

2023

Donor Impact *Report*



Smiles, Thanks & Blessings

Dear **aproquen** family:

With a heart full of gratitude, I am pleased to share the achievements of 2023, made possible thanks to your generous support, which has profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of children and their families. While the challenges we face remain significant, your solidarity empowers us to overcome each obstacle with determination and commitment.

This year, we proudly celebrated 32 years of service, providing 693,000 comprehensive and free health services, including 40,153 surgeries and 360,246 rehabilitation sessions. In 2023, we treated **1,367 children** with severe burns or congenital malformations, such as cleft lip and palate. These figures represent lives transformed, smiles restored, and children finding a new path to hope. However, the situation we face remains alarming:

90% of burn accidents occur at home, and 57% of the victims are children under five years old, highlighting the urgent need for our work and your continued support.

Through our **Prevention Program**, we conducted **39 workshops for children and 11 workshops for adults**, reaching **21 schools** in the departments of Managua, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Granada, Chinandega, and Masaya. These workshops benefited **2,390 children and 427 adults** (parents, teachers, and community leaders). These efforts are essential for reducing risks and fostering a safe environment for our children.

Additionally, we held **3 ABLS (Advanced Burn Life Support) courses**, training **123 healthcare professionals**, and organized **3 Medical Missions** to train plastic surgeons and plastic surgery residents, strengthening the capacity of healthcare personnel in Nicaragua.

Through these efforts, we save lives and improve the quality of care for burn patients locally.

A significant milestone this year was the strengthening of **infection control practices for burn patients**, thanks to the exceptional support of **Gretchen Carrougner, MN, RN, CBRN**, a distinguished nurse specialist and member of the **American Burn Association** and the **International Society of Burn Injuries**. With over 30 years of experience in burns, Gretchen has been instrumental in improving our nursing practices, offering continuous training for the past 13 years, and leaving a lasting legacy in our Burn Center.

Finally, we successfully supported our sister organization in Costa Rica with burn prevention efforts, replicating our comprehensive care model and expanding our impact beyond borders.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of each and every one of you. You are the driving force behind these achievements, and together, we will continue transforming lives.

With gratitude,

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.

42.7%

of the population do not have access to standard sanitation.

24.9%

of the population lives in poverty, and 8% in extreme poverty.

Limited access to education 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.



CHILDREN OF



61%

of burns are caused by scalding (hot liquids).



90%

of burns occur in the home, with **the kitchen being the most frequent place with 46%.**



57%

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

62%

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



67%

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

66%

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

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



A PARENTS HEALING LOVE:

Naheslyn's story.

Welcoming a newborn child often entails embracing a new challenge regardless of the circumstances, a reality Jordy and Yunieth faced head-on as they greeted their daughter Naheslyn into the world, who was diagnosed with cleft lip and palate. For a family of four surviving on approximately fifty dollars a month in Chichigalpa, the thought of covering the medical expenses associated with such a diagnosis was daunting.

Despite facing extremely challenging circumstances, Yunieth and Jordy refused to lose hope for their youngest daughter's ability to thrive. They discovered a pathway through [aproquen](#), where the generosity of donors played a crucial role in Naheslyn's recovery, given her family's limited resources. At times, her parents had to make sacrifices, forgoing basic necessities to afford transportation and medical expenses. It was the kindness of our donors that enabled Naheslyn to begin her treatment, ultimately enhancing both her health and quality of life.

Following several initial outpatient visits with various specialists at [aproquen](#), Naheslyn underwent her first lip closure surgery in March 2023, marking a significant milestone. However, her journey to recovery was far from over.



On January 16, 2024, Naheslyn underwent a second surgery to close her palate. The family's modest home mirrored the challenging conditions they faced, lacking rooms or luxuries. Despite these obstacles, with the unwavering support of her parents and the medical team, Naheslyn achieved a complete recovery.

Throughout this challenging process Naheslyn's family was determined to provide her with the joyful life she deserved. It was the dedication of the [aproquen](#) team that granted Naheslyn a second chance at life. Naheslyn's story is just one among many, and it is through your generosity that we can transform tears into smiles.



Before



After

2023

outcomes

Medical Outcomes



14,534
Rehabilitation Sessions

Physical and Occupational Therapy.



479 Customized
Compression Garments,
Splints and UV Masks



340
Hospitalizations



8,740
Outpatient Visit

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



558
Surgeries

Burn Prevention outcomes



325

Prevention workshops

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



16,102

children

and **2,991 adults** trained
in burn prevention.

Medical Training outcomes



3

Trainings

conducted in "Advanced Burn
Life Support Courses" (ABLS).



184

Participants

including Doctors and Nurses from
Managua, Caribbean Coast, Matagalpa,
Jinotega, León, Granada, Rivas, Estelí,
Boaco, Nueva Segovia, Carazo, Río San
Juan, Chinandega and Chontales.

A POWERFUL Story of resilience

Imagine a typical morning for most 5-year-olds: being gently awoken by their parents, enjoying a hearty breakfast, and then heading off to school to see friends and learn from a nurturing teacher. However, this scene is a far cry from the reality for many children like Elder Lanuza, growing up in developing countries such as Nicaragua.



Born in the Caribbean Region of Nicaragua, Elder's mornings are spent waking up early to assist his family on their farm, where even young children are required to work the land to make ends meet. Despite the inherent risks involved, on this fateful day, Elder and his two siblings were tasked with preparing the ground for a new harvest by setting the area ablaze. Although this task was routine, disaster struck when Elder lost his balance and rolled onto the burning ground, severely burning half of his body.

Following the accident, Elder was urgently taken to the [aproquen](#) Burn Center and immediately placed in the ICU. The severity of his injuries led to additional medical complications, necessitating the involvement of a multidisciplinary team of specialists dedicated to providing the comprehensive care he needed as he fought for his life. Elder spent 51 days hospitalized, 45 of which were in the ICU. During this harrowing time, he experienced a heart attack and became non-verbal.

Despite his critical condition, Elder began to slowly make progress and was eventually released from the hospital.

Elder's journey toward recovery showcased his incredible resilience. Though his case was severe, the [aproquen](#) team remained unwavering in their commitment to his survival, giving him a renewed opportunity for life.



Before



After

We are deeply thankful for the ability to offer comprehensive, cost-free care to Nicaraguan children like Elder, made possible through the generosity of our donors. Please consider supporting [aproquen](#) to ensure that children like Elder receive the medical care they need for a complete recovery and the chance for a hopeful, vibrant life.

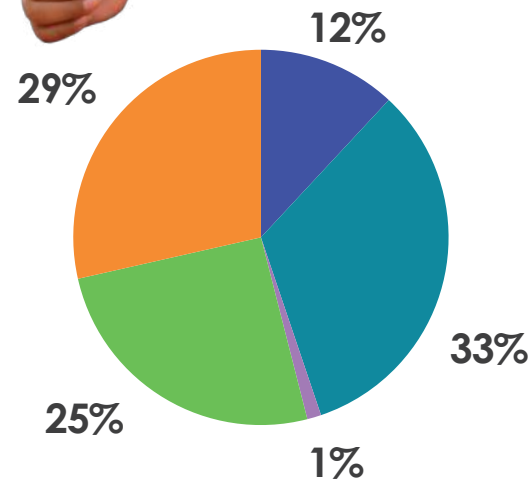
2023 Financials

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.).



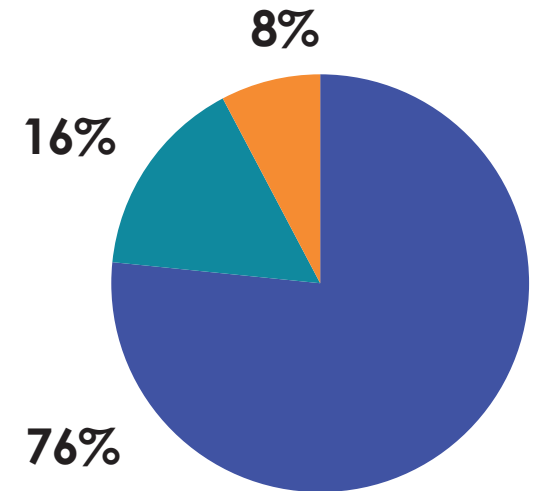
Sources of Giving 2023 \$2,816,689

- Private Contributions
- Corporation & Foundations
- Events
- In - Kind
- Reserve Fund

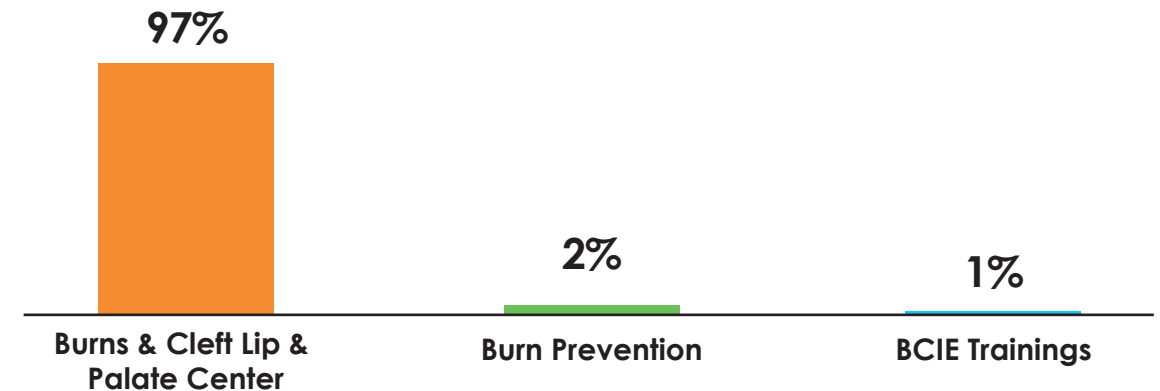


Investment 2023 \$2,660,201

- Programs
- Administration
- Fundraising



Program Expenses Breakdown



***Note:** In 2023, the demand for medical services grew significantly, especially for children in the Intensive Care Unit requiring burn treatments, leading to an increased need for medicines and medical supplies. This is reflected in the **29%** reserve fund utilized to balance the budget.

2023 aproquen Donors

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

\$75,000 +

- Carlos Francisco Pellas Chamorro
- Flor de Caña
- BAC Credomatic Network
- Stephen J. Wolfe Jr. Private Foundation



\$56,000 - \$74,999

- Smile Train

\$36,000 - \$55,999

- Jose Danilo Manzanares Enriquez
- GBM Corporation
- CLARO Nicaragua

\$25,000 - \$35,999

- Nena Pellas
- Michael Wood
- Nicaragua Sugar Estate Limited
- Member for a Day

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- Silvio & Consuelo Pellas
- Alberto & Ana Carolina Chamorro
- B.J. Werzyn
- David Flory
- Rene Morales Carazo & Maria de los Angeles Barcenias
- Frank Robleto
- Carisam-Samuel Meisel
- Dreams Las Marelas
- David & Tara McLay-Kidd
- MONISA
- NIMAC

- Puma Energy Foundation
- Casa Pellas, S.A
- Puma Energy Bahamas
- DICEGSA
- AVANZ
- Compañia Cerveceras de Nicaragua S.A
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Jonatha & Josua Reyes Torres
- Lesvin Mendoza Rostran
- Carrie Le & Phong Le
- Michael Mathewson Wood
- Robert & Sandra Young
- Patrick Broderick Memorial Foundation
- Cristiana Barcenias
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- Agropecuaria Miralagos S.A
- Agencia Aduanera ANBER S.A
- ANBER S.A
- Word Logistic S.A
- Desarrollo Minero S.A

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

In-Kind

- Hospital Vivian Pellas
- Asociación Studio Danza Ilusiones
- CLARO Nicaragua
- DICEGSA
- E.Chamorro Industrial S.A
- PriceWaterhouse Coopers y CIA Limitada. PWC
- Grupo Munkel S.A

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



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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 Hule 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 who is always watching over us, Carlos and I survived.



As I was drifting 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 this 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 that can 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
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