

## ENDOFIEAR Report

Resilience —



PHOTO ABOVE / Foundation S.O.S. Somos Portuguesa provides care to the children that live in Portuguesa State, located in the central-western region of the country, through free medical sessions. Three of their medical specialists show the donated biosafety suits. *Photo courtesy of Fundación S.O.S. Somos Portuguesa*; OPPOSITE PAGE: PHOTO ABOVE / The Civil Association for Orientation and Comprehensive Training for Women (ACOFIM) launched its new initiative this year, Proyecto Soles, which includes school reinforcement, recreation and nutritious snacks. Boys and girls enjoy this initiative in Maracay, Aragua State, located in the central region of the country. *Photo courtesy of ACOFIM*; PHOTO BELOW / A child receives a kit for respiratory therapies (nebulizers) in the capital, Caracas. *Photo courtesy of Fundación Todos Somos Uno* 





#### **Our Mission**

Connect and empower Venezuelans and celebrate Venezuelan culture in Oregon and beyond

#### **Our Vision**

A strong community of Venezuelans in Oregon, celebrating their culture, and providing leadership for positive change

#### Our Three Objectives

Send humanitarian aid to Venezuela and Oregon

Promote Venezuelan culture in Oregon

Provide college scholarships for students in Oregon and Venezuela

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venezuelasvoiceinoregon.org

## END OF MEAR Report

This year 2021 has been very hard for everyone. We faced many challenges and unexpected situations. Solidarity and resilience are fundamental values for our organization, Venezuela's Voice in Oregon. These values have helped us continue with our mission of helping others and crossing borders. We call the year 2020 the year of solidarity, and the year 2021 the year of resilience. Solidarity and resilience go hand in hand, however, we wanted to highlight these two pillars of our organization and dedicate a space to each one by showing what we have achieved and what our scope has been.

We are a non-profit charitable organization registered in the state of Oregon that is dedicated to promoting Venezuelan culture, supporting education, and providing humanitarian aid. We have successfully adapted during this pandemic and continue our mission. We have enjoyed making our culture known here in Oregon through a variety of cultural events. Specifically, we offered educational workshops and had conversations via Zoom in the space we call "Venezuelan Cafecito" or "Coffee Hour." where Venezuelan talent was presented in a variety of styles. We have been able to continue providing college scholarships in Oregon since 2016 and continue to support college students in Venezuela. We have been able to continue sending humanitarian aid to Venezuela to various centers, hospitals, and communities in need, and expanded our scope by supporting certain communities in Oregon as well. And all of this is possible thanks to your constant support and all the volunteers. We are very proud that this nonprofit organization works only with volunteers.

We are all volunteers who dedicate our love and talent, our free time, weekends, and any moment to support our neighbor without distinction of any kind.

It is important to mention that volunteering gives us great satisfaction. By giving selflessly, giving of oneself, each one of us gives what they can and when they can. Our volunteers come to us out of interest to support our mission, either out of intrinsic motivation or because of a connection with Venezuela. Solidarity and resilience are essential to transform this world into a more pleasant one to live in, a more inspiring and welcoming one, and our volunteers notice it when they come to us. Already the world is difficult in itself and we try to make it a little better at least where we can impact or influence or in some way alleviate the pain. To do this, we have focused on supporting our community in Oregon and communities in Venezuela. We have achieved this with great success and that is why we are very proud of what we have achieved so far with volunteers.

Our team is small and we have evolved since our inception. I want to give an honorable mention to our co-founder María Eugenia Perdomo who has been a fundamental pillar in the realization of the mission we have traced since 2014. María Eugenia's heartfelt desire to achieve a free Venezuela fueled unity within the Venezuelan community in Oregon to join the organization in our fight for the Venezuela—to achieve a Venezuela free from the dictatorship and human rights violations the country continues to experience since 1999. In 2014, after several attempts at public expression in Oregon about

the political situation in Venezuela by members of the group at the time, many received threats which endangered the wellbeing of their families back home in Venezuela. Most of the Venezuelans withdrew from the organization, for fear of what the Venezuelan government might do if they were to continue participating in Oregon.

Maria Eugenia, Fanny González-McKamey (another great co-founder), and I were left with everything and nothing. We didn't want to give up the fight. We wanted to continue but we had change the direction of what María Eugenia had started. After several meetings and discussions, it was concluded that Venezuela needed help that we did not know how to provide. We only knew that the most important thing was to support our people in Venezuela. We made a 360 degree turn returning to the initial purpose. From there arose the decision to formally attain a nonprofit status and to focus on education, culture, and humanitarian aid for Venezuela. Thanks to the support of María Eugenia and Fanny, the three of us were able to found and register the organization in 2014 under the name Venezuela's Voice in Oregon, being the voice of education, culture, and humanitarian aid for Venezuela.

I want to reiterate my thanks to María Eugenia for her perseverance in uniting Venezuelans in Oregon to fight for a free Venezuela—thanks to her ideas, and thanks to her efforts. Without realizing it, she united us here in this country far from ours, 4,063 miles away (6,539 kilometers) from where a large part of her heart is located. Thank you, María Eugenia, for all your leadership for a free Venezuela, and for your support of our organization and mission so we can continue to help our people not only in Venezuela, but now in Oregon as well. We hope that in your new stage of retirement you can continue to unite people and inspire them with your big heart.

I would like to thank all of those who have accompanied us at some point in this fight, whether they have accompanied us for a day, several days or moments, and those who have been with us for years. Thank you all from the

heart. We have done all this with an open heart out of love for Venezuela and for all that our country gave us when we lived there. Everyone has their our own story about why they left Venezuela and why they are with us now, and that story is important to us. For this reason, we have created this digital magazine to bring you closer to the achievements we have had in these 7 years. Our hearts still cry for Venezuela; they cry silently when we are at our jobs, meetings or parties here in Oregon. There is always something that reminds us of someone we love there or a special moment that cannot be repeated here. What we left in Venezuela we will never forget and what we have built here in Oregon either. We cling to work, to friends who are now our brothers and sisters, to neighbors who speak different languages and have other cultures. We are Venezuelans who each in their own way can shine in Oregon and give the best we can. We are thankful for the community in Oregon that welcomed us with open arms and helped us achieve a new beginning that we hope will be full of success and love.

We have realized that we are on the side of those who give, that God put us on this side to support many people—something we never imagined—and we now have the joy of being able to do so. Many have accompanied us and we have been blessed with their presence and support. We will continue our mission to tell you that you are not alone, that we are here. That we have a community of Venezuelans in Oregon, and that it is wonderful. That Venezuelans abroad have had a very hard time and that we can shine in the dark and that we can move forward with perseverance, creativity, hope, and faith.

Thanks to our current team, our individual donors, our sponsors, our partnerships, and to everyone for trusting us. Thanks to Mariel Alvarado for sharing your art and creativity by creating this End Of Year Report. May this digital magazine be the reflection and beginning of many more successes in the community both in Oregon and in Venezuela.

An affectionate hug,

Giselle Rincón President Venezuela's Voice in Oregon

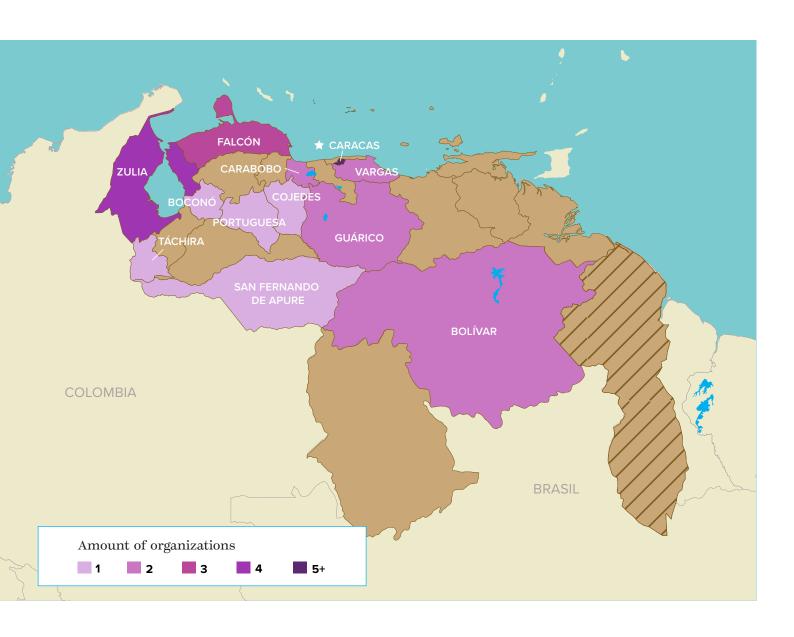
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Since 2014, Venezuela's Voice in Oregon has donated medical supplies, food, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to 50 organizations in 13 Venezuelan states.



PHOTO / The organization Coromoto 2020 organizes the delivery of food (flour, rice, sugar, black beans, sardines, tuna, and pasta) in five cities in Venezuela. This group of elders resides in Caracas. *Photo courtesy of Coromoto 2020* 



BOLÍVAR	COJEDES	SAN FERNANDO DE APURE
2 organizations	1 organization	1 organization
BOCONÓ 1 organization	FALCÓN 3 organizations	TÁCHIRA
		1 organization
CARABOBO 2 organizations	GUÁRICO 2 organizations	VARGAS 2 organizations
CARACAS 30 organizations	PORTUGUESA 1 organization	ZULIA 4 organizations

On the following pages, you'll find profiles on three of the many organizations we support...

#### Impact 2020 our donations to Venezuela

What we sent -



5,319 LBS OF FOOD





8,000 MASKS

#### Where the donations went -



**4 HOSPITALS** 



**7 ELDERLY HOMES** 



**8 RURAL COMMUNITIES** 

#### Who we helped -



**65 MOTHERS** 



**532 ELDERLY** 



**84 FAMILIES** 



#### How many students received scholarships from Venezuela's Voice in Oregon



**3 STUDENTS IN VENEZUELA** 



**2 LATINX STUDENTS** IN OREGON

#### **How many Venezuelans in** Oregon attended our events

\*all of which included COVID-19 safefty measures



**115 PEOPLE** 



**6 EVENTS** 

## Impact 2021 our donations to Venezuela

What we sent







Where the donations went







Who we helped









How many students received scholarships from Venezuela's Voice in Oregon



15 STUDENTS IN VENEZUELA



6 LATINX STUDENTS IN OREGON

#### How many Venezuelans in Oregon attended our events

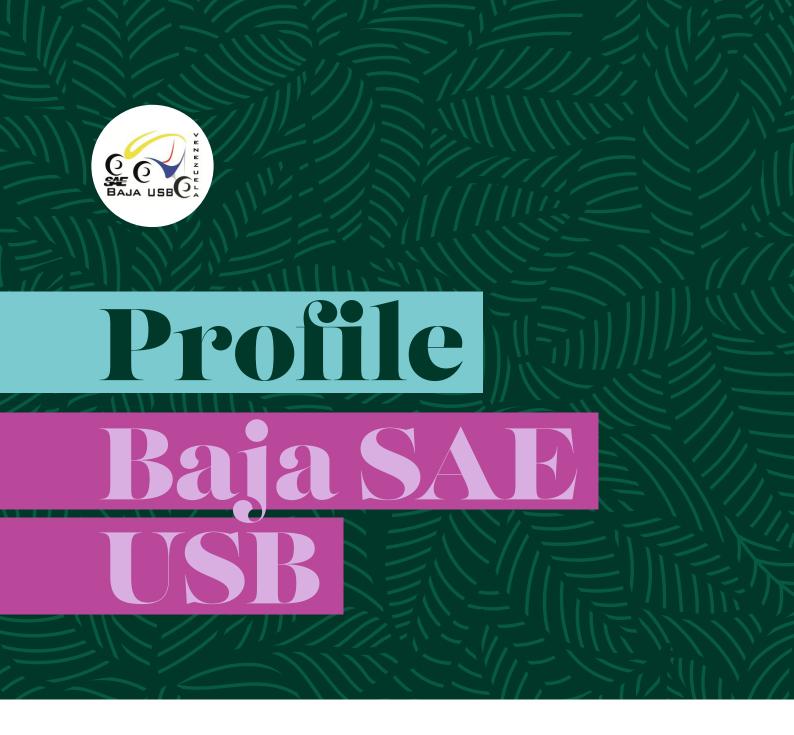
\*all off which included COVID-19 safefty measures



**100 PEOPLE** 



9 EVENTS



#### 2020 was a season of innovation for the Baja SAE USB team.

The team found ways to reinvent themselves and make the situation turn in their favor. Although it was not an easy task, they managed to consolidate a team willing to work regardless of the unique situations, to maintain communication at a distance and also to give their best when they were faced with one of their greatest challenges: document and design the first All Wheel Drive (AWD) prototype. Furthermore, their prototype is the first of its kind designed in Venezuela by university students.

The AWD prototype design will help the students at USB fulfill one of their biggest dreams for 2021: to stand out in the Baja SAE 2021 international competition. They were able to attend the competition thanks to the support of Venezuela's Voice in Oregon. The donations from Venezuela's Voice In Oregon paid for the registration to this prestigious event. Venezuela's Voice In Oregon has been part of Baja SAE USB's team since 2018, and a collaborator that has reached out to the Baja SAE USB team without hesitation. Team members from Baja SAE USB told us: Venezuela's Voice in Oregon trust us blindly. We are infinitely grateful to this organization and its members for the work they do. We assure them that we will always represent them in the best way.





#### Jerarly Quevedo

If I had to define this group in one word, it would be "evolution."

Hello, my name is Jerarly Quevedo, I am 19 years old, I am a Chemical Engineering student at the Simón Bolívar University (USB), and I am currently the Director of Internal Relations for the Baja SAE USB team. Before joining this team, I considered myself insecure, shy and incapable of daring new things.

I must confess that it was not easy for me to adapt and integrate myself into their environment, since I was not used to it and I did not know anyone. Many times I thought it was not my place. All that fear and insecurity vanished when I received a message asking me to be part of the team's Board of Directors. It was a huge surprise for me to know that my efforts were worth it to be taken into account in such a great work.

After all my experience in such a short time, I can say that Baja SAE USB is much more than building a car. Thanks to this incredible opportunity, every day I grow personally and professionally. Without a doubt, it is one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Now, I am a much more outgoing person, committed, without fear of leaving my comfort zone, and with skills to be a leader.

My moral is: The limits are in your mind. Believe in yourself, take risks and never settle.



#### Xavier Díaz

My name is Xavier Díaz, I am 20 years old, and I am from Caracas. I have been studying Mechanical Engineering at the Simón Bolívar University. I entered Baja SAE USB in my first university term without thinking twice. I simply went to the introductory meeting to learn from the team and I started the candidate period.

Baja SAE USB has become the second activity that I dedicate the most time to after my studies. This team has given me a sea of knowledge that I never imagined that first day, from the prototype design stage, its construction, and the tests later. I originally belonged to the suspension division, however, in 2020 I set the goal of being more involved in the administrative side to learn from both directions. Something that has characterized me in the team is that I like to participate in everything. Currently I am the Finance Director. It has been a great challenge to know the face of the team, complete the cost report and the cost reduction report, an important task, as well as obtain materials for the projects. Without a doubt, I made an excellent decision of joining Baja SAE USB.



#### Paulette Naranjo

I am Paulette Naranjo, I am 20 years old, and I am a Chemical Engineering student at Simón Bolívar University. I am currently part of the Baja SAE USB team as Director of Public Relations.

For me, Baja SAE USB is my second family. It is where I have learned to grow as a person and as a professional. That opportunity in life gave me the ability to grow and to meet incredible people.

thousands Beyond the pieces of knowledge on a scientific and administrative level I have gathered from working with Baja SAE USB, I have learned about organization, planning and patience. I have learned to work as a team, and understand and respect the points of view of others. I wanted to be part of Baja SAE USB just to live the experience but it became something much more than that. I am here because this project drives me every day to improve and to give my best. I am here for the lived experiences.

PHOTO / Prototype # 59, the first AWD prototype design made by Venezuelan students. *Photo courtesy of Baja SAE USB* 





#### Alex Fernández

My name is Alex Fernández. I am a Mechanical Engineering student and I am in the last year of my degree. I am quite a spontaneous and talkative person, diligent but lazy (sometimes one thing and sometimes the other). I really like to learn and am always researching something new. Baja SAE USB is one of the greatest student groups in the university. Baja SAE USB has taught me the value of teamwork, camaraderie, effective communication, and the importance of organization and planning in project development.

I joined the team in search of knowledge that would complement my university studies, as well as in search of new connections and friendships. I was looking for a new challenge that would take me out of my comfort zone. I currently hold the position of Technical Director, which from the beginning has been a great challenge as it requires me to be aware of activities, to contact people for support or information, and to make decisions when we are faced with problems. I have learned to deal with frustration when plans do not go as planned, and to work long days to get the work done. All these factors are both the biggest challenges for me and at the same time the reason why I am grateful I joined the team.

My teammates feed my experience as a partner, as a leader, and as a future engineer. During my time in this position, I want the team to go one step further, to climb to the next step, and for the next generation to be able to improve our results. That is my vision of the team.



#### The economic and social circumstances in Venezuela have strongly affected all Venezuelan communities without exception.

We can see this not only in the increasing rate of displacement—a phenomenon that the United Nations indicates as "one of the main displacement crises in the world"—but also in the existing crisis in the educational system of the country. Many people have seen the possibility of studying at the university impossible, I have even finished high school.

Obviously, these are not the only aspects that underpin the current decline of the country. Although only two of the problems that currently exist in Venezuela are mentioned, these work to point out two things: first, the high human capital that has left, and that continues to leave the territory due to unsustainable circumstances for anyone who wants to. a dignified life; and secondly, the lack of preparation of young people and children in the absence of an educational system that trains critical citizens, capable of improving themselves professionally to join the fight for the construction of a better country.



 $\label{thm:photo} PHOTO / A facilitator from Relevo Venezuela leads a workshop on values such as empowerment, empathy, inclusion, citizenship, awareness and creativity. These activities help young people develop a sense of identity and belonging. \textit{Photo courtesy of Relevo Venezuela}$ 

This small essay does not pretend to carry out an exhaustive study of the causes or consequences that have resulted in a Venezuela in deep crisis, on the contrary, by proposing these two elements as an argumentative basis, we propose the recovery of the country and its society through education, which has the power to train, create and propose new tools for problem solving. In this way, we seek to talk a little about our work and those who have accompanied us in the process.

Summarizing the year 2021 in one word could be almost simple. The pandemic has hit not only Venezuelans, but the whole world. That word would be chaos, but a chaos that allows reconstruction, that leads us to reflect on what we were, that suggests that we evolve at different levels in order to adapt and propose new strategies that allow us to face an uncertain future, and do better than we did in the past.

The past year was full of new challenges. The pandemic led us to evaluate the way we live in all areas, but especially in the workplace. Undoubtedly, these new challenges strengthened our vision, and that is why we believe that betting on a better future is essential for the construction of our country and a better society. This same idea is what makes up the dream of our organization; take action now to set an example for the generation that will take the lead, who, like us, will be prepared to find a way to face new challenges.

"We know that education is the main motor of a country's progress."

However, we do not travel this path alone. Education is our pillar and we believe that it is essential that young people have access to it to improve their situation and be an example for their communities. Scarlet Vegas is one of those people who has been able to fulfill her dreams thanks to Venezuela's Voice in Oregon; Their donations have been essential for our students to be able to complete the last quarters of her career, inspiring a whole community of young people who now see it possible for them to aspire to more.

Likewise, Félix García, Norman Vargas and Willy García are building their own professional future linked to this beautiful work of teaching and inspiring others who also need it. *Relevo Venezuela* makes this possible thanks to the support that Venezuela's Voice in Oregon has given unconditionally.

Therefore, to this sister organization, Venezuelans like us, we must thank them for supporting us and being part of this dream. We fight for a better country, for better Venezuelans and for equal academic opportunities. We know that *Relevo Venezuela* is not alone, but that it relies on VVO to share the success of each student, of each young person who is going to build tomorrow.



PHOTO LEFT / Several high school students receive math classes in the afternoons after school to catch up in their studies. The majority of these young Venezuelans come from vulnerable communities. PHOTO BELOW / Some of the group leaders from Relevo Venezuela. The leaders are college students who want to help the youth of tomorrow's generation. Photos courtesy of Relevo Venezuela

"We believe that betting on a better future is fundamental in the construction of our country and of a better society."



## Profile

## Foundation Todos Somos Uno



 $PHOTOS \ / \ Several \ boys \ and \ girls, \ patients \ with \ cystic \ fibrosis \ supported \ by \ the \ Foundation \ Todos \ Somos \ Uno, \ receiving \ donations \ of \ food \ and \ respirators, \ donated \ by \ Venezuela's \ Voice \ In \ Oregon. \ Photos \ courtesy \ of \ Todos \ Somos \ Uno$ 

#### A Letter from Nancy Romero, Director, Todos Somos Uno

My name is Nancy Romero. I am the director and founder of the Foundation *Todos Somos Uno*, based in Caracas, Venezuela. Our objective and mission at this time is to support children with cystic fibrosis, especially at El Algodonal Hospital. This chronic condition that affects the lungs, pancreas and liver, and our children present mild to severe malnutrition due to the same health condition.

The year 2020 for us was quite a challenging year because health does not wait. Life does not wait. The breath does not wait. And our children require medications that are unfortunately not found in our country at this time. Our main objective is to give you a better quality of life. While some children or young people think about playing, about obtaining toys, and other types of material things. Our children only think about breathing.

Among the success stories we have is the story of Ezequiel Lucena, a 21-year-old from Aracarigua, who arrived at the hospital with 29 kilos. Thanks to the medical team and the work of the Foundation *Todos Somos Uno*, he left the hospital 4 months later weighing 45 kilos.

We also have the story of Aarón Molina, a 7-year-old boy who lived in the hospital, always lived in hospital. Thanks to food, medicines, and care, he has not been hospitalized for two years. He was one of the children with the most hospitalizations and thanks to the care and assistance, he has managed to get out of this picture.

"Children with cystic fibrosis are not expensive.

They are valuable!"





Thanks to each of the people who have made this success story possible for our children. We can continue adding more every day. To you who listen to us through Venezuela's Voice In Oregon, which is our voice here in Venezuela, I request that you support us, support our children, support our kids, adolescents, who are here waiting to be heard, to be supported, to be embraced, and to all of you who made your contribution so that they have this quality of life, to all of you. God bless you all.



PHOTO / A young boy that receives treatment for cystic fibrosis at Todos Somos Uno smiles at the protein-based food donations, such as peas, eggs, and meat, normally expensive due to the economic situation in Venezuela. *Photo courtesy of Todos Somos Uno* 

#### THEIR OBJECTIVE

Todos Somos Uno is dedicated to supporting children with cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease in which the body generates very thick and sticky mucus.

Mucus causes problems in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs.

People with cystic fibrosis have frequent lung infections. Over time, they have more trouble breathing.

Beyond collecting donations to help the most vulnerable, the goal of Todos Somos Uno is to help raise awareness and understand that everything we sow today will be the fruit that we will reap tomorrow.

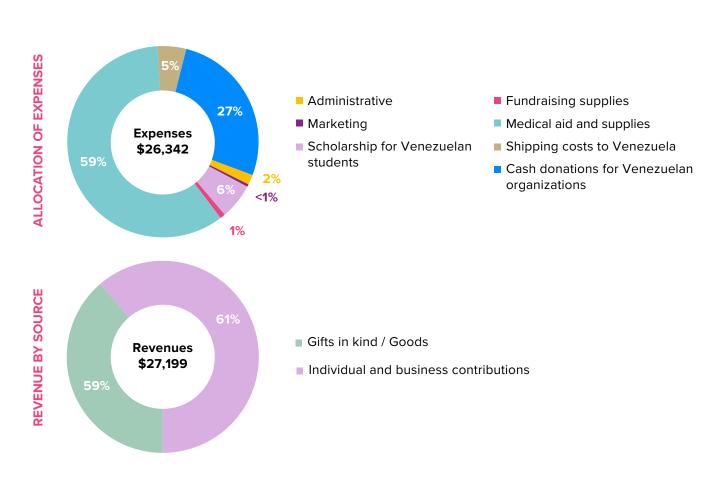
Venezuela's Voice in Oregon has consistenly donated medical supplies, food, and money to Todos Somos Uno since 2019.

#### Financial Summary, Fiscal Year June 2020 - June 2021

Revenues	
Gifts in kind / Goods	\$10,530.00
Individidual and business contributions	\$16.668.97
Total income	\$27,198.77

#### **Operating expenses**

Administrative	\$459.87
Marketing	\$117.98
Scholarship for Venezuelan students	\$1,617.00
Fundraising supplies	\$239.50
Medical aid & supplies	\$15,999.50
Shipping costs to Venezuela	\$1,293.16
Cash donations for Venezuelan organizations	\$7,193.02
Tota	l expenses \$26,342.18



### Thank you for accompanying us in making a difference to build a better world. Thank you for your help as always.

#### **Board of Directors**

Giselle Rincón, *President and Co-founder* 

María Eugenia Perdomo, *Co-founder* María Alejandra Lira, *Secretary* 

Francisco Aguilar Mariel Alvarado Karl Anuta Inés Voglar Belgique Victor Bencomo

Faye Koski

#### **Organizational Donors**

American Online Giving Foundation Benevity Giving Platform

Bonnie and Peter Reagan Fund, Oregon Community Foundation

Intel

LAM Research

Multnomah County Cultural Coalition

Nike

PayPal Giving Fund

Salesforce

The Standard Charitable Foundation
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

#### Partnerships in the U.S.

Action 4 Solidarity
AmazonSmile

American Family Insurance Benco Financial Resources Bravo Youth Orchestra Center of Migration, Gender,

and Justice CommunicArte

Directo de USA

GiveGab GoFundMe GroupRaise

Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

Kaiser Permanente KGA Integra Attorney Koski Accounting Solutions

La Arepa PDX Latin Media NW Loco por la Aventura

Medical Teams International

Mercy Corps MoonAtic

Multnomah County Cultural Coalition

Multnomah County Library

Network For Good

Oaks Park

OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center

Oregon Symphony Pati-Ya Boutique Perfect House Plug Interactive Project Access Now

Portland Youth Philharmonic Regional Arts & Culture Council Shriners Children's Hospital

Sisters of St. Mary's

Teote

Tuality Healthcare Wells Fargo Bank Willamette Dental World Oregon Ziba Beauty

#### **Sustaining Individual Donors**

Francisco Aguilar
Mariel Alvarado
Karl Anuta
Victor Bencomo
Carmen Bernier-Grand
Deborah Bischoff
Bryan Boudreaux
Karen Fernández Burke

Samuel Burke

Carolina Castillo Conway

George Gardner

Fanny Gonzalez-McKamey

Nick & Isa Hultink Faye Koski Leonor Leonard Madeline Leonard María Alejandra Lira

Christine Liu

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Margarita y César Montenegro Erich José Juan Pacheco

Ana Pardo

Isabel Parra

Kristin Wiseman Patzke María Eugenia Perdomo

Ghisleli Ramirez
Giselle Rincón
Alberto Rincón
Oscar Rincón
Patricia Rincón
Miriam Robles-Soto
Anibal Rocheta
Erick I. Rodríguez
Marinela Rosendo
Kevin Sinclair
Lucrecia Suárez
Elsy Ranmirez Tate

Lucía Toro

Jessica Tredinick Seth Truby Andreina Velasco Inés Voglar Belgique

Richard Wen
Maricely Zambrano

And many more constant donors

throughout the years...



PHOTO ABOVE / The co-founders (from left to right) María Eugenia Perdomo, Giselle Rincón, and Fanny González-McKamey in 2015; PHOTO BELOW / Venezuela's Voice In Oregon's board of directors celebrating with arepas and traditional Christmas music ("gaitas") in Southeast Portland in 2019. *Photos courtesy of Giselle Rincón* 





#### **Donate**

venezuelasvoiceinoregon.org/donate.html

#### Volunteer

venezuelasvoiceinoregon.org/how-to-help.html

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venezuela.oregon@gmail.com

