Amigos de las Américas
Annual Report
2017
Inspiring a generation of young leaders through collaborative community service and immersion in cross-cultural experiences
Dear AMIGOS Community,

2017 has been a momentous year. I have never been more proud of what we do or more certain of our mission and purpose. In a world divided, the work of AMIGOS is more important than ever before. We remain focused on advancing our programs so that more young people become globally aware, culturally adept, and civically engaged.

Thanks to our supporters, staff, and partners across the Americas, there are many accomplishments to celebrate in 2017:

- A successful 53rd year of programs: 737 students participated in our programs in 10 countries throughout the Americas;
- Expansion of the Gap Program to Cuenca, Ecuador, more than doubling the size of the program;
- The Discover AMIGOS Program, a two-week introductory program for students age 13-15, was launched, and educators interested in global leadership programming were invited to join;
- We are moving to “AMIGOS 365” – a new model for sustainable engagement through year-round presence and programming in every country in which we work; and
- Our Board of Directors renewed its commitment to leading the way in philanthropy to fuel innovation and ensure that AMIGOS programs are accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Today’s youth must be prepared to tackle tomorrow’s challenges. We have empowered and transformed more than 28,000 young people, thanks to our broad community across the United States and Latin America.

Thank you for your ongoing belief in our mission to enable more young people to learn about the world by living and serving in it. We could not do it without you.

With gratitude,

Sara Nathan
President & CEO
Impact

AMIGOS volunteers collaborate on service projects in host communities, becoming the global leaders we need in the world.

2017 Impact

- 10 countries
- 737 volunteers
- 200+ host communities
- 97% of volunteers reported positive experiences
- 82% of students received financial support
- Volunteers hosted 8,000 hours of community workshops
- Volunteers completed 250+ service projects

Programs

Core Summer Immersion
- Four- to eight-week programs for students age 15-22

Gap Year and Semester
- Internship programs for 17- to 22-year-olds

Discover AMIGOS
- Two-week introductory program for students age 13-15

Youth Ambassadors
- Binational exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State
Discovering the World Through AMIGOS

“This experience taught me to appreciate other cultures and to go into learning about them with an open mind.”

– 2017 Discover Program Volunteer

The Discover AMIGOS Program launched in 2017, opening opportunities for students age 13-15. The name of the program says it all. This introductory experience offers younger students the opportunity to gain exposure to a country in Latin America and fuels inspiration for continued exploration of the world beyond.

The 14-day program includes global leadership training, hands-on community service, reflections, and workshops, all guided by experienced AMIGOS staff. Upon arrival to Latin America, students do training and activities in a group before going out to a community to do a homestay, accompanied by an adult mentor.

The first Discover Program was launched in León, Nicaragua. Fourteen students enrolled and were led by two seasoned AMIGOS staff members and an educator mentor. The pilot two-week program was a great success on all counts. At the conclusion of the program, students shared highlights from their experiences. One alumnus reflected: “AMIGOS taught me how to interact respectfully with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds, as well as how to be a leader despite communication barriers.” Another shared: “The biggest thing I have gained is a much broader view of the world, and I also learned so much about local culture.”

Looking ahead, the goal is to expand the Discover AMIGOS Program to reach more students who seek an initial introduction to the world beyond. And, if we do our work right, the program will also serve as a stepping stone to the more in-depth service and immersion experiences that AMIGOS offers to older students.
“I saw such a change in my son after he came home. He seemed taller and more confident and ready to go into the world less of a child and more of an adult. AMIGOS made him more responsible and independent, and those changes have stayed with him.”

– Discover AMIGOS Parent
In 2017, the Gap Program expanded to South America with a second program site in Cuenca, Ecuador. The Gap Program offers students the longest and most immersive AMIGOS experience. Since the program was founded in Nicaragua in 2011, 71 high school graduates have participated in the program.

Through the Gap Program, volunteers spend a semester or an academic year with AMIGOS. Upon arrival to their host country, students complete a one-month training and language immersion in an accredited language school.

Following this initial immersion, students are placed in an internship where they volunteer approximately 30 hours per week. AMIGOS staff support students in the development of a community-based project, partnering with local members of the community in planning and implementation. Students also participate in educational workshops and excursions to other parts of their host country.

The Gap Program is next-level volunteering: the immersion and independence that the program provides students is life-changing. One alumnus reflected: “AMIGOS is a commitment. If you truly commit, you’re in for an incredible experience. AMIGOS gives you not only the opportunity to grow immensely as a person, but also teaches you to be a catalyst for positive, effective, and sustainable change. There really
is no other program like AMIGOS."

AMIGOS has operated in Ecuador for decades, first setting up program operations in 1973. The city of Cuenca was selected as the second program site for the Gap Program given our history working in the area and our ability to secure partners for internships in a wide array of fields. This Gap Program expansion in Ecuador supports our vision for AMIGOS 365 through sustainable, year-round programming in host countries.

In 2014, AMIGOS was selected as a partner by Tufts University’s Tisch College of Civic Life. The college was launching the Tufts 1+4 Bridge Year, becoming the second university in the country to design and fund a year-long gap program for incoming freshmen.

Through this program, admitted students complete a gap year with Tufts University before beginning their undergraduate education. AMIGOS is proud to have been a partner of the Tufts 1+4 Bridge Year since its founding.
2017 Financials

Revenue

- **Program, including fees and group fundraising**
  - Summer Immersion Program: $2,643,420 (61%)
  - Gap Program: $339,047 (8%)
  - Discover AMIGOS Program: $85,047 (2%)
  - Total: $3,067,733 (71%)

- **Fundraising and grants**
  - Individual, Corporation, and Foundation: $581,311 (13%)
  - Government Grants: $480,952 (11%)
  - Total: $1,062,262 (24%)

- **Investment and other income**
  - Total: $225,959 (5%)

Total Revenue: $4,355,955
Expenses

- Program-related expenses: $3,334,077 (79%)
- Financial assistance: $121,171 (3%)
- Administration: $396,217 (9%)
- Fundraising: $371,782 (9%)

Total Expenses: $4,223,247

*Audited financial statements and Form 990 for 2017 available at: amigosinternational.org/volunteeropportunities/financials/*
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“AMIGOS has changed me in so many ways. I’ve become more of a leader and gained a lot of confidence. After AMIGOS, I’ve begun to look at things from a bigger perspective and have such a strong appreciation for Latin American culture.”

– 2017 Summer Program Volunteer, Costa Rica

QUESTIONS?
Contact us to learn more about AMIGOS.
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