Gabriel, a ten-year-old boy with curly, messy hair, showed up to Barrio Planta Project in February of 2015 to enroll in classes, holding the hand of his much shyer and younger brother David. Their application form was incomplete, their clothes were ripped and a little too small, and dirt was smudged on their faces. When we asked them their names, David stared firmly at the floor, silently clinging to his brother’s hand. Neither made eye contact with us.

Today, just a year later, the brothers stand tall to pose for a group photo, run energetically around the courtyard, and when I call them over to meet a visiting sponsor, they both look her in the eyes and introduce themselves proudly. This increase in self-esteem is just one example of the unmeasurable, but invaluable growth that stems from our programming. Our devotion to continuous improvement through organizational learning has led to this Growth Report, where we will share, for the first time, clear metrics demonstrating more conventional success.

What began in 2009 with a small donation for notebooks has grown to become a sustainable nonprofit that is recognized locally and internationally for its cross-cultural and educational programming. When I founded BPP, I was fresh out of college and filled with idealism. Although I retain that idealism, it is now amplified by a clear understanding of the local context and challenges of the work. Overcoming those challenges in the early years only strengthened the foundation on which this venture was built.

In the beginning, students took just one English class two to three times a week. This year, our 7th year of programming, we offered 27 classes each semester, taught by teachers and volunteers from Nicaragua and abroad. The process of growth often requires perseverance and strength as staff and students alike push through the boundaries of their comfort zones. While our main goal is, and always has been, to Help a Child Grow, BPP has done so much more than that. Parents, volunteers, donors, teachers, board members and staff have all grown alongside our organization in a collective movement to make the community of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, and the world we live in a better place.

In 2015, we were finally able to measure our growth in a way we can present to our current and future supporters and I could not be more excited and proud to finally share it with you. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this organization and who continues to help us Help a Child Grow, one Gabriel and David at a time.

Dyani Makous
Founder and CEO
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OUR VISION
We envision a world where local communities are able to leverage the growth of the tourism industry into economic and educational opportunities for their children, youth, and families.

OUR MISSION
Barrio Planta Project empowers the children and youth of San Juan del Sur and surrounding areas through free supplementary schooling that instills creativity, enhances confidence, and facilitates international communication.
BPP believes that Creativity, Confidence, and Communication are essential leadership qualities for living healthy and productive lives. We focus on instilling Creativity through classes in the arts, enhancing Confidence through performance-based activities such as fitness and dance, and promoting international Communication through English and computer literacy skills.
GROWTH IN 2015

Data Collection & Analysis
We tracked attendance rates and test scores in a comprehensive database to measure outcomes and growth.

Parent Surveys
In 2014, we conducted year-end parent surveys and utilized the feedback to make improvements in our 2015 programming.

Grow Inc. Trips
Our partner social enterprise, Grow Inc., hosted its first all-inclusive trip, which included tourist activities and volunteering at BPP.

Increased Instruction Hours
Every student now takes both English and Elective courses, and we increased the number of classes from one to two per day.

Learning Through Play
We added two interactive games classes and one conversational class to our English program as a method to reinforce content through play.

Mentor-Led Classes
We incorporated volunteers into our regular programming and now Volunteer Mentors teach their own courses for a full semester.
Pre-school students come to BPP for two hours a week to learn English as a Second Language through songs, crafts, and activities.

School-age students come from Monday to Friday, for either the morning or afternoon session. We offer English classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Elective classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as weekly dinners, monthly field trips, and an annual theater workshop.

**52%**
Of our pre-school students are girls, compared to only 29% of school-age students, so we are making efforts to retain and increase female enrollment.

**51%**
Of our school-age students are 11–15 year old boys.
English as a Second Language gives our students the ability to communicate at an international level, expanding their opportunities in San Juan del Sur, and beyond. We have developed our own curriculum that focuses on speaking and conversation, and our students advance through these levels in a fun and interactive environment.
Of school-age students showed improvement on assessment tests, which are taken at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.

80%
Of school-age students earned 60% or higher as their final English grade, which incorporates the marks from 3 exams, their notebooks, participation levels, and attendance rates.

96%
Of school-age students showed improvement on assessment tests, which are taken at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.
BPP provides consistent year-round courses in Computers, Fitness, Art, and Dance, enhancing computer literacy and physical activity levels, while providing the opportunity for students to express their creativity and increase confidence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE ELECTIVE CLASSES</th>
<th>4 COMPUTER CLASSES</th>
<th>3 FITNESS CLASSES</th>
<th>2 ART CLASSES</th>
<th>1 DANCE CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The Impact of our Core Elective Classes

94%

Of students passed our year-long Computer course, earning a 60% or higher as their final grade.

77%

Of fitness students showed improvement in all six measurable areas: most notably, students could do 81% more push-ups, 68% more sit-ups, and were 27% more flexible by the end of the semester.

HALF of our students are becoming computer literate, and ONE THIRD are getting 2 HOURS of physical activity each week.
Directed and produced by Denis Calderon, our Director of Art & Culture, and translated into Spanish, we put our own unique San Juan del Sur twist on this traditional play. Through hard work, creativity, and improvisation, students presented the show to their families, friends, and community members, showcasing hand made costumes and bringing lots of laughs.

**1 ORIGINAL PLAY**  
**4 WEEKS OF PRACTICE**  
**EVERY JANUARY**
BPP offers a unique blend of culture and language exchange, which incorporates volunteers in various ways. Volunteer English Teachers work part-time in exchange for room and board, Community Volunteer Mentors lead a semester-long elective class, and individuals and groups from our Cultural Exchange Program participate in customized volunteering for both short-and long-term visits.
All of the students that I deal with have really great dreams for their future – they want to go into business, they want to become lawyers, some of them are even talking about getting into the medical field. They see their futures opening up, and it’s a really great thing to be a part of.”

– Gordon, 2015 English Teacher

“Teaching English here has allowed me to meet so many families in the community and the students are so open and welcoming to me as a teacher. They’re growing and learning every single second of every single day and they couldn’t be happier to do so. Every day this place becomes more of a home – not just San Juan del Sur itself, but BPP.”

– Meaghan, 2015 English Teacher
Volunteer Mentors

In addition to instilling a spirit of volunteerism and giving back, this exposes students to a wide variety of subjects and the opportunity to discover their unique skills and talents. This year, our Mentor-Led Elective Classes included Crochet, Gardening, Music, Theatre, Board Games, Cooking, Sports, and Yoga.

“Very warm and welcoming environment for volunteers and students, a safe place for everyone. I appreciate how open BPP was in giving me a voice as a volunteer. I felt heard and appreciated. Thank you!” – Maggie, Theatre Class Assistant

“I loved the kids, the freedom to manage your own class/projects and the amount of responsibility allotted to the volunteers.” – Michael, Theatre and Music Mentor
Cultural Exchange Volunteers

Volunteers can live with a host family, take private Spanish lessons, assist with classes, or visit for a day of interactive activities. Students practice their English with participants from around the globe and the fees we charge directly support BPP, teachers from our partner Spanish school and the local families who provide room and board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUPS</th>
<th>INDIVIDUALS</th>
<th>VOLUNTEERS</th>
<th>WEEKS OF LOCAL FAMILY HOME STAYS</th>
<th>HOURS OF SPANISH LESSONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Taking part in this project gave me the chance to experience life in Nicaragua from a very real and local perspective. I came to San Juan del Sur for the beaches and beauty, but what I found was a taskforce of individuals making a difference in the world. I left a piece of my heart and soul at BPP and will hold onto that experience for as long as I can.” – Chad, from Vancouver

“This was an amazing experience that I will remember forever. I loved working with the kids and helping them learn. It’s truly great how much BPP does for all the kids and it will impact their lives forever.” – Cole, from Alberta

“My experience with BPP was nothing short of amazing. Please keep doing what you’re doing as this was incredible not just for me, but for the students as well. I adore the way the staff connects with the students and is always there to help them improve, not just in school but in life in general.” – Lily, from Ontario
Cultural Exchange Volunteers

248%

Growth in the amount of revenue our Cultural Exchange Program generated in 2015, in comparison to only 6 months in 2014

100%

Of the 105 volunteers surveyed said their overall experience at BPP MET OR EXCEEDED expectations

“As the group leader it was amazing to see the students develop both mentally and emotionally. Students really enjoyed the close community bonds developed over the short, but enjoyable stay. Everything was well organized. Absolutely perfect, nothing needs to change.”

– Derek, from Ontario

“My host family was amazing, very friendly and chatty, which helped a lot with my Spanish. The Spanish classes also exceeded my expectations. My teacher was very good at assessing my level and providing a variety of activities to make learning more interesting and fun. I would definitely return to this school in the future. Thank you BPP!”

– Frida, from Melbourne
We believe in rewarding students for their positive behavior, such as high attendance rates and participation in class. Made possible through the support of local businesses, organizations, and individual donations, we provide three types of incentives to our students: Thursday Perfect Attendance Dinners, Student of the Week Fridays, and Monthly Field Trips.
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

949 NUTRITIOUS MEALS 44% WEEKLY PERFECT ATTENDANCE RATE

Every Thursday we serve dinner at the school to all the students who had perfect attendance that week. Students line up with their tickets and dishes and enjoy a meal with their classmates before heading home for the evening.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

19 WEEKS 5 RESTAURANTS 250 DINNERS

Every Friday, teachers choose a student from each of the 11 English Classes as student of the week. Students are recognized for their behavior, participation, and hard work, by enjoying a delicious dinner with their teachers at a beach side restaurant or having pizza delivered to the school.

MONTHLY FIELD TRIPS

6 FIELD TRIPS 36% MONTHLY PERFECT ATTENDANCE RATE

Three times a semester, students with perfect attendance go on a field trip with their fellow students and teachers, enjoying lunch and the morning activities! Trips have included surfing lessons, frisbee golf, pool days, and a trip to La Flor Natural Reserve to witness turtles lay eggs.
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We are always grateful to live in such a small community that continues to support us each year. In addition to the photos below, we’ve also received support for roof repairs, new doors and windows, complimentary advertising, photographs, videos, tank tops, and much more.

From left to right: Boating and pizza from Two Guys Adventures and Don Monchis, donation of a new playground from RAKlife, and a girls pool party hosted by Betty Dunlap – complete with lunch and rock painting.

From left to right: Acro-yoga workshop with Anthony & Zee, mural painting with Jared, and jamming with Eon Sinclair from Bedouin Soundclash.
PARENT SURVEYS

To ensure parent satisfaction, and to incorporate suggestions from our students’ families, we conduct evaluation surveys at year-end. In 2015, we spoke to 39 parents of 57 students, representing 61% of all parents.

noticed POSITIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGES in their child, such as greater confidence, discipline, and more sociability

86%  

Are VERY SATISFIED with our programming

96%

Will continue to enroll their children at BPP

100%

“He is becoming more confident while speaking English and has been practicing and studying at home.”

“Keep it up because we are people with scarce resources and it is very good for the children.”

“Excellent work! There are many parents that can’t afford classes for their children and your program will help them a lot in the future.”

“Everything is great and I like that you are taking our opinions into account.”

“BPP is a place where the children learn while they play, meet new people and students – and it’s all free!”

“I really like BPP, I wish that my other children had this opportunity when they were young. It is a project that helps our children grow.”
“My name is Dariela. I am ten years old. Before I didn't know how to do yoga but now I am in that class and I can do yoga. It is my favorite class!”

“Hello my name is Kevin. I am 15 years old. I like to learn English because English is very important for my future. I want to work at a restaurant or as a hotel receptionist and practice my English with tourists. This is my fifth year at BPP. Thank you BPP for teaching me English!”

“My name is Helying. I am 15 years old. I've been coming to BPP for five years and the teachers here are pretty cool. A few years ago there was a one month guitar workshop and I was very interested in learning to play. Now, I can play guitar very well and I even teach Williams [the computer teacher] sometimes.”
2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sources of Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Revenue</th>
<th>$ USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Program</td>
<td>$9,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>$11,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaraguan Government</td>
<td>$21,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual &amp; Foundation Donations</td>
<td>$38,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Gifts &amp; Services</td>
<td>$108,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$188,998</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Revenue $188,998 USD

All figures are consolidated for BPP’s national Nicaraguan NGO published in La Gaceta #58 and BPP’s US Counterpart, a registered 501(c)3 organization. Revenue and expenditure values reflect in-kind services.
2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Breakdown of Expenditure

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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>$ USD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Programming</td>
<td>$85,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Program</td>
<td>$36,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Program</td>
<td>$15,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$28,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$31,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$198,101</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All figures are consolidated for BPP’s national Nicaraguan NGO published in La Gaceta #58 and BPP’s US Counterpart, a registered 501(c)3 organization. Revenue and expenditure values reflect in-kind services. The negative balance of $9,103 was covered by cash carried over from 2014.*
HOW WE’RE GROWING IN 2016

To improve the quality of our programming, we conduct evaluation surveys with teachers and volunteers. Feedback from our continual-improvement process in 2015 identified growth opportunities which we implemented in 2016.

Ongoing: Collect Volunteer Surveys

Year End: Conduct Parent Surveys

Analyze Data and Feedback

Brainstorm Programming Ideas

Implement Improved Programming

Repeat Process

Student Teaching

Feedback: The large class sizes of our English Games classes proved difficult for volunteers to manage.

Our Growth: Now, our advanced English-speaking students are gaining leadership skills by planning and leading the English Games and Conversation Classes.

Language Partners

Feedback: Volunteers with beginner Spanish faced language barriers which affected relationship building and discipline in the classroom.

Our Growth: Now, each Volunteer Mentor has a bilingual language partner who offers hands-on classroom assistance.

University Sponsorships

Feedback: Our students are getting older and should be offered a chance to attend university after graduation.

Our Growth: An English Teacher volunteered to sponsor the tuition of our oldest student, who started attending university classes this year.
SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

The following organizations made significant contributions to BPP in 2015:

Abroad Perspective (AP)
Brisas Marinas Bar & Restaurante
Del Sur News
Global Delaware Fund
Life Out of the Box
Live With Passion
Naked Tiger Hostel
National Reconciliation and Unity Government Hostel PachaMama
RAKlife
Random Acts
Restaurante El Timon
The Endeleo Project
The International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Center (IFS)
PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

The following individuals and organizations contributed $100 or more to BPP in 2015:

Adam Carvey Taylor
Alan D. Carpenter
Amy Whyte
Annika Gierenz
Barbara Hersh
Barbara Magnoni
Betty Dunlap
Blyth Academy
Brenden Layte
Brittany Cox
Carolina Esquenazi
Catherine Koatz
Cheryl Gussman
Chris Petrillo
Connor and Lindsey Halbert
Courtnay Miller
Dan Williams and The Jordan Co.
Frida Soerensen

Gardner Reed
George Angus
Georgia-Rae Jones
Glenn Graham
Hana West
Hope Pordy
Jaclyn Mucaria
James Branciforte
Jan Woods
Jerry Rickman
John Safford
Johnny Goldenberg
Kate Layte
Kelly Halbert
Kezia Carpenter
Lauren Spiegel
Liza Roodnat
Mike Scott

Moises Esquenazi
Nancy Bohnett
Naomi Corwin
Nica Yoga
Pat, Fran, and Kevin Campbell
Peg Schuetz
Richard A Chapkis
Rudy Gonzalez
Ryan Lawson
Samantha Gareau
Samara Lima
Sarah Daly
Sophia Davidson
Sophie Pontone
Susan Rosenberg
The Loose Moose Canadian Pub
Wendy Duryea
THE BPP TEAM

2015 Full Time Staff
Dyani Makous  
*Founder & Director*
Damaris Obando  
*Director of Administration & Finance*
Denis Calderon  
*Director of Art & Culture*
Renée LeVangie  
*Program Manager*
Williams Robles  
*Technology & Communications Coordinator*
Elizabeth Renner  
*English Teacher & Student Coordinator*
Meaghan Bergman  
*English Teacher & Student Coordinator*

Nicaragua Board of Directors
Fundacion Proyecto Barrio La Planta
Dyani Makous
Sabas Acosta
Michelle Branciforte
Lee Jurasevich
Yasmin Ludwig

2015 English Teachers & Assistants
Elizabeth Renner
Rachel Petrillo
Jenna Jahn Reid
Gordon Skultety
Nancy Dickinson
Michael Abbott
Samantha Gonzalez
Samantha Gareau
Ryan Lawson
Meaghan Bergman

2015 Elective Teachers
Denis Calderon  
*Art & Dance*
William Robles  
*Computer*
Ezekiel Calderon  
*Fitness*
Bobby Hottenson  
*Gardening*
Michael Young  
*Music & Theatre*
Susan Evans  
*Crochet*
Nancy Dickinson  
*Board Games*
Gordon Skultety  
*Gardening*
David Quiroz  
*Gardening*
Emilie Lehan  
*Sports*
Jessica Arthur  
*Yoga*
Elizabeth Renner  
*Cooking*
Meaghan Bergman  
*Cooking*

USA Board of Directors
Friends of Barrio La Planta
Bruce Makous
David Hersh
Kezia Carpenter
Rudy Espinoza
Dafina Williams
Brenden Layte
Josh Grayson
Anshul Jain
CONTACT US

@ info@barrioplantaproject.org

www.barrioplantaproject.org

www.facebook.com/Proyecto.BPP

Casa de la Cultura - Escuela Integral de BDF 50 varas al sur
San Juan del Sur
Rivas, Nicaragua

Barrio Planta Project
7905 Cadillac Lane
Philadelphia, PA
19128 USA

Let’s chat about how you can Help a Child Grow. Reach out today at +505.8139.3567

Fundacion Proyecto Barrio La Planta is BPP’s national legal representative and is recognized as a national Nicaraguan NGO, published in La Gaceta #58. Friends of Barrio La Planta Inc. is BPP’s US Counterpart and is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All US donations are tax deductible.