

Donor Impact REPORT



2021

Smiles, Thanks & Blessings



Dear **aproquen** Family,

With a heart FULL of gratitude, I share with you our 2021 accomplishments that have been possible **thanks to YOU**. We continue to face innumerable challenges, but your hearts remain open to us and, even in the most difficult times, we feel your love and generosity.

We have completed **30 years of work**, providing **645,000 comprehensive** and free health services including more than **39,000 surgeries** and **330,000 rehabilitation services**. In 2021 we treated **836 children** who had suffered burns and/or cleft lip and palate. It is important to note that **93% of burn accidents** occur at home and **73% of children we treat are under 5 years old**.

Under our Prevention Program we provided more than **89 workshops** to **2,727 children** and **355 parents, teachers, and community leaders**.

We also further strengthened and expanded our Infection Control Program to meet **world-class standards** helping us obtain an infection rate below the standard established for burn centers in many developed parts of the world.

It is the support of every one of you that makes this journey possible giving us certainty that our children will always have hope because of your unwavering commitment to continue...

Turning Tears into Smiles

Vivian Pellas
Founder & President

Mission

aproquen provides comprehensive care free of charge to children suffering from burns and those with cleft lip and palate in Nicaragua, as well as technical training for our sister organizations across Central America.



Vision

Be leaders in transforming the lives of our burn and cleft lip and palate patients through world class treatment based on innovation and research.





Why Nicaragua?

- Nicaragua is the **second-poorest country** in the Western Hemisphere.
- **44.4 % of the population lives in poverty, and 8.9 % in extreme poverty.**
- Limited access to education and awareness and a lack of medical resources, **presents ideal conditions and risk factors for a high incidence of children who are accidentally burned and/or born with cleft lip and palate.**
- The continued **COVID-19** pandemic and children confined in their homes **increased the incidence of pediatric burns.**

Children of aproquen

Burn Patients



73% of children who suffer from a burn are under the age of 5.



65% of burns are caused by **scalding** (hot liquids).



74% of burn patients at aproquen come from outside the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua.



93% of accidental burns occur in the home, specifically in the kitchen.

Cleft Lip and Palate Patients



74% of cleft lip and palate patients are younger than 5 years old.



69% of cleft lip and palate patients come from outside of Managua.



Our Holistic Model

The aproquen model **centers on medical, social, and psychological interventions to children and their families with limited resources.**
Our holistic and integrated approach includes:



BURN PROGRAM

Outpatient Consultation with Mutidisciplinary Team

Phycological Counseling for Patients and Families

Nutritional Management

Management of Critical and Severe Burns in Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Physical Rehabilitation: Physiotherapy, Orthotics & Compression Garments

Occupational Therapy



CLEFT LIP & PALATE PROGRAM

Pediatric Dentistry

Nutritional Management

Counseling for Patient and Families

Speech Therapy

Orthodontics

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Otolaryngology (ENT)

Oral Health Patient & Family Education

Education & Prevention

To decrease the incidence and prevalence of child burns, **aproquen**'s burn prevention team conducts educational prevention workshops at pre-schools and elementary schools throughout Nicaragua's most underserved and high-risk communities.



Due to limited access to health services in rural areas, **aproquen**'s medical team provides an online course to teach health professionals how to stabilize a patient in the first 24 hours after a burn.

With the support of different media outlets in Nicaragua, **aproquen** conducts an ongoing public education campaign for burn prevention.



Social Services

aproquen provides free room and board for families in need at "Casa Albergue" so they can stay close to their children while they receive treatment.

aproquen also provides Infant formula and special bottles to help replace the caloric intake loss of those children born with cleft lip and palate.



A Miracle to Believe in

Natividad Sanchez is the mother of 5 and the life of her two-year old baby known as Angel changed on December 11th, 2021 when he suffered **serious burns to 20.5% of his body.**

On the day of the accident his grandmother was making coffee when in a matter of seconds baby **Angel approached the stove and pulled down the container that fell on him.** To reduce the pain, Angel's grandmother decided to cover him in **mud from a puddle.** When Natividad returned from work, she saw her little boy in tremendous pain and decided to take him to the hospital. Since they live in a rural area of Matagalpa, 90 minutes from the city, she decided to take him to Jinotega, a city within closer distance, 40 minutes away. When Angel was admitted to the hospital doctors decided to transfer him immediately to [aproquen](#).

Upon arrival to the [aproquen](#) Burn Center he was received by a team of nurses and pediatricians who first

bathed him to remove the mud that was covering his burns. A little over 24 hours had passed since Angel was admitted and the mud had caused septic shock. The doctors diagnosed Baby Angel with superficial and deep 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his anterior trunk, lower and upper limbs, having to then be admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

During his ICU stay, Angel required mechanical ventilation for 12 days and received multiple blood, platelet, and plasma transfusions. He developed an infection and required a broad-spectrum of antibiotics in addition to receiving several surgeries. **His condition was critical,** he was bleeding constantly and two worms were removed from his nose.

Angel showed no signs of improvement. The [aproquen](#) team oversaw his care 24 hours a day working incessantly to help keep Angel alive. **The doctors were forced to talk to Natividad and explain that her son's**

life depended on a miracle. The pediatric intensivist had predicted an 80% mortality.

On day 15, Natividad's prayers and wishes were fulfilled when Angel started to show signs of improvement. The bleeding had stopped and after a few days they were able to remove the ventilator. He began to slowly respond to the medications and after 18 days they managed to get him out of the ICU and moved to the Isolation Room where after 5 days he was discharged.



After a total of 23 days in the hospital and coming face to face with death, Natividad and Angel were going back home to reunite with family, a wish that for many days seemed impossible. Angel now returns to the [aproquen](#) Burn Center every two weeks for outpatient care (rehabilitation, nutrition, etc), including counseling as both

mother and child are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder that affects their quality of life.

At only 2 years of age, Angel has showed us a lot about courage and determination and his big smile and eyes shine brighter than ever as they are full of hope. **Thanks to your support and generosity, Angel and many more children like him receive a second chance at life** and [aproquen](#) is able to continue...

Turning Tears into Smiles.



2021 Outcomes

Medical Outcomes



3,890 Outpatient Visit

Pediatrics, Psychological Counseling, Nutrition, Speech Therapy, and Pediatric Dentistry



271 Hospitalizations



529 Surgeries



9,244 Rehabilitation Sessions

Physical and Occupational Therapy



470 Customized Compression Garments, Splints and UV Masks

Burn Prevention Outcomes



- 207 Prevention workshops conducted at schools and communities in 6 departments of Nicaragua (Managua, Masaya, Granada, Chinandega, Matagalpa and Jinotega).



- 10,086 children and 1,380 adults trained together with our implementing Partners Seeds for Progress and Fabretto Children's Foundation.

Medical Training Outcomes



- 8 Trainings conducted in "Advanced Burn Life Support Courses" (ABLS), thanks to the support of Oxfam International.



- 614 participants including medical students from UNAN-León, UNICA, UNIDES Red Cross First Responders from Managua, Bluefields, Boaco, Camoapa, Chichigalpa, Corinto, Esteli, Granada, Jinotega, Juigalpa, León, Masaya, Matagalpa, Nagarote, Nueva Guinea, Ocotol, Puerto Cabezas, Rivas, Sebaco and Tipitapa and Firefighters from Managua, Masaya, León, Chinandega, Carazo, Matagalpa, Rivas and Diriamba.

Esther: A Smiling Star

Lester and Jasmina first went to [aproquen](#) when their oldest daughter Belinda was admitted to [aproquen's](#) Intensive Care Unit (UCI) after getting burnt with a hot liquid back in 2016. During their stay and outpatient visits to the Burn Center, Lester and Jasmina observed that children with cleft lip and palate were also treated at [aproquen](#). **They discussed how hard it must be to have a child with this congenital malformation,** without knowing that two years later their youngest daughter would be born with cleft lip and palate.

Jasmina had a healthy pregnancy. Ultrasounds never raised any concerns, and her prenatal follow-ups went as normal.

Surprisingly to her parents, Esther was born with **cleft lip and palate**, she was very small, and she could barely eat because milk would flow from her mouth directly into her nose, at times,

almost choking her. Therefore, Jasmina decided not to feed her baby more than once or twice a day because she was afraid of what could happen.

Jasmina and Lester's priority when they first brought Esther to [aproquen](#) was to learn how to feed their daughter.

After learning how to feed Esther, the pre-surgical stage in her cleft lip and palate treatment began with the insertion of the **nasoalveolar molding (NAM) device**. The goal of NAM is to reduce the size of the cleft or palate deformity of the lip, gum, and nose before surgical repair. This device bothered Esther immensely.

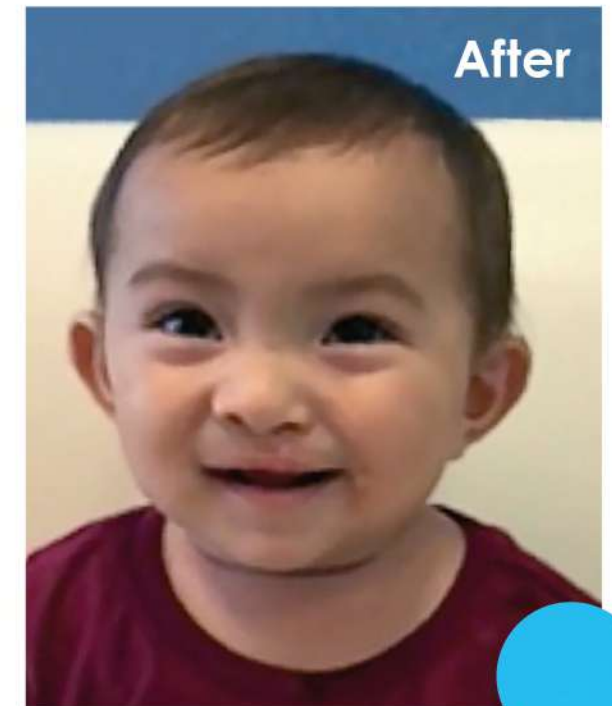
She cried day and night and would even try to take the device off her mouth. Finally at 4 months old, Esther had her first surgery **to close her cleft lip and then a year later her second surgery to close her cleft palate**.

The changes were noticeably positive, she started gaining weight, was more active and soon enough started mumbling her first words. Recently Esther attended her first speech therapy session and the therapist was amazed by her fast-learning capability and eagerness to pronounce words correctly.

Today, Esther is a thriving 4-year-old who is all smiles and giggles. Lester talks about [aproquen](#) and the amazing care his little girl received everywhere he goes, so more parents can have hope that treatment for children with cleft lip and palate is possible.

Both Jasmina and Lester were even afraid to send Esther to preschool as they feared she might be bullied. With the help of [aproquen's](#) psychologist, Esther's self-confidence and self-awareness were dealt with and both her parents and their little girl overcame this hurdle.

For Esther and her family, [aproquen](#) and **heroes like you are a light of hope amidst a series of unfortunate events**. It is because of your kindness that their house is filled with laughter, love, and gratitude.



2021 Financials

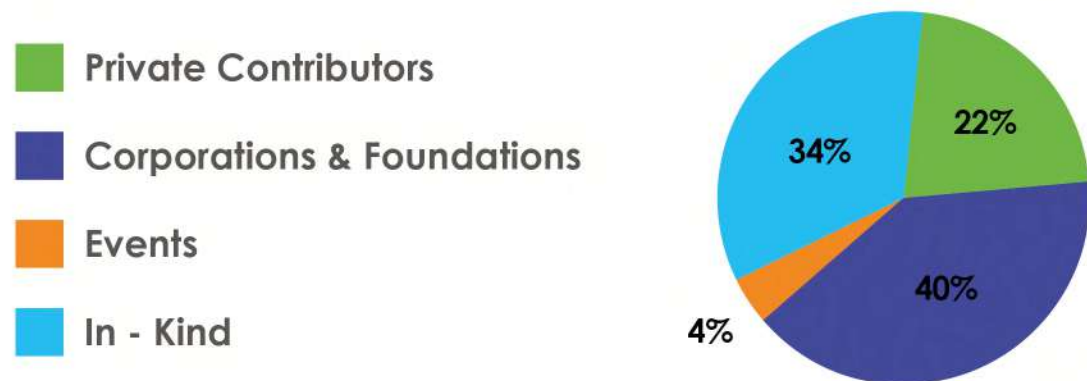
With your generosity aproquen continues to touch the lives of the most vulnerable children and families in Nicaragua suffering from burns and cleft lip and palate.

Focusing on care and not cost, aproquen provides its **high-quality standards in modern facilities, completely FREE to patients.**

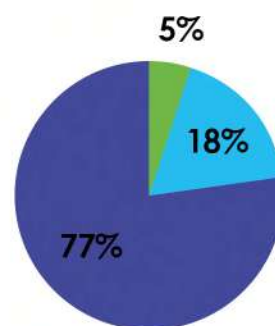
This report reflects consolidated financial statements from aproquen's two registered non-profit organizations (Nicaragua and the U.S.).



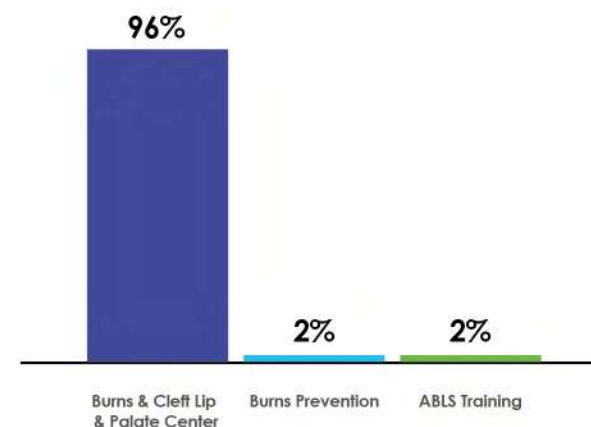
Sources of Giving 2021 - \$1,971,921



Investment 2021 - 1,679,283



Program Expenses Breakdown



aproquen's Medical Partners



2021 DONORS

On behalf of the children we serve, **aproquen** thanks you for your kindness.

\$75,000 +

- Carlos Pellas Chamorro
- BAC Credomatic Network
- Flor de Caña
- Member For a Day

\$56,000 - \$74,999

- GBM Corporation

\$36,000 - \$55,999

- Joseph & Polly Wolfe
- CLARO
- Smile Train
- Casa Mántica - Supermercados La Colonia

\$25,000 - \$35,999

- Nena Pellas
- Silvio & Consuelo Pellas
- OXFAM
- McCall McBain Foundation
- Puma Energy Foundation
- Nicaragua Sugar Estate Limited

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- Freddy Nasser
- Carisam - Samuel Meisel
- Curt Schaeffer
- Dave Flory
- David & Tara McLay - Kidd
- Danilo Manzanares
- Frank Robleto
- James McIntosh
- Kevin & Rosemary McNeely
- Mike Wood
- René Morales Carazo & María de los Ángeles Bárcenas
- Roberto Kriete
- Alberto & Ana Carolina Chamorro
- Bombardier
- Padron Family Foundation
- Agropecuaria Miralagos
- Bradesco BAC Florida Bank
- Casa Pellas
- Dreams Las Mareas Hotel Costa Rica
- Fundación César Guerrero
- MONISA
- NIMAC
- Puma Energy Bahamas
- William Grant & Sons, Inc

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Vivian Pellas
- Peter R. Isen
- Sondra R. Isen
- Jonathan & Joshua Reyes
- Lydia Work
- Michael Sihle
- Patrick Broderick Memorial Foundation
- ANBER S.A.
- AVANZ
- Children's Burn Foundation (CBF)
- Compañía Cervecera de Nicaragua (CCN)
- Robert Blair & Sandra Crabb Young

Medical Partners

- The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Loma Linda University School of Medicine
- Brown University
- ReSurge International
- Physician's For Peace (PFP)
- Greater Baltimore Cleft Lip and Palate Center (GBMC)
- 740 Park Plastic Surgery
- Sos Main Du Pays D'Aix
- Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation (SSWF)

In-Kind

- American Nicaraguan Foundation (ANF)
- Hospital Vivian Pellas
- CLARO
- Casa Pellas
- Casa Terán
- Colgate Palmolive C.A., S.A.
- E. Chamorro Industrial S.A.
- Fundación César Guerrero
- GBM Nicaragua

- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- Smile Train
- Duke University
- Emory University

***This list represents Nicaraguan and U.S donations.**

aproquen's Leadership

Board of Directors

- Vivian Pellas - President
- Carlos Pellas - Vice-President
- Vernon Guerrero - Treasurer
- Danilo Manzanares - Secretary
- Gilberto Guzman - Vice- Secretary

Global Advisory Council

- Curt Schaeffer – Chairperson
- Al Germi
- Dr. Stafford Broumand
- Dr. Patrick Byrne
- Frank Robleto
- Ilse Manzanares
- Kimberly Goldfien
- Marc Stanley
- Mike Wood
- Don Wagner



Management Team

- Vivian Pellas - Founder and President
- Mario Pérez – Medical Director
- Hector Gaitan – Director of Donations and Volunteering
- Dennis Schwartz – Director of Marketing and Communications
- Gisella Rodriguez – Director of Finance and Administration
- Evelyn Murillo – Director of Development



Giving Back in Gratitude

The story of Vivian Pellas

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a very personal story about an experience that completely changed my life and opened my heart to the world of burned children.

On October 21, 1989, my husband Carlos and I boarded a 727 of the Honduran airline TAN SAHSA, traveling from Managua to Tegucigalpa. Unfortunately, the plane never made it to Tegucigalpa, and instead crashed into Cerro de Hula at 7:50 a.m. The accident was described as **the most tragic event in the history of Central American aviation as 139 lives were lost and only 10 survived**. Thanks to my husband who pulled me from the flames and God's protection, **Carlos and I survived**.

As I was oscillating between life and death while being transferred via air ambulance from the hospital in Tegucigalpa to the United States my father heard me mumbling, **"I am going to build a unit for the care of burned children."** In gratitude to God that it had been Carlos and I and not our children that suffered the accident, I turned that thought into a commitment: **aproquen** was born in that moment.

I can assure you that burn injuries challenge the boundaries of one's threshold for pain. There were many times that I felt the smallest increase in the intensity of my suffering would most certainly be the cause of my death.

But, it was not my time, and my life was ultimately spared after enduring the torturous pain caused by both my burn injuries and the **62 fractures across my face and body**.

Today, there no words to explain how I am still here. Every moment of every day I remember how lucky I am to be able to share new experiences with my husband, children and grandchildren.

I am here by the will of God. His divine plan has given me the opportunity to take on a mission for children and help keep "Turning Tears into Smiles".





aproquen

Turning Tears into Smiles

Follow our smiles



aproquen.org
vivianpellas.net