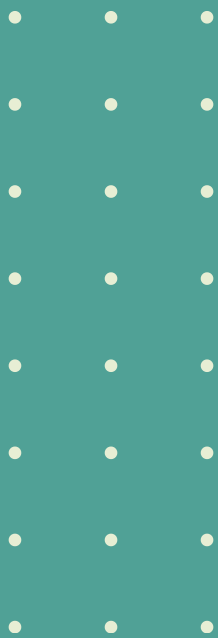


Amigos



Amigos de las
Américas

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Building Back

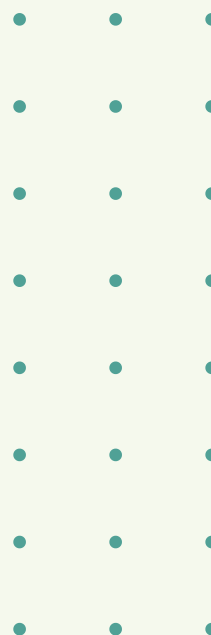
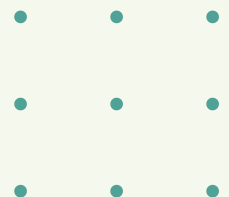




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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

These past two years have been the challenge of a lifetime. It is thanks to our incredible supporters, educator advocates, and community partners that we were able to continue building back our programs for youth in communities across the Americas.

I know we all feel that our communities at home and across the globe continue to experience great challenges. Every day, there are new crises and more communities hurting for one reason or another. Whether it is education and the opportunity gap, hurricane relief, health care, the environment, mental health... the list seems to grow.

I know you join me in agreeing the world needs future leaders who are going to step up and lead the way in tackling these challenges in the decades to come. This is how AMIGOS fits in.

At the earliest possible age, AMIGOS catapults young people into the world to learn across differences and gain hands-on experience working on critical issues affecting our communities. Through this, we cultivate a certain humility and inspire in students a lifelong commitment to the greater world around us.

In my role, I encounter alumni who share that humility and that commitment. Because of AMIGOS, their paths and perspectives were changed forever. I know that in nearly every cause we individually care about, you will find an AMIGOS alum. They are everywhere. I can attest to that! I too am one of them.

I am proud of the work our team accomplished in 2022. More than 500 students had transformational leadership and service experiences. They will carry forward this experience and join their nearly 30,000 fellow alumni in working to make this world a kinder, better place to live. We are creating the future we want to see in this world – one Amigo at a time.

Gracias,



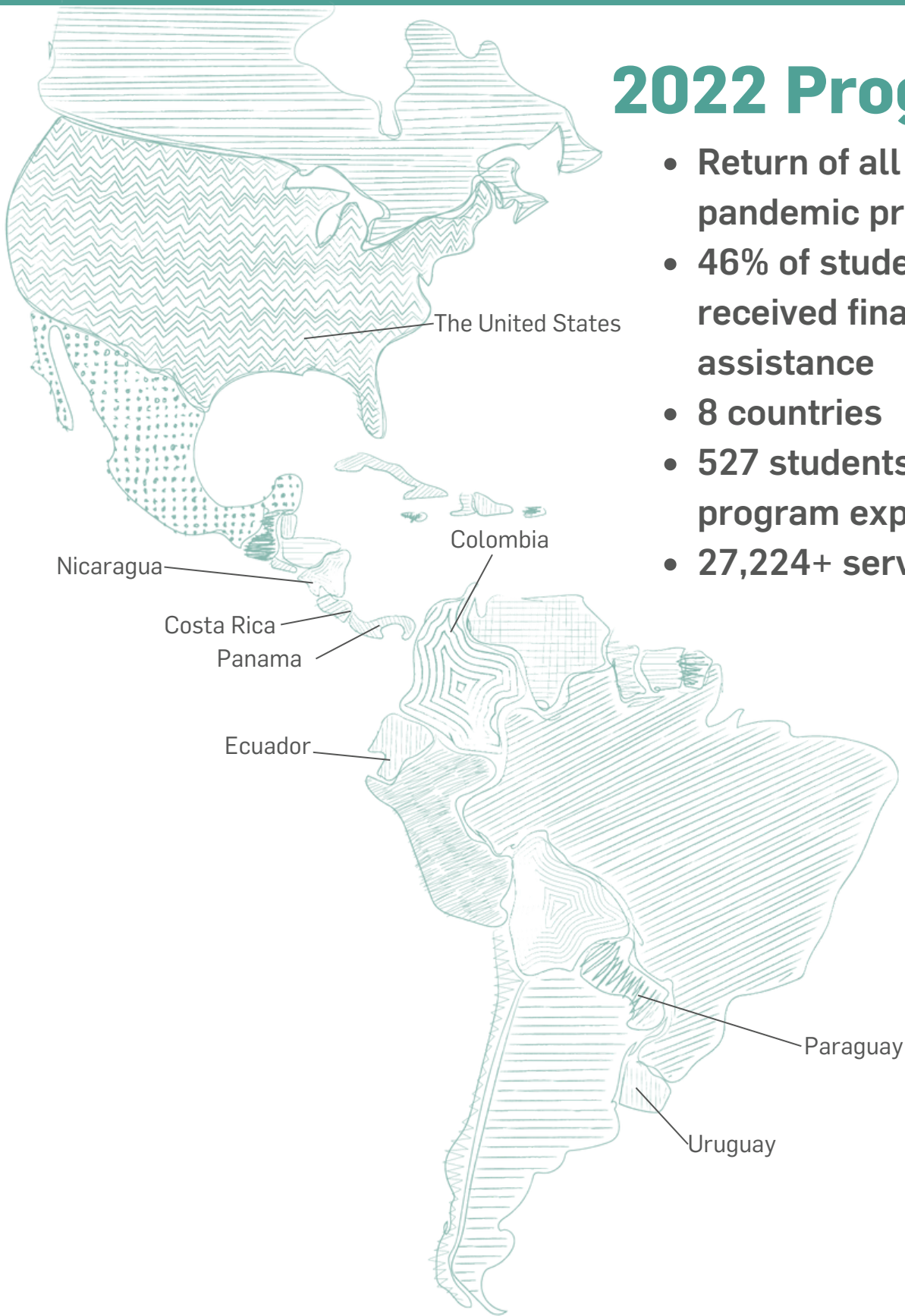
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Nathan".

Sara Nathan
President & CEO



2022 Programs

- Return of all pre-pandemic programs
- 46% of students received financial assistance
- 8 countries
- 527 students and 557 program experiences
- 27,224+ service hours



Summer Program

- 3-6 week programs for students ages 15-19
- Service topic themes: Renewable Energy, Conservation and Climate Justice, Indigenous Rights, and Food Security
- Locations: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Colorado (The U.S.)

Youth Ambassadors Program

- 9-month program with 3-week exchanges for high school students
- Funded by U.S. Department of State
- Location: Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, The U.S., and Uruguay

Gap Program

- Return of the semester-long program for high school graduates
- Accredited by the Gap Year Association
- Internship placements with local service partners
- Location: Ecuador

Discover AMIGOS Program

- 2-week introductory experience for 13-15-year-olds
- Group service and community homestay program
- Location: Panama

Social Impact Accelerator

- 16-week virtual follow-on program for high school alumni
- Seed funding for service projects in students' home communities
- Funded by Capital Plus Financial
- Student Locations: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and The U.S.

AMIGOS Alumni Connect



Our New Alumni Program

Over the past 58 years, nearly 30,000 people have completed an AMIGOS program. These alumni continue to support their communities in powerful ways. They are living the AMIGOS vision of a world where all people are lifelong leaders sharing responsibility for our global community. This year, we launched a new alumni program called AMIGOS Alumni Connect. This work was possible with the support of our AmeriCorps VISTA grant award.

AMIGOS Alumni Connect launched in June 2022. There are three pillars of this alumni program – increase connections between alumni and AMIGOS, create avenues for alumni to connect to each other, and share the stories and impact that alumni make in their daily lives. This work is just beginning, and we look forward to reconnecting and deepening connections to our alumni network.

2022 AMIGOS Alumni Connect Activities

Where Are They Now? Digital Yearbook

Happy Hours: Seattle, San Francisco, New York City, Washington DC, Houston, and Chicago

Bill Arnold Leadership Award

Social Impact Accelerator Follow-On Program

Growing LinkedIn Alumni Group

New Alumni Gear

Returning Alumni Merit Award

And more

Alumni Stories

Meet a multi-generational AMIGOS family. Olivia is a second-generation AMIGOS alum who participated in Ecuador. Her dad, Jeff Hill, also participated in AMIGOS years ago in Guanajuato, Mexico.

"I chose to participate in AMIGOS because I wanted to do something that would impact my life and others. My dad had participated in this program, and I had heard his experience and knew that this was something I wanted to do. The biggest thing I learned is that in order to grow you need to take a leap out of your comfort zone. Once you do that, you are on a path for not only growth but success. I saw this especially in my Spanish skills. I took the leap to fail, and through that I grew. I became a better communicator and was able to engage in meaningful conversations when we were out in the community. This really changed my perspective on taking risks and overcoming adversity."

—Olivia Hill

"I always wanted Olivia to do it, and after COVID I thought it was an even more unique opportunity to get out there. I think it is eye-opening to see Latin America and see what different levels of poverty look like compared to the U.S. I learned economic poverty isn't poverty of spirit or soul, and it really showed a way to live life in a much fuller capacity than we do in the U.S. We live in an age of too much connectivity to our kids; we can find them and see them and do anything at any point in time. It is good for our kids to go out and learn they can be independent and learn they can be out in the world. As well, breaking away from your current social parameters is a huge growth experience."

—Jeff Hill

STEM PROGRAM IN NICARAGUA

During the 2022 summer, AMIGOS partnered with the Honduran youth-serving organization Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo (ACOES) and enrolled seven Honduran students in our Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua Project. A passionate AMIGOS donor fully sponsored these students to participate in the program.

The project theme was renewable energy in rural communities. The group was comprised of Honduran, Nicaraguan, and U.S. students. It was a unique and powerful experience for this cohort to share with one another their culture, perspectives, and commitment to learning and serving our communities. Students from all three countries acquired professional skills and practical knowledge.

"Es una oportunidad y una experiencia de convivencia y de aprender nuevas cosas. Solo una vez en la vida se dan estas oportunidades." -Kelín, Honduran Student

"It is an opportunity and an experience to live together and learn new things. Only once in a lifetime do you get these opportunities."

AMIGOS has a long history of impact with Honduras beginning in 1965. Learn more about the Honduran students' experiences and AMIGOS work in Honduras [here](#).





The AMIGOS Experience - Certified

AMIGOS entered into a new partnership with Western Colorado University to certify the AMIGOS curriculum and training experience. Beginning in 2022, high school students who complete our summer programs and high school graduates who complete the Gap Program are eligible to receive credit for Introduction to Global Citizenship courses through Western Colorado University.

These courses offer an introduction to Global Citizenship and cover different topics related to leadership, cultural humility, and service through a lens of social justice. Additionally, U.S. volunteers in these programs may now elect to use a 529/Educational Savings Plan to pay for their AMIGOS program. This exciting new partnership deepens the impact of the AMIGOS experience for students and families.

AMIGOS Medical Director Transition

Gratitude to Dr. David Baron

After nearly a decade serving as AMIGOS Medical Director, Dr. David Baron stepped down from the role at the end of 2022. During his tenure, 4,872 volunteers received excellent health and safety support. He provided expert advice and 24/7 on-call support throughout the years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Baron supported the organization through a decade of immense change. He elevated the role of the AMIGOS On-Call Physician Team by creating a formal training program and by expanding the team to include more early career physicians. During the pandemic, his guidance allowed our team to be nimble and to adapt quickly – all with the highest priority of maintaining the health and safety of our students and program teams.

Thank you, Dr. Baron, for your service to AMIGOS!

Introducing Dr. Laura Grubb, AMIGOS Medical Director

Dr. Laura Grubb is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. She is board certified in Adolescent Medicine and Pediatrics and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health.



Laura has enjoyed working with AMIGOS since 1989 before she first joined as a volunteer in Bolívar, Ecuador (1990) and Oaxaca, Mexico (1991). In 2008, she started volunteering as a physician with the AMIGOS On-Call Health and Safety Team. She is excited to continue her work with AMIGOS and provide health guidance for adolescents and young adults in the years to come.

Our Youngest Amigos

Discover AMIGOS Returns

We brought back the AMIGOS Middle School Program in Panama. The program first started in 2017 but was on pause between 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. In the Veraguas province of Panama, middle school students participated in mock turtle egg tracking and transfer simulation, day-time turtle walks, and nocturnal turtle monitoring with the partner agency.



“...[AMIGOS] is very good if you are learning Spanish to get better at it. Like, I can tell myself that I have improved since I got here. And I think it’s just an amazing experience to make new friends even if you are shy. I think it is pretty easy to get to know everyone by the end of the trip. And I think it really helps you make good connections and like just become a better person altogether.”

—Santiago, 14, San Anselmo, CA

Hear from more of this year’s middle school students in our 2022 Discover AMIGOS recap video [here](#).



Return to Host Families



After two years of pandemic disruptions, we were finally able to fully return to our traditional host family program model. Students in many of our programs were able to live with host families, which is a powerful and rewarding experience. Host families support our volunteers and often help make critical connections to the broader community while undertaking their service work. The host family experience is the most powerful way to experience a new culture and new customs.

Charlie, a Gap Program student, shares a touching story about sharing religious beliefs with his host family.

"Before this fall, I understood that almost all people in Ecuador are Catholic. But as someone who does not practice Catholicism, I wanted to tell them about my desire to sit in front of a TV on Sundays while avidly checking to see how my fantasy football teams were doing. It probably comes as a surprise when I tell you that 30 minutes later, as a confident and self-assured person, I found myself not on a couch watching football but instead at the church crossing myself. Although it was never my plan to go to church, I found it incredibly interesting to learn about a different religion and the similarities it has to my own.

When Rosh Hashanah came, I told my family I was planning to go to the river to do Tashlich, a ceremony when Jews symbolically cast off their sins from the previous year by tossing bread crumbs into flowing water. Without hesitation, both my mother and my brother asked if they could join me. Despite being thousands of miles away from my Jewish community, I was still able to celebrate the Jewish New Year in a very meaningful way, and I feel extremely lucky to be able to share my traditions with my Ecuadorian family as they have shared their traditions with me."

2022 Lifelong Leaders Luncheon Benefit

The 2022 Lifelong Leaders Luncheon Benefit was a great success! More than 200 guests came together at Hotel ZaZa in Houston, Texas on Friday, November 4th. It was a true celebration full of smiles, connection, and inspiration.

The event raised nearly \$110,000 for AMIGOS programs and our financial assistance funds. Thank you to all the event sponsors, donors, host committee members, and attendees. We are encouraged by your support of AMIGOS programs and students.

Co-Chair Committee

Kellie and Chad Motsinger

Laura and Steve Otilar

Samantha Schnee and Michael Hafner

Kendall and Carlos Solé



Sara Nathan, President & CEO,
and Betsy Griffin, Honoree

Betsy Griffin, Trustee Emeritus, was recognized for her over four-decade commitment to and support of AMIGOS. During Betsy's impactful tenure, 19,273 students completed an AMIGOS program.



Tony Chase, Keynote, and
Steve Cook, Host Committee
Member

Nationally recognized multi-ventured business owner and AMIGOS parent Tony Chase delivered an empowering speech on the importance of bringing people together from different backgrounds. Tony paid tribute to his father, John S. Chase, who was the first Black student at the University of Texas and first Black architect in the state of Texas. Tony highlighted his son Jojo's journey to Panama with AMIGOS at age 15 and the curiosity about the world it created.

Financials

Revenue

\$5,029,118

Program (including fees and group fundraising)

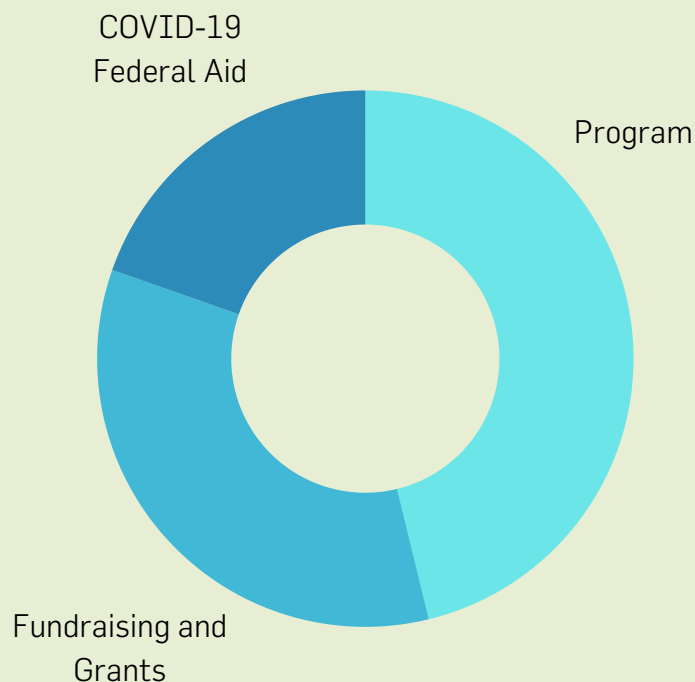
\$2,323,264

Fundraising and Grants

\$1,718,245

COVID-19 Federal Aid

\$987,609



Expenses

\$5,087,062

Program Related

\$3,875,443

Financial Assistance

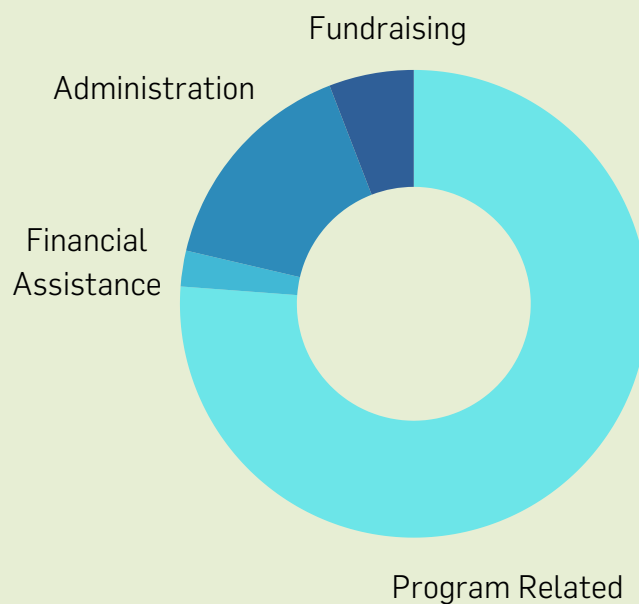
\$125,789

Administration

\$787,463

Fundraising

\$298,367



Leadership

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AMIGOS Insights - Board Chair Kevin Lanier

Kevin Lanier first joined the AMIGOS Board of Directors in 2016 and became the Chair of the Board in 2020. He has worked for Royal Dutch Shell over his career, which has included commercial roles based in Los Angeles, Mexico City, London, and Houston. The international frame of Kevin's training and work-life help him to deeply appreciate the mission of AMIGOS.

"I have been an AMIGOS parent (3 times). I was not an Amigo in my youth, and thus I am very jealous of my kids and all current Amigos. My son and two daughters each volunteered with AMIGOS, and I witnessed how impactful the experience was in forming them. They left home wanting to change the world for the better and returned having led part of a project in their communities that did just that. I wanted to get more involved with an organization that could inspire this kind of change in young people.

A common refrain today is that the world is more polarized and divided than ever before, but I reject this. We tribal humans share our "likes" and then are manipulated by seeing only more of our own preferences. This results in "more polarized and divided" perceptions. AMIGOS introduces our youth to more that is not like them. Amigos learn from those experiences and solve problems with help from others who are also learning from new experiences. They see the benefits of stepping outside of their "likes" and ultimately understand that there are also similarities across cultures. The world needs more young people like this.

I am excited about the organization's future, building upon the creativity and resilience of the last few years. Our leadership has begun evaluating a "Campaign for the Future" to not only build us up stronger than before the pandemic but also to scale the number of students and communities we reach each year."

Bill Arnold Leadership Award



The Bill Arnold Leadership Award was created to remember a cherished member of our AMIGOS community. Each year, we select a volunteer or project staff member to become a Bill Arnold Fellow. The award provides fellows a stipend to pursue an educational opportunity or a civic engagement opportunity. Meet the 2022 Bill Arnold Fellow, Dalia Hernández Abril!

"I am a young agent of change and a global citizen. I was born 18 years ago in a small town in Ecuador called Babahoyo to a close-knit family in which I have grown up full of dreams and with a persevering spirit...Thanks to this award, I plan to attend an International Youth Leadership Summit with the aim of specializing in community development. I firmly believe that many social problems can be improved through the participation of young people and our example of positive impact and our contribution to the development of our communities."

–Dalia Hernández Abril

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Monetary gifts or in-kind donations of \$1,000 or more to AMIGOS Headquarters.

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Anonymous (x18)

Questions?

Contact us to learn more about AMIGOS.

impact@amigosinternational.org

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**POWERFUL
SERVICE AND
IMMERSION
PROGRAMS FOR
YOUTH ACROSS
THE AMERICAS**

Amigos