



AMIGOS
OF COSTA RICA

2021 Annual Report

Rethinking the new normal



In 2021, many people yearned to get "back to normal" and leave behind the challenges so many around the world faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the needs and opportunities unveiled by this crisis stubbornly persisted. At Amigos of Costa Rica, we connected thousands of donors to Costa Rican communities so they could maintain the flow of attention and resources to ongoing problems and powerful solutions. Meeting basic needs - of families, animals, and ecosystems - was a core focus of 2021.

As more of the world started to receive their vaccines, people everywhere turned their focus to the future and what might be possible. At Amigos we also began conversations around the many possibilities for our future and we were thankful to find many strong thought partners and supporters who joined us on this imaginative journey. The Costa Rica USA Foundation for Cooperation (CRUSA) continued their generous support of Amigos of Costa Rica, and they were joined by the Troper Wojcicki Foundation and other supporters to allow us to begin a new chapter focused on growth.

We are confident that Costa Rica continues to be a community many people want to join, and we are excited to continue our collaboration with the network of Costa Rican nonprofits, global donors, and beneficiaries around Costa Rica

David Gutierrez, Board President

Emily Arnold, Executive Director

2021 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 \$5MM RECEIVED
BENEFITTING COSTA
RICAN NONPROFITS**

Vision:

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

89 COSTA RICAN NONPROFITS SUPPORTED

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



**MORE THAN 10,000 DONATIONS
WERE RECEIVED**

Number of donations doubled from 2020 to 2021



Impact



Donations received by Amigos of Costa Rica contributed to extraordinary 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.



**503,752 PEOPLE SUPPORTED
WITH BASIC NEEDS**



2,078 ANIMALS CARED FOR



PLANTED 20,942 TREES



**OUTPLANTED 1,400
CORAL SAMPLES**



**RELEASED 59,000
TURTLES**



**PROTECTED 250
HECTARES OF FOREST**



**SUPPORTED 50
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**



DONATED 15,123 BOOKS



**1,343 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED IN EMPOWERMENT,
LIFE SKILLS OR ENGLISH**



856 TONS OF TRASH RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED



JOBS + INCOME PROVIDED FOR 277 PEOPLE



EDUCATED 9,006 PEOPLE ABOUT CONSERVATION



103 PEOPLE RESCUED BY LIFEGUARDS (PREVENTION)

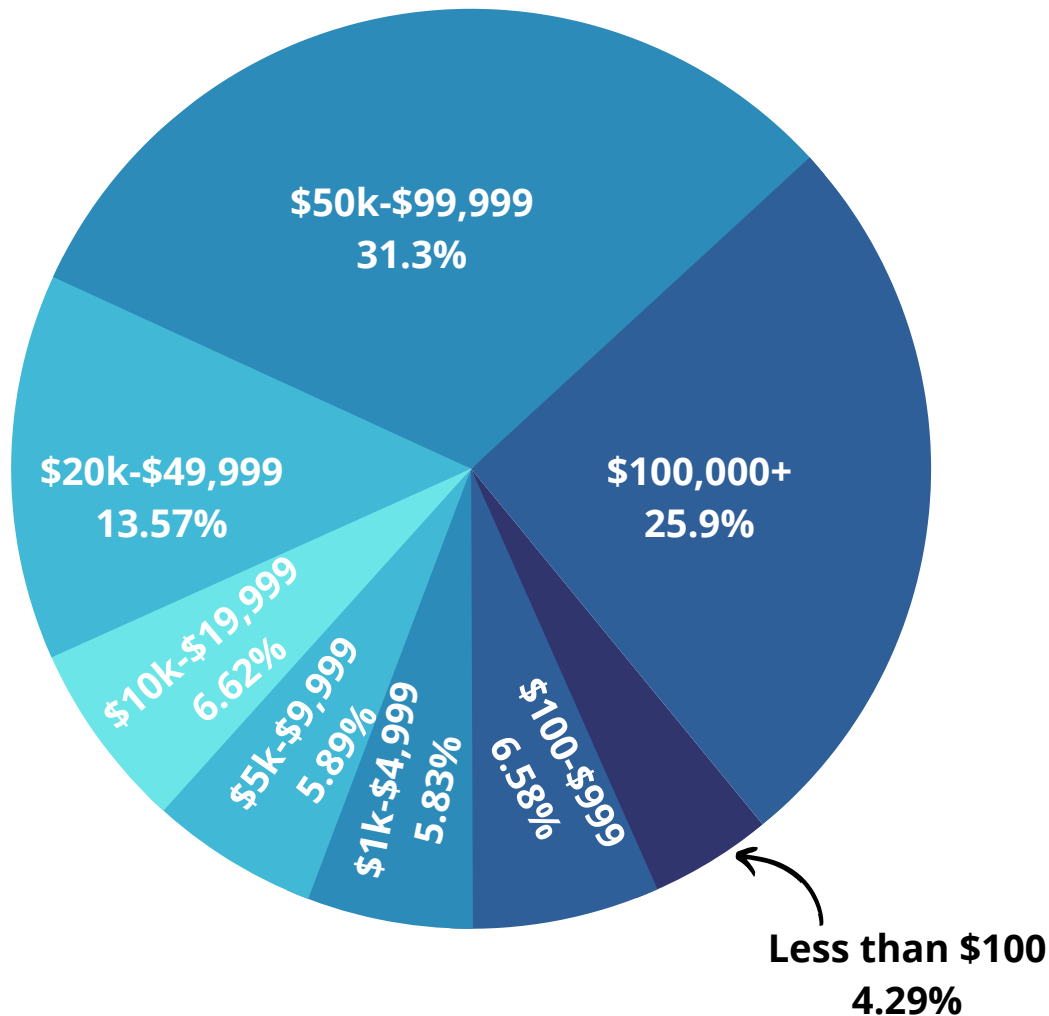


**92 OUTSTANDING YOUTH RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS
TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION**

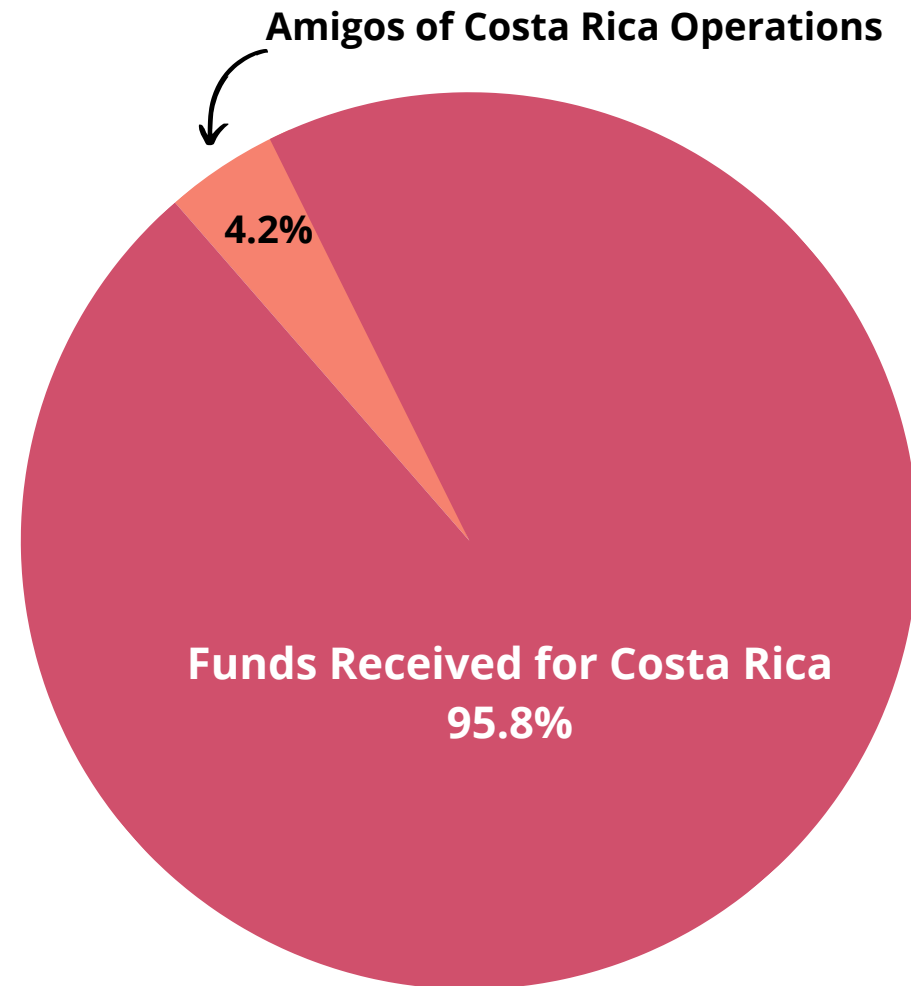
Financials



Size of Donations Received, & % of Revenue



Expenses



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

The powerful role of philanthropy in economic recovery



As the world yearned to move on from the COVID-19 pandemic, philanthropy played a crucial role in keeping resources focused on communities where the crisis was far from over.

For Amigos in 2021, this meant supporting **community organizations that are an essential part of their local economies**. Our affiliates not only pursued their missions, but also created:

- Jobs and income for **277+ people**
- Creative ways to generate social and conservation impact, such as paying community volunteers to protect ecosystems
- Indirect economic benefits from the visitation of visiting volunteers
- Food and basic needs donations for **503,752** people who continue to struggle

Amigos supports the changemakers who put themselves last



During an unprecedented economic and social crisis, our affiliates' hard-working local staff often cut their own income rather than affect their beneficiaries. Our donors helped create and maintain income for community leaders and their families—basic operating costs that aren't always eligible for other funding sources.



Thanks to funds from Amigos of Costa Rica, we were able to keep 100% of staff on payroll at 100% time from February 2021 onward. After having the entire staff at 50-70% time for 10 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this came as a welcome relief not only for the financial sustainability of our staff members and their families, but in terms of the work to be done.

-MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE



Thanks to the donations we received through Amigos in 2021, we were able to cover all payroll and social security expenses, providing our staff with the financial security they needed and also the community with the service they expected."

-NOSARA RECICLA



A community of leaders



Funding for the jobs our affiliates provide is just one part of the picture.

Training and support for changemakers who often work in isolation is another essential benefit Amigos provides.

In 2021, Amigos:

- Shared information and guidance for more than 90 affiliates through a vibrant Facebook group and monthly online trainings
- Advised affiliates develop campaigns which raised over \$600k in online donations for their work



This year, Amigos of Costa Rica took a central role in increasing Mar a Mar's fundraising and developing our capacity to raise funds online. We established new ways to raise funds such as Peer to Peer fundraising through Classy.org.

**-MAR A MAR ASSOCIATION, CREATOR OF THE RURAL TOURISM INITIATIVE
EL CAMINO DE COSTA RICA**



Impact Summaries



Throughout the year, Costa Rican communities and institutions continued to reel from the "Zero Season" that rocked the country's tourism industry in 2020 and reduced resource availability across the board. Our affiliates had to continue providing emergency support and navigating health orders while also seizing unexpected opportunities for growth and innovation.

In **conservation, education, and community development**, Amigos affiliates reported new achievements nationwide in 2021.



For the Love of Animals



Our Affiliates have helped protect Costa Rica's wildlife for years—but the suspension of tourism during the pandemic made it harder than ever for them to do this work, and they still feel the impact today. That's why their accomplishments in 2021 are so extraordinary. **Turtle Love** released more than 54,000 turtle hatchlings. **Sibu Wildlife Sanctuary**, which built eight new monkey enclosures to meet demand. The **Latin American Sea Turtle Association** which continues to train and employ local staff and volunteers so that community capacity keeps growing.



For the Love of Animals



One of the areas where cooperation among various nations and cultures truly shines in Costa Rica is the care of pets in need. **Amor Animales de Nosara**, which relocated 150 animals to new homes; **Animal Love** cared for more than 1,000 animals through funding that helped them support 40 workers; and the **Asociación Animales de Asis** united volunteers and donors from around the world in order to find and care for neglected animals. As Costa Rica strains to implement its Animal Welfare Law, these and other Affiliates will continue to lead the way.



Reforestation: On Land



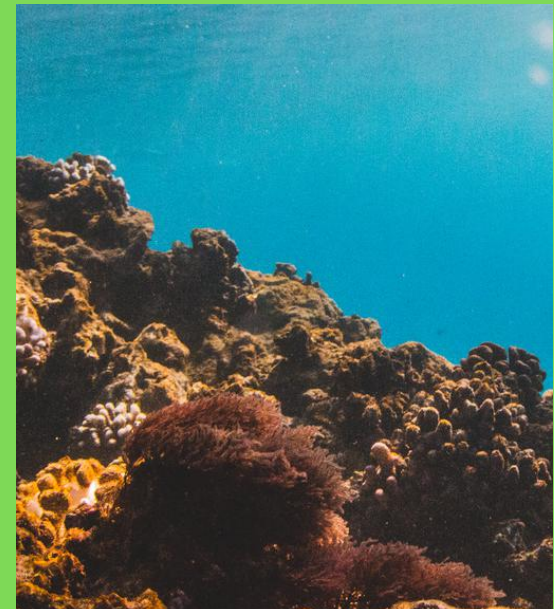
Costa Rica is known for its visionary work to protect and reforest its land, but effort doesn't just sustain itself—especially amidst the ongoing impact of an economic crisis and an increase in extractive practices. For many Affiliates, reforestation and community-building go hand-in-hand. The **Monteverde Conservation League** protected primary forest, planted native trees and used all of this to educate local families about the importance of forests. **Guardianes de la Naturaleza** planted trees as part of its educational programming around the country. **Astillero Verde** planted more than 3,000 trees while creating jobs in the Bellbird Biological Corridor.



Reforestation: At Sea



Conservation leaders have been working for years to shift Costa Rica's renowned land reforestation and protection policies to a neglected frontier: its marine ecosystems. **Raising Coral** and **Costa Rica Coral Restoration** were at the cutting edge of that effort in 2021, growing and outplanting coral to address its accelerating degradation. Other Affiliates protected the seas from various angles. **Misión Tiburón** trained four young marine biologists to multiply their efforts to protect marine wildlife; **Nicoya Peninsula Waterkeeper** trained and certified 14 Ocean Friendly Businesses; and many Affiliates coordinated urgent trash collection efforts on both coasts. It takes all of us.



Conservation and Restoration



“

In 2021, our affiliation with Amigos of Costa Rica has been a big advantage for our organization. Thanks to that, we've almost doubled our budget, and we are able to apply for more funding opportunities.

”

-MISIÓN TIBURÓN



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2,078 ANIMALS CARED FOR



OUTPLANTED 1,400 CORAL SAMPLES



**PROTECTED 250
HECTARES OF FOREST**



**RELEASED 59,000
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Building Resilient Communities



in the second year of the pandemic, it was clear that something extraordinary was taking place in our communities. Necessity drew **local volunteers** into conservation roles traditionally played by outsiders. Tourism companies developed emergency gardens into **a deeper commitment to sustainable agriculture**. New **recycling and composting** initiatives generated income. Reduced public budgets opened the door to groundbreaking new **public-private partnerships**. In short: local capacity for conservation and economic resilience has grown. The "new normal" could be very different if we maintain support and momentum.



55+ FAMILIES SUPPORTED THROUGH BEACH CLEANUPS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER STIPEND PROGRAMS



50 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN VALUE CHAINS



856 TONS OF TRASH RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED



CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR 9,006 PEOPLE



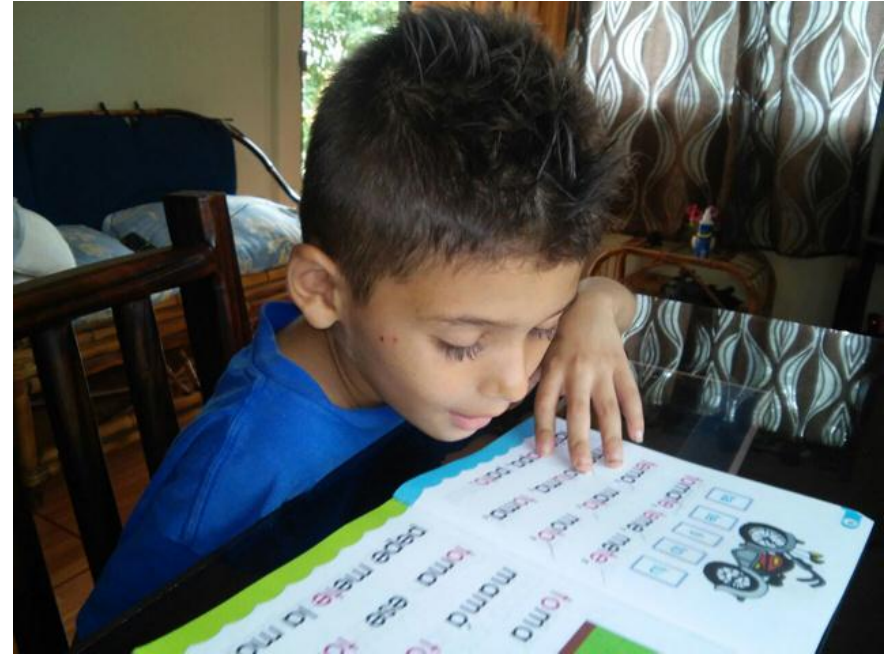
Bridging educational gaps



Costa Rican children and youth faced continuing school closures and virtual learning challenges throughout 2021, and will struggle with the unprecedented interruption of educational services for years to come. Fortunately, our Affiliates have found new ways to reach and support kids. **The David Kitson Library** was one of several Affiliates that provided access to books when only 16% of public schools have a library.

Soy Niña provided psychological support, tutoring and community for 150 girls in hard-hit communities.

Creciendo Juntos, Lifting Hands, and many more Affiliates provided instruction and motivation. The list is vast. Their work continues.

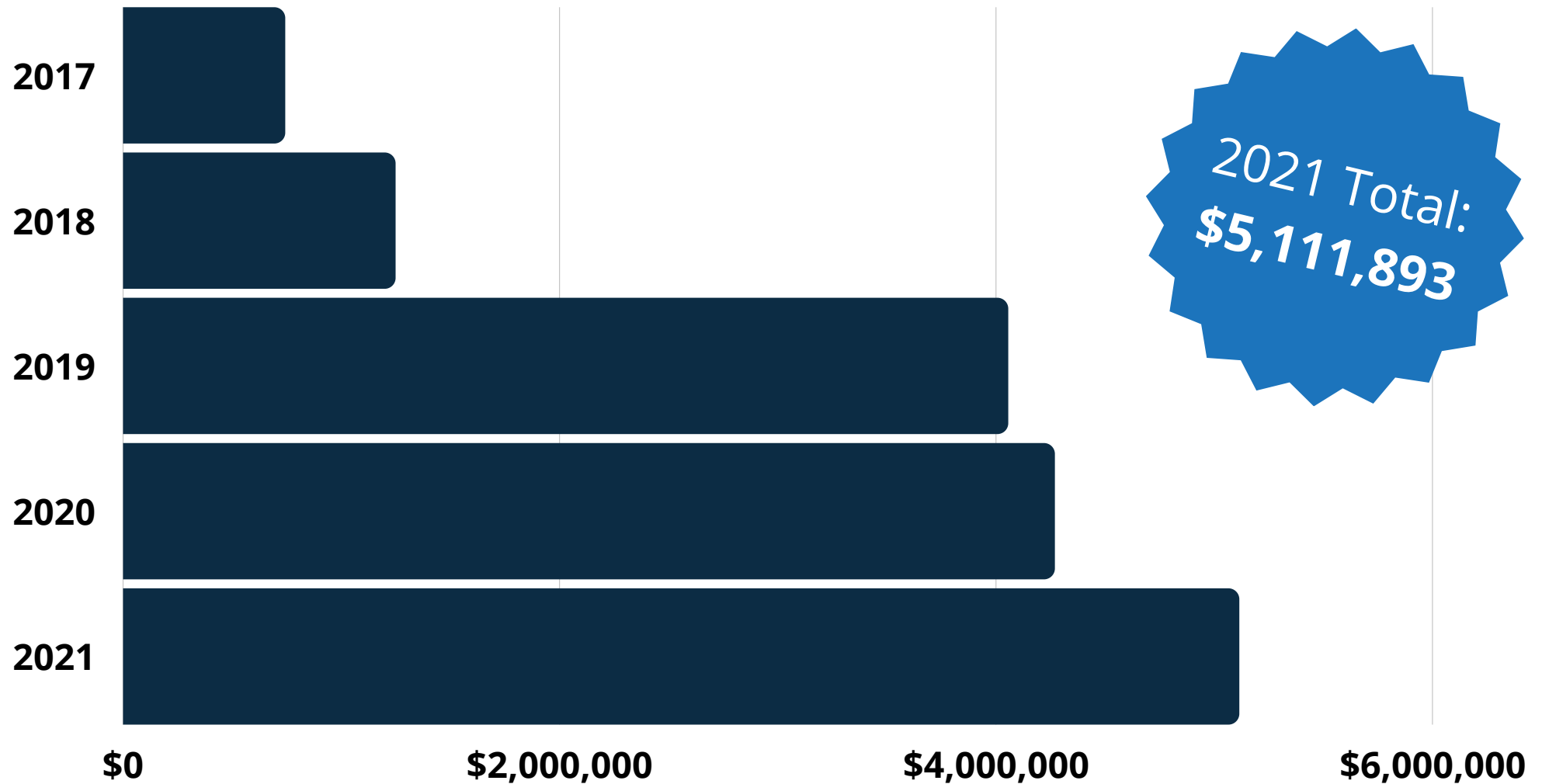


Having a simple, direct and central place for our donors to go and provide donations has been pivotal for us... I'm not sure how we would do any of this without Amigos. We just do not have the resources in house to even start sourcing these platforms or software tools.

-NOSARA SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION



Growth of Amigos of Costa Rica



Thank you Board Members and Volunteers



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

2021 Board Members:

Neal Brown	David Luce
Freddy Fachler	Dan Martin
Muni Figueres	Flora Montealegre
Michale Gabriel	Pilar Madrigal
Henry Gonzalez	Jane Sabin-Davis
Will Harsh	Jenny Tcharnaia

2021 Staff:

Emily Arnold
Samantha Pavlovitch
Olivia Sarno

2021 Volunteers:

Rich Eagles



In Gratitude

As we look back on 2021 and the extraordinary impact generated for local economies and ecosystems, we're so grateful to our donors, hardworking nonprofit leaders and volunteers who make these changes possible.

A special thank you to 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

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