



# Friends of The CCCO

Volume: 9 | Issue: 9  
2020 A Year in Review

*Giving is our Privilege, giving is our Duty, giving is our Mission*

## Our Vision:

Building together a foundation for children to rise to their own potential.

## Our Mission:

Through partnerships, we focus on breaking the cycle of poverty and violence by providing values-based education, quality health, and nutrition and caring personal support.

## Message from the President:

- 2020 A Year in Review -

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CCCO:

As I look back at 2020, I see how our combined love, dedication and resilience were a shiny force during what many consider the most challenging year of recent history.

Thanks to our board of directors, our volunteer team, and all our donors for your kindness, love, energy and contagious enthusiasm for our children in Colombia. Without you, we would have not been able to fulfill this mission ***over the past 29 years.***

This newsletter helps summarize our fundraising events from 2020 as well as the most important activities and changes that took place during the year. It will also provide perspective about the status of future projects that will further increase our impact in the lives of many Colombian children in need.

I started 2020 with a visit to the organizations we support in Medellin, Colombia: La Anunciación and Fundamas.

La Anunciacion is a school that looks after the health and education of 40 underprivileged boys and 35 girls while their parents go to work at nearby farms. I spent all morning with Joaquin (our local representative), and with Sister Aidee. I was very impressed with how energized and grateful the children were and I got to experience firsthand, some of their daily activities including one of the meals they receive each day.



I also visited FundaMas, a boarding school that offers shelter, food, and education to abandoned and abused children. It was

a beautiful visit as I saw how well the children are cared for and how they are being prepared to become independent adults in the future.

Afterwards, I visited Agua De Dios with Cesar Mejia (CCCO Board of Directors member) and his wife Lilian. After we arrived, we attended a Mass with the children. The kids put together a presentation for us and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

*"We feel so lucky to have been able to share a day with the children and seeing how they live made us realize how good God has been to us and our family. We are so glad the CCCO is helping these schools in Colombia with the support of all the Colombian-Canadian community"* Cesar & Lilian



*This picture was one of the many beautiful shots taken by Cesar during our visit*

Upon my return, the pandemic was declared, and shortly after, we realized the impact it had on our organizations. As we expected, FundaMas and La Anunciacion continued with their programs; however, our 2 other organizations: Nazareth and Santa Ana were forced to stop for the remaining of the year. This had a strong impact on their work, and I'm sad to share that Nazareth made the difficult decision of closing the school; which we were proud to support for 29 years.

Given those circumstances, we carefully reviewed and assessed other children organizations and I'm happy to share that we added: Hogar el Rosario in Armenia, a before/after school program that strives to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble; and Colegio Comunal in Barranquilla, where we will support education, health and nutrition of over 40 kids.

Throughout 2020, the CCCO supported nutrition, education and health programs as it follows:

Nazareth	\$9,500 CAD
FundaMAS	\$19,00 CAD
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$28,500 CAD</b>

I'd also like to share that our Graduates continue to do well in post secondary school. Oscar, an orphan boy, is now pursuing a military career. Three other alumni have each successfully

continued their education in psychology, children education and business administration.

Our annual events were also disrupted by the pandemic; however, our organization quickly adapted and we were able to run an on-line fundraising program in lieu of our Golf tournament, a virtual Gala and Auction Sale, and a virtual run/walk in Calgary. All these activities combined allowed us to raise a total of \$41,593 CAD.



Toronto Virtual Gala



Calgary Virtual Run/Walk

**Our Strategic Plan for 2021 is to:**

- Support the children programs at FundaMAS (Fundación Misericordia, Amor y Servicio) and Educational Institute La Anunciación, and to integrate Hogar el Rosario in Armenia as well as Colegio Comunal in Barranquilla. Our key focus areas are:
  - o educational and nutritional resources
  - o health care
  - o counselling and assistance so children will graduate from high school
- Research and support other programs within the mandate of our organization.

Below are our key fundraising activities for 2021 so **please mark your calendars:**

- Annual Golf Tournament: June 18
- Annual Gala and Auction Sale: November 6

I would like to thank our donors, sponsors and benefactors for your generosity, and our volunteers for the tireless work you do for us. You are all the heart of our organization.

Finally, I would like to invite you to visit us at <http://www.theccco.org> and follow us on LinkedIn [The CCCO](#), Instagram [The CCCO](#) and Facebook [The CCCO](#). You will find the opportunity to sponsor our activities, make a donation, or just chat with us. Be assured that your helping hand is enabling a brighter future for many needy children in Colombia.

Let’s keep in mind that “Within the child lies the fate of the future.” – Maria Montessori.

**Conchita Sanchez**  
President – The CCCO

Please remember there are many other easy ways to support the CCCO including:

<b>United Way Fundraising Platform</b>
If your company runs any fundraising programs through United Way, you can select the CCCO within the list of charities on their platform. Some companies also offer matching programs; which can double your impact.
<b>Benevity Fundraising Platform</b>
Similarly, if your company runs any fundraising programs through Benevity, you can select the CCCO within the list of charities. Some companies also offer matching programs; which can double your impact.
<b>Dedicate an Event to The CCCO</b>
Gather friends and family for a CCCO event, or dedicate an event (such as a birthday, baptism, etc.) to The CCCO. If you want us to attend, we will be happy to do so. We will share our Vision, our Mission and the work we do with your guests. All guests who contribute \$25 or more will receive an income-tax receipt.
<b>Donate Through our Website</b>
If you like to donate directly through our website ( <a href="http://www.theccco.org">www.theccco.org</a> ) you will receive the Tax receipt via Canada Helps.
<b>Apply for a Grant at Your Company</b>
Many organizations today give grants for their employees’ charitable work when they volunteer a minimum number of hours a year. You may apply for a grant in the benefit of the CCCO.
<b>Explore FlipGive!</b>
If you are thinking of purchasing a gift certificate, you can do so through FlipGive ( <a href="http://www.flipgive.com">www.flipgive.com</a> ) that groups hundreds of brands and makes a donation for purchases through their website.
<b>Donate through World Vision</b>
You can donate through World Vision if there is a program in the company you work for.

*The CCCO volunteers don’t receive any remuneration for the work they do; therefore, 100% of your generous donations go towards the support of our programs for the disadvantaged children of Colombia.*