



2018 Annual Report



Year of Strategy

2018 was a year of growth for CREA. Led by key stakeholders, CREA spent much of the year planning for the future while addressing key challenges.

We were pleased to release CREA's 3-year strategy document that focuses on the following areas over 2019 - 2021:

1

STAFF & BOARD
DEVELOPMENT

2

ENHANCEMENT OF
PROGRAMS &
EXPANSION WITH
MOBILE LIBRARY

3

FUNDRAISING
DIVERSIFICATION

4

BUILDING
PARTNER &
COMMUNITY
ALLIANCES

5

FACILITIES &
LAND
DEVELOPMENT



Library Cards

All of CREA's books are cataloged in an online system allowing better tracking of books and a library card for each participant!



Mommy and Me

We launched the Mommy and Me program bringing mothers and their youngest children together each week.

A Look at 2018

Over the course of 2018, CREA worked to grow its foundation in meaningful ways with the support of staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, community leaders, and donors.

In 2018, CREA directly engaged 1,106 children, youth, and mothers through our three core Initiatives and indirectly engaged a total of 2,060 Nicaraguans.

The Youth Development Initiative, also known as Formación Fénix, graduated its first University scholarship participant!

Jason Sanchez graduated with a degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. He is currently working in his field in Costa Rica. Congratulations, Jason!

The Initiative also worked to recruit new young members from multiple communities. The recruitment of new participants diversifies the Youth Development Initiative in age, gender, and socio-economic status.



The Fénix participants engaged with 218 additional peers from various communities through its youth-led community health project. They also coordinated with the Roberto Clemente Health Clinic to grow the CREA garden, and learn about nutrition and healthy eating.

The members also participated in various workshops designed to create the leaders of tomorrow, today.

The Education Outreach Initiative grew to serve additional children at four local community schools.

Through early academic education support, children in primary schools were able to access critical support they may not be able to receive

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each month, CREA engaged the broader communities through community events. Community events provided a way to share with others what we do at CREA while learning about something new.

Community events in 2018 featured a book fair, chess tournaments, food fair, and wellness workshops. The end of the holiday year event helped spread cheer, and we had a couple of special visitors from the North Pole!



in their homes. With access to trained facilitators and appropriate materials, supplemental instruction was provided in fun and engaging ways to encourage children to engage deeper in their education.



High school level students also received support from CREA's trained facilitators in key subjects such as Literature, Math, and Science. The participants were also able to use the technology lab to work on their final year research projects.

Afternoons at CREA were busy!

After the flooding of October 2017, the *Library Services Initiative* was able to establish itself in its new home.

Darlin Lopez was promoted within the organization to lead this Initiative. Having trained with the Education Outreach Initiative and showing an aptitude for leadership, Darlin hit the ground running.

CREA received a generous donation from Follett after the devastating floods of Tropical Storm Nate. The much needed Spanish language books were trucked into CREA. Through additional support, CREA was able to purchase an online library management system. This

allowed us to lend books with library cards, have insight into circulation, and better track where books are in the various communities. CREA now has over 6,000 books!

Library specific programming was also launched during the year. Reading after school engaged children and youth in reading appropriate age-level books to encourage reading amongst children. Mommy and Me was created to help grow a strong culture of reading, with parents actively engaging their children under the age of 5.



The year was not without challenges. In April 2018, Nicaragua began to experience social and political unrest that lead to much uncertainty.

As a non-political organization, CREA remained open and worked hard to ease the fears of participants through maintaining regular programming and taking one day at a time. We are thankful that as the year continued, the violence subsided.

We continue to hope for peace for all.

Thank You!

Simply put, CREA is possible because of our generous supporters, donors, and volunteers.

Thank you for making CREA possible and making a difference in the lives of rural Nicaraguans.

PARTNERS

Casa de la Mujer, Rivas, Nicaragua
Centro de Salud, Las Salinas, Nicaragua
FIMRC, Las Salinas, Nicaragua
Follett, United States
FunLimón, Limón 1, Nicaragua
Gay Su Pinnell Education Foundation, United States
Girls Rights Project, United States
Laird Norton Family Foundation, United States
Ministry of Education, Nicaragua
Mortenson Family Foundation, United States
NSR, Nicaragua
Pre-School and Primary Schools in Asentamiento, Limón 1 & 2, La Virgen, Las Salinas, Nicaragua
Rancho Santana, Nicaragua
Roberto Clemente Health Clinic, Limón #1, Nicaragua
Secondary Schools in Las Salinas, Limón 2, Astillero, and San Ignacio, Nicaragua
SG Foundation, Nicaragua
Skees Family Foundation, United States



CREA STAFF

Corrie Burdett, Executive Director
Pahola Amador, Administrator
Mariana Castillo, Education Outreach Coordinator
Lidieth Alvarez, Youth Development Coordinator
Darlin Lopez, Library Services Coordinator
Rosa Torres, Fénix Assistant
Ruth Obando, Kenia Hernandez, Meyerlin Castillo, Reading Facilitators
Sergio Dominguez, Math Specialist
Ezequiel Amador, Technology Specialist
Juan Guzman, Leonidas Martinez, Reynaldo Arcia, Facility Assistants
Digna Guterrez, Caretaker

CREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Chackerian, Board Treasurer
Lila Cunningham
John Edwards
Scott Hagg, Board Secretary
Ann James
Steven Merritt, Board President
Kitty Rudman

