

# DONOR IMPACT

— REPORT 2024 —



## CONTENTS

2024: Smiles, Thanks & Blessings	4
Mission	6
Vision	7
On the Map	8
Programs We Support	10
Children's Medical Treatment	11
Burn Prevention Programs	17
Medical Training Programs	21
A Second Chance for Hilary	25
A Future of Hope for Israel	28
2024 Financials	31
Medical Partners	33
2024 APROQUEN Donors	34
APROQUEN Leadership	36
Giving Back in Gratitude	37

CHILD

*I will shelter you with my hair  
And in the air will I seek a balm  
that mitigates the pain*

*And if the fire rages,  
I will quench it with my tears.*

Vivian Pellas





## 2024: SMILES, THANKS & BLESSINGS

Dear **APROQUEN Family**,

As I reflect on the year 2024, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for each of you. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our continued mission to transform lives. Despite the challenges we face, your commitment remains the guiding light that leads us forward.

This year, we joyfully celebrated **23 years of tireless service**, providing more than **592,399 comprehensive, free medical services**. Among these were **21,176 surgeries** and **374,743 rehabilitation sessions**. We cared for **1,391 children** suffering from burns or cleft lip and palate. These numbers are far more than

statistics—they represent real lives, real families, and real stories of resilience and hope made possible through your generosity.

Our commitment to prevention and education remained strong. We conducted **40 workshops for children** and **7 for adults**, reaching **2,055 children** and **238 adults**, including parents, teachers, and community leaders. These workshops took place in the seven departments of Nicaragua with the highest incidence of burns: Managua, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Granada, Chinandega, Masaya, and Carazo. Through these efforts, we're not only preventing accidents—we're building a culture of safety and care for the most vulnerable

We also continued expanding our impact regionally through our partnership with **ASOQUEM**, our counterpart in Costa Rica.

Together, we reached over **1,700 children** and **1,000 adults** with burn prevention education—extending our mission beyond borders and creating lasting change across Central America.

Together, we are creating a future where every child has the chance to live a life full of hope, opportunity, and the freedom to dream without limits.

With heartfelt gratitude and hope,

**Vivian Pellas**  
Founder & President

## **MISSION**

To provide philanthropic support to children who are vulnerable to or suffering from burns and/or cleft lip and palate throughout Latin America.



## **VISION**

Empowering partners to deliver free, world-class education and healthcare, preventing and treating burns and cleft lip palate in Latin America.



# LIVES AT RISK: A GLOBAL EMERGENCY FOR THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE



# ON THE MAP

AREAS WE SERVE



Half of the world still uses open fires for cooking, heating and/or lighting.



Every 3 seconds someone around the world suffers a burn injury.



Woman and children in developing countries are at higher risk.



More children die annually from burns than from HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.



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 in Latin America.



# PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT



# CHILDREN'S MEDICAL TREATMENT





## Children's Medical Treatment at Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua

**62%**

of burns are caused by scalding (hot liquids)

**90%**

of burns occur in the home, with the kitchen being the most frequent place with 49%.

**57%**

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

**70%**

of burn patients at APROQUEN come from outside the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua

**58%**

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

**65%**

of cleft lip and palate patients come from outside of Managua



Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua's care is holistic and child-centered, delivered by a team of superior surgeons, pediatric specialists, nurses, and physical and occupational therapists, among other professionals. Families are never charged for any services. It is Central America's premier non-profit organization dedicated to treating **burns and cleft lip and palate**.



## 2024 Medical Outcomes



**8,854**

outpatient visits (pediatrics, counseling, nutrition, speech therapy, and pediatric dentistry)



**14,497**

rehabilitation sessions (physical and occupational therapy)



**657**

customized compression garments, splints, and UV masks



**304**

hospitalizations



**515**

surgeries

# HOLISTIC MODEL

Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua's 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 Multidisciplinary 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 Patients and Families

Speech Therapy

Orthodontics

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Otolaryngology (ENT)

Oral Health Patient & Family Education

# BURN PREVENTION PROGRAMS



## SOCIAL SERVICES

Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua provides free room and board for families in need at “Casa Albergue” so they can stay close to their children while they receive treatment. Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua also provides formula and special bottles to help replace the caloric intake loss of those children born with cleft lip and palate.



# BURN PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- » To decrease the incidence and prevalence of child burns, Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua and ASOQUEM's burn prevention teams conduct educational prevention workshops at pre-schools and elementary schools throughout Nicaragua and Costa Rica's most underserved and high-risk communities.
- » With the support of different media outlets in Costa Rica, ASOQUEM conducts an ongoing public education campaign for burn prevention.
- » Due to limited access to health services in rural areas, Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua medical team provides an online course to teach health professionals how to stabilize a patient in the first 24 hours after a burn.

Accidental burns are one of the most common causes of death in the Latin American region. As the only documented burn prevention education program in Latin America, we are sharing our wealth of experience in burn prevention with peer organizations in the Central American region.



# MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS



## Nicaragua

**Burn Prevention Outcomes**

**355** Prevention workshops

conducted at schools and communities in

**7** departments of Nicaragua

**TRAINED IN BURN PREVENTION**

**18,157** children   **2,328** adults



## Costa Rica

**Burn Prevention Outcomes**

**27** Prevention workshops

conducted at schools and communities in

**5** provinces of Costa Rica.

**TRAINED IN BURN PREVENTION**

**1,720** children   **1,004** adults



This program was established to replicate Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua's pioneering model throughout Latin America. Medical teams are trained in an educational capacity to deliver cutting-edge treatments for burns and cleft lip and palate, ensuring the highest standard of care is accessible across the region.



## Program Focus

APROQUEN's Medical Training Program with the support of Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua enhances healthcare across Latin America by equipping medical professionals with advanced skills to treat burns and cleft lip and palate. The program addresses the region's public health crisis, where burn injuries disproportionately affect women and children due to unsafe cooking practices and limited medical resources.



## Capacity Building

By providing comprehensive training and support, Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua ensures healthcare teams are prepared to deliver high-quality, holistic care. This initiative focuses on improving access to specialized treatments while sharing expertise and resources across the region.



# Nicaragua Medical Training Outcomes

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

**171** Participants,  
Including Doctors  
and Nurses

**15** Departments

**2** Autonomous  
Regions

- ◆ Boaco
- ◆ Carazo
- ◆ Chinandega
- ◆ Chontales
- ◆ Estelí
- ◆ Granada
- ◆ Jinotega
- ◆ León
- ◆ Madriz
- ◆ Managua
- ◆ Masaya
- ◆ Matagalpa
- ◆ Nueva Segovia
- ◆ Rivas
- ◆ Río San Juan
- ◆ North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region - RACCN
- ◆ South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region - RACS



## A BURN STORY A SECOND CHANCE FOR HILARY



## A SECOND CHANCE FOR HILARY

**At just three and a half years old, Hilary Luciana Granados Padilla experienced a tragedy that would change her life forever.** What should have been an ordinary day at home turned into a nightmare. **A single misstep sent her tumbling into a pit filled with burning charcoal.** At first, no one noticed—until her desperate screams pierced the air. Her aunt rushed to pull her out, but the damage had already been done. The pain was unbearable, and her cries marked the beginning of a long, difficult road to recovery.

Hilary was first taken to a local hospital in León, where she spent 11 days receiving emergency care. But her burns were severe, and she needed specialized treatment. **She was transferred to Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua Burn Center, where she remained hospitalized for 26 days, undergoing intensive medical care.**

The burns covered 16% of her tiny body—deep second-degree, third-

degree, and even fourth-degree burns scorched her hands and legs. **The damage was so extensive that multiple surgeries were required, including skin grafts and, heartbreakingly, the amputation of several toes on her left foot.**

Through it all, Hilary's mother, Leonor, has been her rock. As a single mother, she was already facing challenges, but when Hilary got injured, everything changed. She lost her job as a domestic worker while caring for her daughter, leaving them without a stable income. Despite the hardships, Leonor remains unwavering in her love and devotion, determined to give Hilary the future she deserves.

With Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary care, Hilary has not only survived—she is thriving. She has regained the ability to do the things she loves, like playing with balloons, stuffed animals, and dolls. She still clings to her mother for comfort,

but now, her days are filled with more smiles than tears. **Beyond life-saving medical treatment, Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua has provided her with psychological support and rehabilitation, helping her regain mobility, confidence, and hope.**

Hilary's journey is far from over, but because of your generosity, she has a fighting chance at a brighter tomorrow. **Thank you for being part of her story—for giving her hope, healing, and a future filled with possibilities.**



BEFORE



AFTER



## CLEFT LIP & PALETTE STORY A FUTURE OF HOPE FOR ISRAEL



## A FUTURE OF HOPE FOR **ISRAEL**

At just 20 months old, Israel López has already faced more challenges than most will in a lifetime. Born with **apert syndrome and a cleft palate**, his journey has been one of incredible resilience, strength, and the unwavering love of his family. **Apert syndrome is a rare genetic condition that causes the premature fusion of skull bones, affecting the shape of the head and face. A key feature of this condition is cleft palate. Children with this condition require specialized medical care and multiple surgeries to improve their quality of life.**

Israel lives with his mother, María Concepción, and his grandmother, Sara María, in a household filled with love but **burdened by extreme financial hardship**. With a **monthly income** of just **\$78 U.S.** dollars, meeting even the most basic needs has been a constant struggle. For much of his young life, Israel lived in a **makeshift home of zinc sheets and tarp**, an unsafe environment for a child with his medical needs. But thanks to government assistance, the family was recently granted a

small home, offering them a more secure place to live.

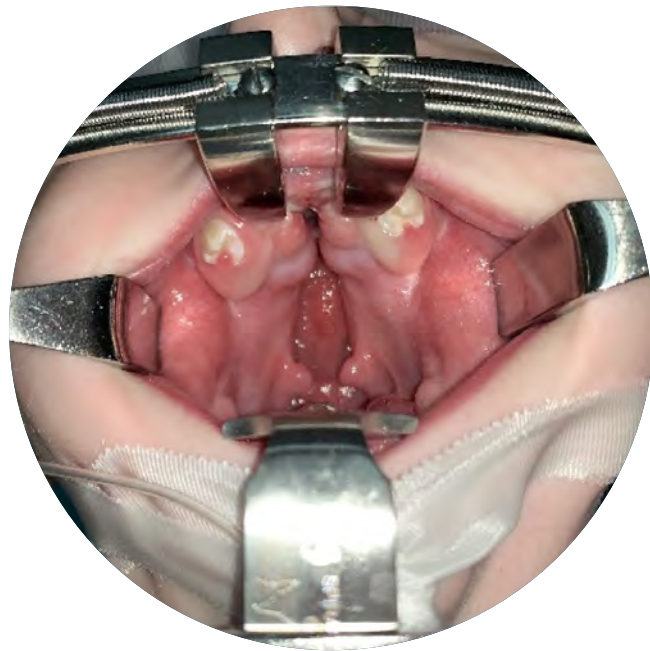
Despite their circumstances, María and Sara never waver in their dedication to Israel's well-being. **María, who also has Apert syndrome, works tirelessly selling food at the local market to support her son.** They rely on the kindness of neighbors and their local church for food and clothing, yet **their love and determination know no limits.**

Israel's journey with Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua began in September of last year, marking a turning point in his young life. From the very start, Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua has provided the specialized medical care and support he desperately needed, including **nutrition assistance, speech therapy, and counseling services for his mother.** **Thanks to the dedication of our multidisciplinary team, Israel underwent a successful cleft palate surgery—a life-changing procedure that has given him a chance at a healthier future.**

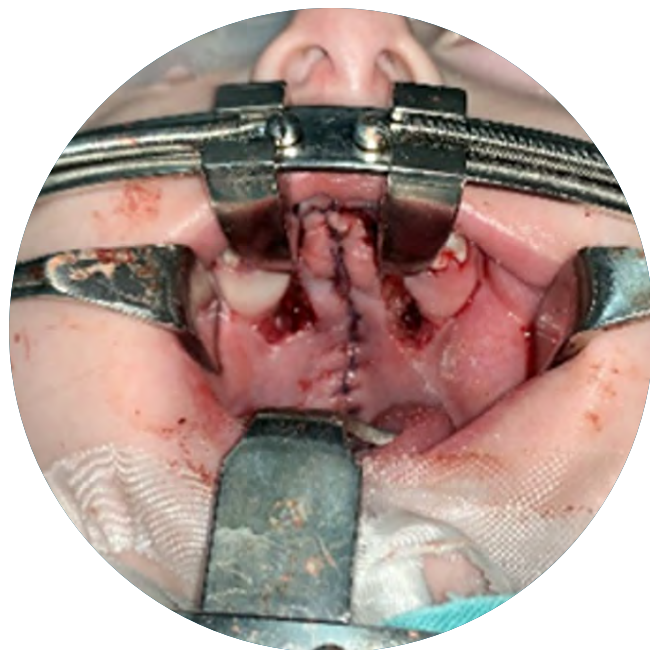
# FINANCIALS

His family's commitment to his recovery is unwavering. **Despite financial hardships, they never miss a single outpatient visit** at Asociación Pro-Niños Quemados de Nicaragua. They travel, no matter the obstacles, to ensure Israel receives the critical medical care he needs—care that is made possible through the generosity of donors like you.

Israel's journey is far from over, but with your support, he has **hope, healing, and a brighter future ahead.**



**BEFORE**



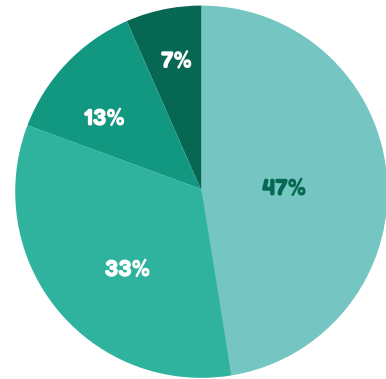
**AFTER**



# 2024 FINANCIALS

With your generosity APROQUEN supports medical treatments in Nicaragua as well as burn prevention programs and medical trainings in Latin America. This report reflects consolidated financial statements from APROQUEN's two registered non-profit organizations (Nicaragua and the U.S.).

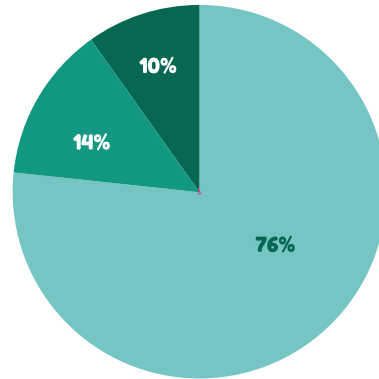
## Sources of Giving 2024



- Corporations & Foundations
- Private Contributions
- In-Kind
- Events

**\$2,100,967**

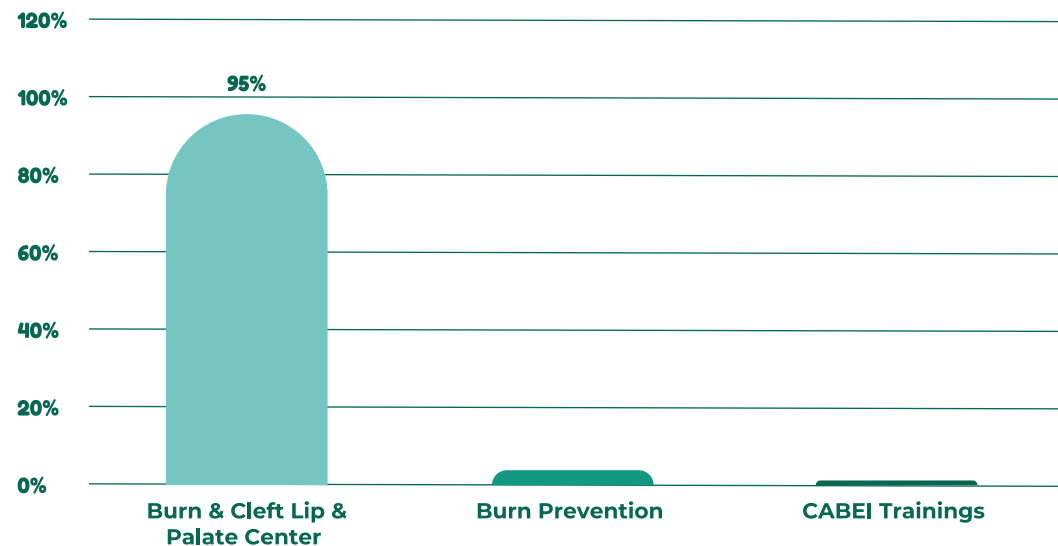
## Investment 2024



- Programs
- Administrations
- Fundraising

**\$2,085,330**

## Programs Expenses Breakdown



# 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

# 20 APROQUEN 24 DONORS

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

## \$75,000 +

Carlos Francisco Pellas Chamorro  
Ron Flor de Caña  
BAC CREDOMATIC NETWORK  
Stephen J. Wolfe Jr. Private  
Foundation

## \$74,999 - 56,000

BJ Werzyn

## \$55,999 - 36,000

José Danilo Manzanares Enriquez  
Hospital Vivian Pellas  
GBM Corporation  
Smile Train  
CLARO Nicaragua

## \$35,999 - 25,000

Nena Pellas  
Puma Energy Foundation  
Nicaragua Sugar Estate Limited  
NIMAC

## \$24,999 - 10,000

Vivian Pellas  
Silvio & Consuelo Pellas  
Néstor Andrés Plasencia  
Mat Wood  
Michael Wood  
Roberto Kriete  
Gilberto Guzmán Cardenal  
David and Juliet Flory  
René Morales Carazo & María de los  
Ángeles Bárcenas  
Frank Robleto  
Carisam-Samuel Meisel/ Stanley  
Motta  
David & Tara McLay-Kidd  
MONISA  
ANBER S.A  
Children's Burn Foundation (CBF)  
Casa Pellas, S.A  
Puma Energy Bahamas, S.A  
DICEGSA  
AVANZ  
Compañía Cervecera de Nicaragua  
S.A  
Banco Centroamericano de  
Integración Económica (BCIE)

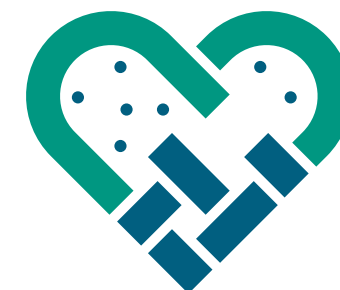
## \$9,999 - 5,000

Jonatha & Josua Reyes Torres  
Lesvín Mendoza Rostran  
Carrie Le & Phong Le  
Shepard Stevens  
Grupo Kathib S.A  
Patrick Broderick Memorial  
Foundation  
Cristiana Barcenas  
Eric & Ilse Brenner Manzanares  
Seaboard Marine  
MG Legal Tax & Asociados  
Xavier Largaespada  
Curt Schaeffer  
Lydia Work  
Seguros América S.A  
Agropecuaria Miralagos S.A  
Kevin Lee  
Charles Meyers  
Word Logistic S.A  
Frutales del San Juan, S.A

## In-Kind

CLARO Nicaragua  
DICEGSA  
Grupo Múnkel S.A

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



# APROQUEN LEADERSHIP

LEADING WITH HEART AND PURPOSE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vivian Pellas  
**President**

Carlos Pellas  
**Vice-President and Secretary**

Fernando Tamayo  
**Treasurer**

## 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

# 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.

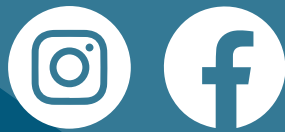
I am here by the will of God. His divine plan has given me the opportunity to take on a mission for children and help "TURN TEARS INTO SMILES."





# DONOR IMPACT

— REPORT 2024 —



**FOLLOW OUR SMILES**  
**[aproquenkids.org](http://aproquenkids.org)**

