

**AMIGOS**  
OF COSTA RICA

**2020 Annual Report**



# Rising to the Occasion



2020 brought us all unique challenges as **together** we faced our first global pandemic. Reflecting on the Amigos of Costa Rica journey through 2020, this time of fear and uncertainty was met with generosity and care. The number of donations we received increased over 300%, with many donors expressing their gratitude for having the opportunity to support people and communities they care about. Community organizations that had previously come together to help one another after floods or landslides once again organized rapidly to care for those in need.

This past year was characterized by **stories of connection**; by our need as human beings to care for one another. Donations poured in from tourists who fondly remembered the communities they had visited. A hotel developer (of a project now more than a decade old) generously contributed salaries for out-of-work staff at the property that he had worked on so many years ago. Those with a connection to Costa Rica reached out to their friends and family asking to help in supporting places dear to their hearts, and even those who had never been to Costa Rica donated - simply because someone they care about asked.

While in the midst of the pandemic, Amigos of Costa Rica also went through a significant change and was reclassified as an independent public charity in the United States. Initially established in the year 2000 as a supporting organization of the CRUSA Foundation, Amigos of Costa Rica will continue to collaborate with CRUSA and receive financial support from CRUSA while it works towards increasing financial sustainability.

Amigos of Costa Rica continues to play a vital role in facilitating the flow of funds from donors around the world to high quality nonprofit solutions in Costa Rica's communities. 2020 demonstrated a strong continued interests of donors to engage with Costa Rica, and Amigos of Costa Rica is well positioned to continue to provide opportunities for authentic connection with Costa Rica through philanthropy.

Muni Figueres, President

Emily Arnold, Executive Director

# 2020 VISUAL SUMMARY

## Mission:

Amigos of Costa Rica contributes to the well-being of Costa Rica by connecting donors' values and resources with vetted non-profit solutions.



**OVER \$4MM RECEIVED  
BENEFITTING COSTA  
RICAN NONPROFITS**

More than \$1M supported COVID-19 Relief Efforts

## Vision:

Amigos of Costa Rica will be the preeminent advocate for philanthropic engagement in Costa Rica.

**90 COSTA RICAN  
NONPROFITS SUPPORTED**

Amigos of Costa Rica Affiliate Organizations are approved annually to raise funds with Amigos of Costa Rica



**MORE THAN 5,000 DONATIONS  
WERE RECEIVED**

Number of donations increased by 300% over 2019



# Impact

Donations received by Amigos of Costa Rica contributed to impressive accomplishments by organizations around Costa Rica, including those mentioned here. Amigos of Costa Rica is proud to have made it easier for donors to connect with these fantastic efforts around the country.



**PLANTED 12,408 TREES**



**RESCUED 1,602 ANIMALS**



**61,180 COVID-19  
TESTS ADMINISTERED**



**OUTPLANTED 550  
CORAL SAMPLES**



**RELEASED 8,414  
TURTLES**



**PROTECTED 857  
HECTARES OF FOREST**



**SUPPORTED 357  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**



**1,874 KIDS RECEIVED BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES**



**1754 PEOPLE RECEIVED LITERACY EDUCATION TRAINING**



**REACHED OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE THROUGH  
CONSERVATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**



**EDUCATED 2050 PEOPLE ABOUT CONSERVATION**



**1,000,000 SURGICAL MASKS DONATED**



**5739 YOUTH RECEIVED LIFE SKILL/EMPOWERMENT  
TRAINING**

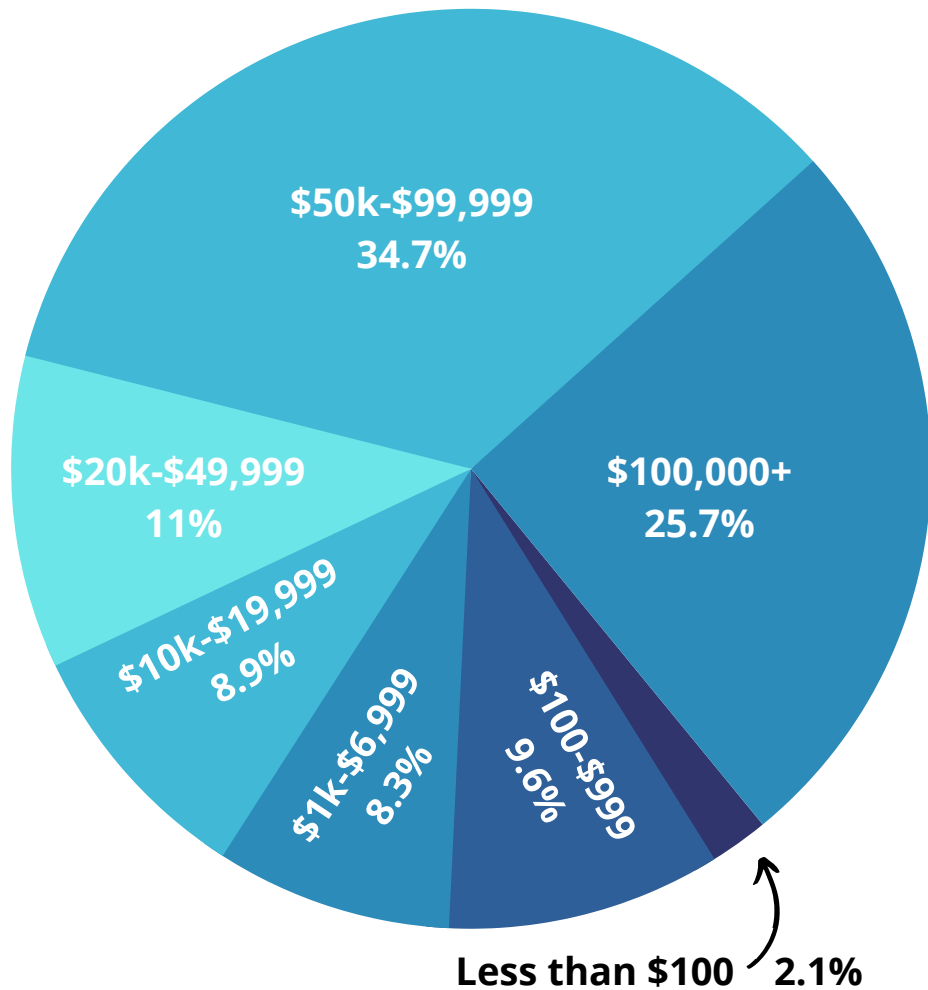


**2,668 STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT**

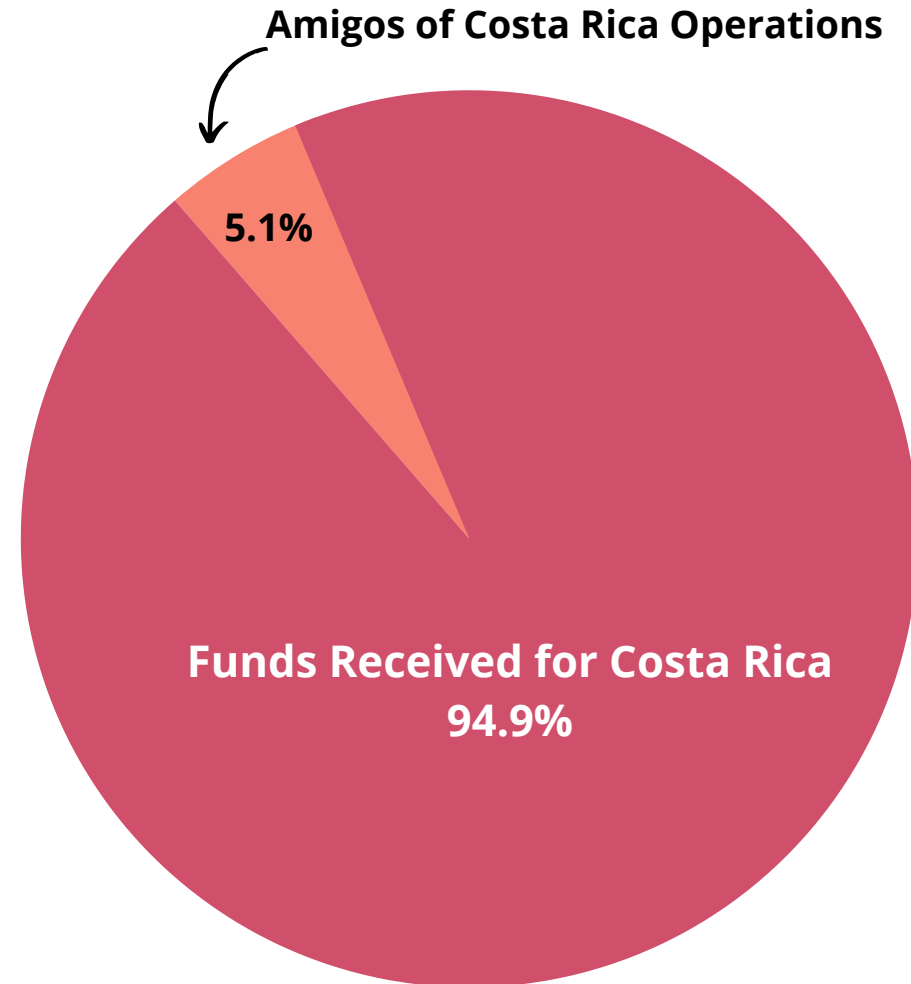
# Financials



## Size of Donations Received, & % of Revenue



## Expenses



For its 2020 operations, Amigos of Costa Rica received generous financial support from the CRUSA Foundation.

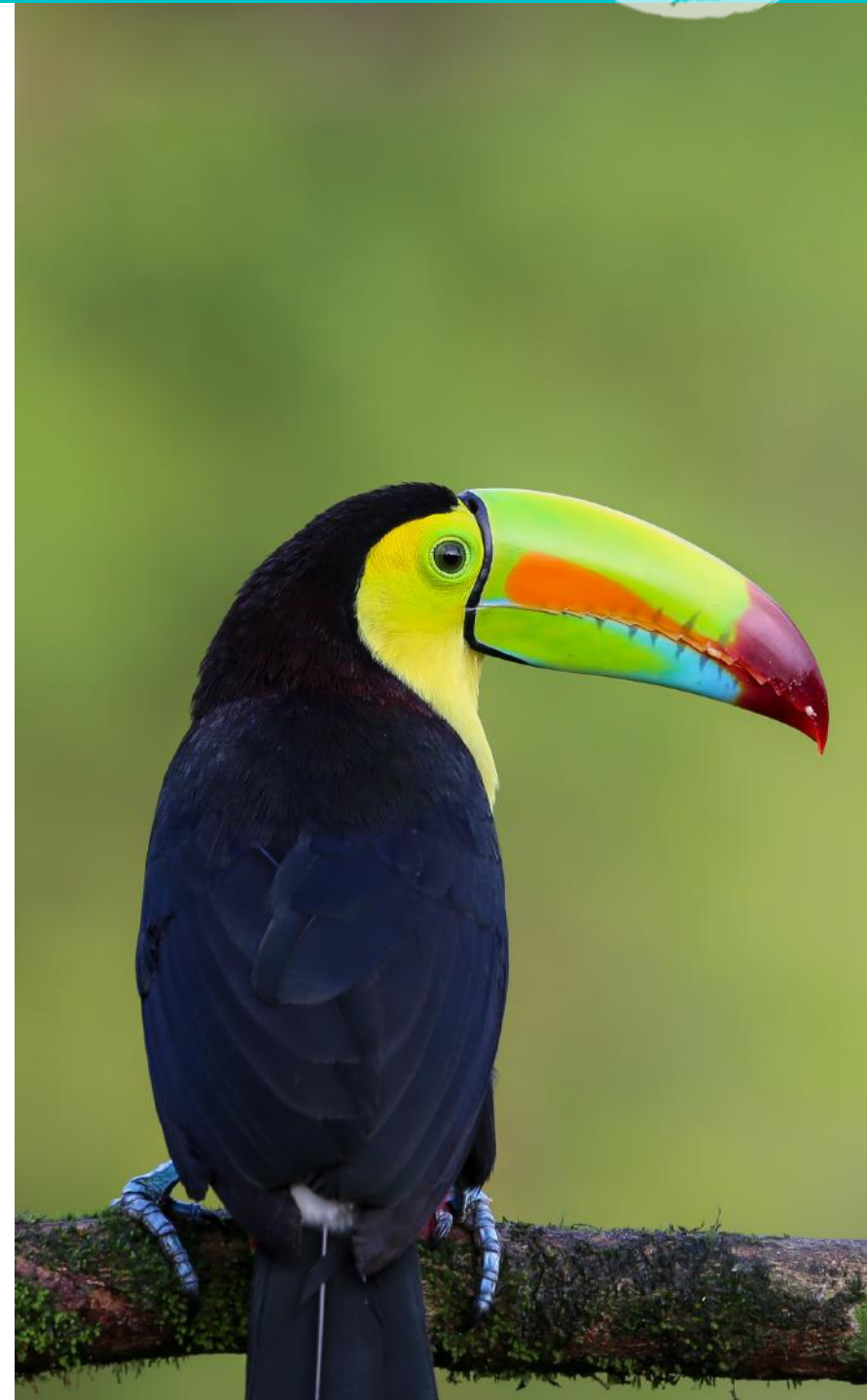
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## *Impact Summaries:*

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# In 2020, people from 42 countries celebrated their connection with Costa Rica by donating



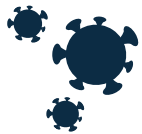
- More than 5000 donations were received in 2020, an increase of over 300% over 2019
- 90 nonprofit organizations received funding through their relationship with Amigos of Costa Rica, and increase from 62 organizations in 2019
- Over \$4 million was received to support philanthropic efforts in Costa Rica, with over \$1 million funding **COVID-19** related efforts



# Connection During COVID- 19

## Resilient Costa Rica & Proactive Testing

To address the myriad of challenges created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CRUSA Foundation rapidly worked with partners, including Amigos of Costa Rica, to establish two programs: Resilient Costa Rica and ProActive Testing. The Resilient Costa Rica Program allowed Amigos of Costa Rica to collaborate with community organizations in their COVID-19 relief efforts around the country. From food aid, to supporting continued access to local medical care, to direct economic aid the Resilient Costa Rica program connected donors from around the world with community organizations that were providing a true life-line to those impacted economically by the pandemic. The ProActive Testing Program gave donors the opportunity to support Costa Rica's pandemic response through the purchase of both tests and testing equipment.



**61,180 COVID-19 TESTS  
ADMINISTERED**



**1,000,000 SURGICAL MASKS  
DONATED**





# Feeding Costa Rican Families

When COVID-19 caused Costa Rica's international airports to close on March 18, 2020, overnight the country's tourism economy ground to a halt. By June, Costa Rica's unemployment rate hit a historic high of 24%. Through the **CRUSA Foundation's Resilient Costa Rica Program**, Amigos of Costa Rica was able to contribute to efforts that supported **9,500 families** with over **120,000** packages of food aid. In the majority of cases, food was distributed by grass roots organizations working in their own communities.

"Hay que enseñarles a comer menos"

**"We have to teach them to eat less."**

- A Costa Rican mother shared her experience of feeding her family during the COVID-19 economic crisis



# Impact Summaries



While many nonprofit organizations in Costa Rica added programs to contribute to COVID-19 relief efforts, their ongoing work around the country didn't stop. Amigos of Costa Rica received funds for organizations focusing on a wide variety of impact areas.





# Conservation and Restoration



Many Amigos of Costa Rica Affiliate Organizations continued their efforts in conservation, working to restore both habitats and vulnerable populations. Funds received from Amigos of Costa Rica contributed to the important impact that these organizations had throughout the year, with some organizations reporting that the only funds received in 2020 came from Amigos of Costa Rica donors.



**PLANTED 12,408 TREES**



**PROTECTED 857  
HECTARES OF FOREST**



**RESCUED 1,602 ANIMALS**



**RELEASED 8,414  
TURTLES**



**50,232 COVID-19  
TESTS ADMINISTERED**



**OUTPLANTED 550  
CORAL SAMPLES**



# Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Education



With the challenges of the global pandemic came additional challenges: pressure on local natural resources as economic opportunities swiftly disappeared. A desire to increase local self sufficiency in the face of global uncertainty fueled creative programs around the country. Many Amigos of Costa Rica Affiliate Organizations launched community gardens, often providing opportunities for unemployed tourism workers to serve their communities. Organizations also focused on renewing efforts to support local conservation efforts in the face of increased pressure on resources.



**TRAINED 53 FAMILIES IN  
VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**



**SUPPORTED 357  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**



**REACHED OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE THROUGH  
CONSERVATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**



**EDUCATED 2050 PEOPLE ABOUT CONSERVATION**





# Investing in our future



Throughout the year, Amigos of Costa Rica Affiliate Organizations worked to support youth in many ways. Many Costa Rican children were educated remotely receiving monthly packets of educational materials. We heard stories of Affiliate Organizations helping parents brush up on their reading skills so that those parents could better help their children with their educations. The community of **San Josecito** was able to have internet connectivity for the first time thanks to the generosity of a neighboring community. Through **TeenSmart**'s online platform, youth were able to stay connected with their dreams for the future. **Amigos del Aprendizaje** helped teachers improve their skills in literacy education through remote trainings. The **David Kitson Library** worked to support families engaged in remote education and supplied reading materials. The generosity of Amigos of Costa Rica donors contributed to these organizations' abilities to implement these important programs.



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# Supporting Nonprofit Leaders

Supporting one's community through a global health crisis and a national economic crisis takes a toll. Throughout 2020, Amigos of Costa Rica worked to build community and support for nonprofit leaders. We convened zoom calls to share best practices in providing relief, and we brainstormed and lent an ear when things got overwhelming. Throughout a year characterized by increased isolation, Amigos of Costa Rica worked to provide additional support to community leaders around Costa Rica and the donors who wanted to connect with them.

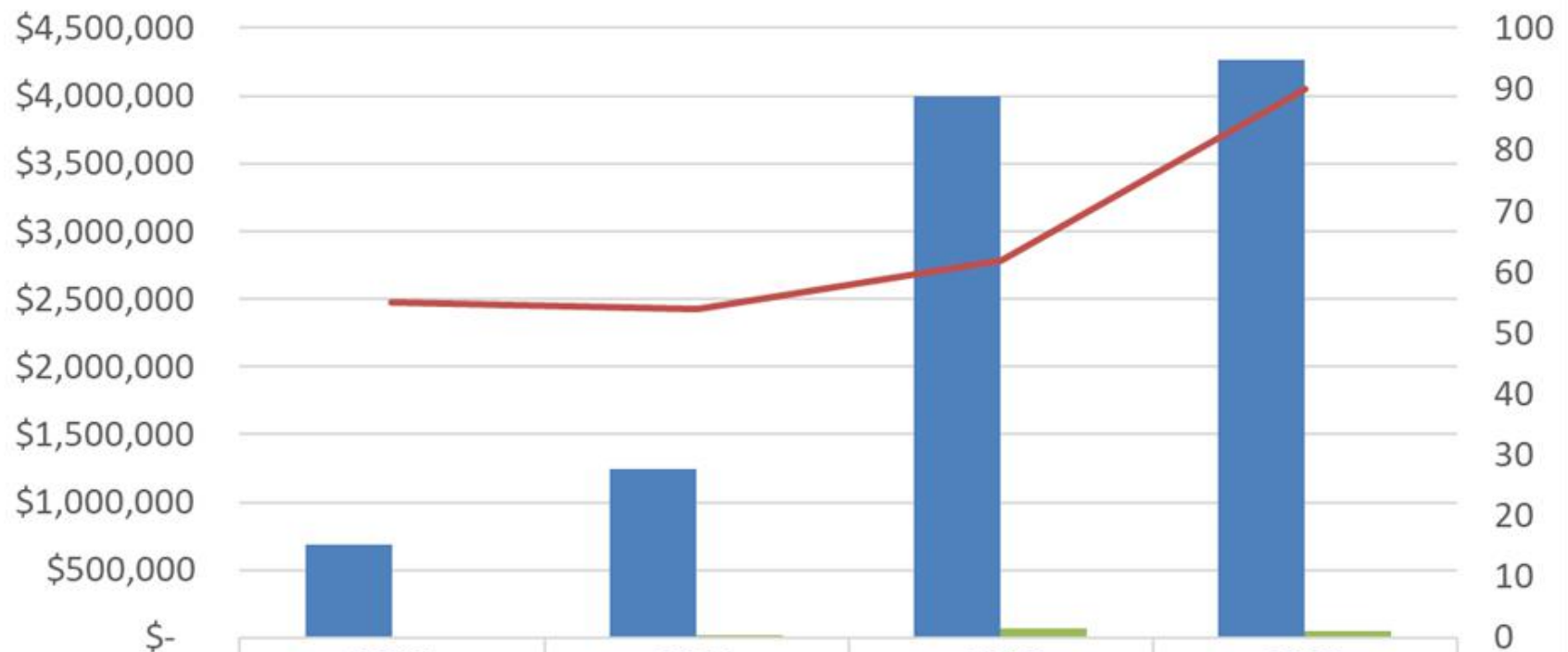


zoom

# Growth of Amigos of Costa Rica



2017-2020 Donations



Total Donation \$	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Donation \$				
Number of Orgs Benefited				

# Thank you Board Members and Volunteers



We are sincerely grateful for the efforts of our Board Members and volunteers

## **2020 Board Members:**

Muni Figueres  
Henry Gonzalez  
Dan Martin  
Flora Montealegre  
Will Harsh  
Pilar Madrigal  
Michale Gabriel  
Harry Odio

## **2020 Volunteers:**

Olivia Sarno  
Jenny Tcharnaia  
Rich Eagles





# In Memoriam: Harry Odio



*Longtime Amigos of Costa Rica board member Harry Odio passed away in October of 2020. Below is an excerpt from a board resolution made in his honor*

Harry's work helped cement the historically close relations between Costa Rica and the United States, in the spirit that created CRUSA, and later Amigos, to promote Costa Rica's development through partnership between the two governments and their people.

He was a living example of the longstanding bond between the two cultures, identifying with both equally, belonging as he did to a special breed of "tico gringos" dedicated to the pursuit of binational aspirations and values.

We are ever grateful for his generous leadership as chair and member of Amigos for so many years, and we can best honor him by our continued commitment to the goals that guided him.

# In Gratitude

Reflecting on 2020, we are grateful for our generous donors, hardworking nonprofit leaders, volunteers, and everyone who came together in support of communities across Costa Rica. We appreciate the continued support of the CRUSA Foundation and its longstanding commitment to philanthropy, which has allowed Amigos of Costa Rica to expand an ever-growing network of donors and nonprofits.





# **AMIGOS**

## **OF COSTA RICA**

**[www.amigosofcostarica.org](http://www.amigosofcostarica.org)**

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