at \$20/month that will go directly into supporting this work among other career counseling and academic support systems. We feel that this level of sponsorship will enable millennials that are newly employed to afford monthly charitable participation.

## Lectures and Workshops

In 2017, the Círculo de Amigas Foundation (CDAF) reached thousands in the small city of Jinotega by working with various government organizations and outreach groups.

- **Our Students.** Several lectures and workshops were given on our premises for the benefit of our students on a variety of topics including:
  - Teen Pregnancy. (*University of Martin Lutero*)
  - Sexually transmitted diseases and risk (*Ministry of Health*)
  - Women's health (*Ministry of Health*)
  - Child abuse (*Jinotega Police Department*)
  - Nutrition (*Ministry of Health*)
- **Our Student Mothers.** While student lectures are important, we also target mothers in some of our lecture series.
  - Domestic violence and abuse (*University Martin Lutero*)
  - Parental Communication skills with youth (*CEPS- Managua*)

Lectures and Workshops by Police, Ministry of Health and other groups.





# Volunteering and Outreach

Our students realize that they are the recipients of tremendous assistance from sponsors and donors. To promote of sense of “giving back”, our in-country director initiated and managed two new programs, one in the community and another in-house.

## New Community Service Campaign

CdAF’s students collected supplies for over 120 patients and their families at Jinotega’s public hospital. The first campaign of this kind, our students plan on organizing and performing this service at least twice a year.

## In-House Volunteering

Last March we initiated a program whereby the students would spend 1 hour per week helping to clean and maintain our facility. This simple task resulted in saving the organization 10 months of a full-time employee doing the same work or \$1,623. More than the savings, this simple act of keeping our facility tidy helps to instill a sense of ownership and pride in our center.

## Fundraising and Repairs

Our facility desperately needed a new retaining wall and interior work which was completed last summer. To defray costs, the families of the students helped with free labor and the girls raised money to help pay for supplies.

Parents of the girls donated their time in doing critical repairs and upgrades to our facility.





Our students are ready to go, loaded with personal care supplies for hospital patients.



Patients are always surprised and delighted to receive the small gifts and big smiles.

The success of Circulo de Amigas is beginning to show the fruits of personalized aid where one by one we are lifting girls out of poverty through education.

It is also important to realize that through education, the girls can become responsible and caring citizens that inspire the next generation of girls.

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## Financial Status

### Income

Donations and Sponsorships\*: \$78,934.80

### Disbursements

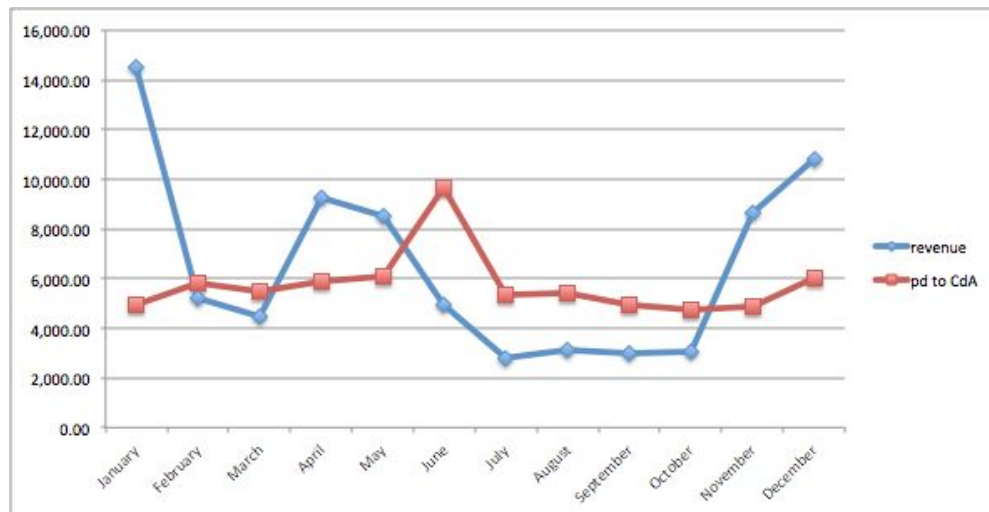
Grants and Donations to Nicaragua: \$69,267.55

Administrative Expenses\*\*: \$ 2,883.21

Thank  
YOU!

*\*Income includes payments made in 2017 that will cover some students through all or all of 2018.*

*\*\*Administrative costs in the U.S. include bank wire fees, Paypal fees, our initial incorporating startup expenses, web hosting and accounting fees.*



Our revenues are still below what is required on a monthly basis to keep our facility open in Nicaragua. This includes the cost of paying our tutor, maintaining our library, paying utilities and the local staff. Individual large donations mid and late year helped us meet our payments to Nicaragua. The large expense in June was the cost of university graduation for several girls.





## Executive Committee

President:	Daina Ruback
Vice-President:	Michael Kozuch
Secretary:	Ann Thorward
Treasurer:	Connie Sutton

## Board of Directors

Daina Ruback  
Michael Kozuch  
Molly Fairbanks  
Ricki Martin (with Richard Krueger)  
Camille McConnell (first half of year)  
Lisa and Rob Campbell (second half of year)

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*Circulo de Amigas Program Nicaragua*  
*Fany Morales, Director*

We could not run our program without the assistance of CEPS  
(Centro de Estudios y Promoción Social)



## Contact Information

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P.O. Box 7495  
Berkeley, CA 94707

[Info@camigasfoundation.org](mailto:Info@camigasfoundation.org)

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### Address in Nicaragua for Student Correspondence

Circulo de Amigas  
Barrio Lindavista Sur #32  
Jinotega, Nicaragua  
Central America

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Circulo de Amigas Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non profit charitable organization.  
EIN # 81-4751047

Our board of directors and officers are all volunteers and receive no payment.