



A Note from CREA's Board Chair

Dear CREA Community,

I am honored to share CREA's 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year of growth, opportunities, and impact. At CREA, we remain deeply committed to elevating Nicaraguans and their communities through literacy and learning, ensuring that supplemental education is accessible to all. We are proud to share CREA's accomplishments in expanding support and empowering children, youth, and families across our communities.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team—alongside our board of directors, advisory council, and supporters—worked hard to provide children, youth, and families with resources they need to thrive. From early childhood through university, our participants receive critical complementary educational support to help them develop a love for learning, complete their studies, and pursue meaningful careers.

CREA's programs are designed to break down barriers to learning, including geographic isolation, limited transportation, and lack of resources. Every day, participants visit the CREA Library + Learning Center to read, explore, and grow. For those unable to come to us, we bring learning to them through our Mobile Library and outreach programs.

This year, we built six new classrooms, expanded our programs in outreach communities, and strengthened our commitment to helping our participants develop fundamental reading and math skills. We also introduced writing as a response to literature, further enhancing comprehension and expression.

Bilingual literacy specialists led intensive training sessions for staff, with ongoing virtual support throughout the year. Our mathematics educators also benefited from specialized workshops, integrating interactive tools like Khan Academy, Quizziz, and PhET to make learning more engaging. Additionally, we launched a digital literacy class for all secondary school participants to teach essential computer skills, preparing them for future academic and professional success.

CREA launched its first in-person robotics workshop, equipping teachers and 26 adolescent girls with foundational coding and programming skills. Recognizing the importance of female role models in STEM, we also welcomed a new Technology Specialist—the only woman in our community with a degree in systems engineering—who is co-leading our digital literacy and robotics initiatives.

Beyond the classroom, CREA's scholarship program supported 13 new university students to pursue degrees in fields such as business, medicine, veterinary science, and engineering. These scholarships are vital to providing participants a tangible path toward professional fulfillment and economic stability.

Your support has been instrumental in helping CREA provide children and youth with the resources and opportunities they need. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission and look forward to another year of learning, growth, and transformation.

In partnership,
Scott Hagg, Board Chair



VISION

Minds Wide Open

MISSION

Elevating Nicaraguans and their Communities
through Literacy + Learning



Library Services



Academic Success



Youth Development

At its heart, CREA has three core programs for youth that work together to engage hundreds of children, youth, and their families in rural Nicaraguan communities every day. We also have a robust professional development program to ensure our staff continually grow, enrich their expertise, and deliver the highest quality educational support.



● Comunidad Actual / Current Community

■ Municipalidad de Tola / Municipality of Tola

Library Services

Provides young learners and their families access to books and programming designed to teach discrete literacy skills, promote reading proficiency, inspire critical thinking, and foster a joy of reading.

11,601

**BOOKS AVAILABLE AT
THE CREA LIBRARY +
LEARNING CENTER**

305

**VISITS FROM CREA
MOBILE LIBRARY TO
REMOTE COMMUNITIES**

4,343

**CREA BOOKS IN THE
HANDS OF COMMUNITY
MEMBERS**



Building on the success of introducing our supplementary literacy curriculum in one community last year, we expanded our impact in 2024 by integrating reading instruction into another outreach location—a multi-grade school where learning is even more challenging.

At the CREA Library + Learning Center and outreach sites, our team carefully assesses each participant's reading level, ensuring they receive targeted support in small groups. This approach allows facilitators to meet participants where they are and challenges them to improve by strengthening their comprehension, fluency, and expression in a personally tailored way.

We also deepened our commitment to literacy by incorporating writing as a response to literature. By engaging with texts through writing, participants enhance their reading comprehension and also develop critical thinking and writing skills—empowering them to express themselves with confidence.



CREA Reading Facilitators guided young readers with our literacy curriculum, combining phonics instruction, interactive read-alouds, and guided reading and writing—all with a strong emphasis on comprehension. With individualized support and small-group instruction, participants tackled increasingly complex texts, building both skills and confidence. More than just learning to read, they discovered how to actively engage with stories, think critically, and apply their literacy skills across all areas of learning—unlocking new opportunities for growth and success.



Academic Success

Provides children and youth with critical, supplemental learning support to finish primary and secondary school.

263

PARTICIPANTS
SUPPORTED DAILY AT
THE CREA LIBRARY +
LEARNING CENTER

377

PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARTICIPANTS
SUPPORTED WEEKLY
THROUGH CREA
OUTREACH

640

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTSS
ENGAGED IN CREA'S
ACADEMIC SUCCESS
PROGRAMMING



CREA expanded Academic Success outreach by increasing the number of visits for even more primary school participants in remote communities and further integrating individualized literacy instruction into programming. This continues to be incredibly successful! Parents and teachers alike have expressed great satisfaction with the noticeable improvements in reading comprehension and foundational math skills. Growing demand from neighboring communities reflects CREA's impact on literacy and learning.

More frequent, personalized learning support in local communities increases participants' chances of succeeding in primary school, continuing to secondary school, and completing their education.



A pilot program for Khan Academy was efficiently implemented with seventh-grade participants. Khan Academy provides customized learning experiences, catering to each participant's unique pace and style by engaging them with interactive content. This platform allowed participants to learn at their own pace by engaging in practical exercises, instructional videos, and personalized learning panels.

Interactive activities were integrated into the academic success programming using educational platforms like Quizziz, Educaplay, and PhET. These highly dynamic activities enabled participants to apply their knowledge across subjects, fostering a supportive environment of teamwork and healthy competition to strengthen their skills in math and science.

Chess remains a popular tool at CREA, enhancing children's critical thinking, empathy, and math problem-solving skills.



Youth Development Initiative

Supports the academic, social, and emotional growth of adolescents as they strive to reach their goals and create positive change in their communities.

902

YOUTH ATTENDED
CREA'S HEALTH
EDUCATION TALKS

138

ADOLESCENTS
ENGAGED IN DAILY
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

22

YOUTH CURRENTLY
AT UNIVERSITY ON
CREA SCHOLARSHIP



CREA is providing scholarships to university students pursuing degrees in fields such as architecture, business, computer science, engineering, medicine, and veterinary science, providing them with future opportunities for professional and economic stability.



CREA's Youth Development programming helped youth strengthen knowledge in English, digital literacy, art, and gardening. CREA also provided vocational guidance for young people, helping them to identify skills and career aspirations through specialized assessments. As part of our commitment to expanding STEM education, CREA hosted its first in-person robotics workshop for 26 adolescent girls and five staff members. This hands-on experience introduced participants to computer programming and robotics, preparing them for future studies in technology and paving the way for regular robotics classes at CREA.

CREA's commitment extended beyond academics to well-being and personal development. This includes community health programming covering essential topics like mental health, gender equity, prevention of early pregnancy, sexual abuse prevention, and responsible technology use.



Community Events

CREA hosted a series of events to engage with the broader community, collaborate with children, youth, and their families in the rural area where we work.

93

FAMILIES ATTENDED
THE 2024
EDUCATION AND
HEALTH FAIR

435

FREE MEDICAL
CONSULTATIONS AT
2024 EDUCATION
AND HEALTH FAIR

172

PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS
PARTICIPATED IN
CREA FAMILY CLUBS



CREA's 2024 Education and Health Fair included free medical care provided by physicians from the Ministry of Health. Families from rural communities throughout Tola received free medical consultations in pediatrics, general medicine, natural medicine, dentistry, emotional health, optometry, and more.

The Education and Health Fair provides a great opportunity to introduce CREA's literacy and learning programs to families beyond our current reach.



CREA provided regular “Family Club” events to engage families in the education of their children. In May, CREA hosted “The Family and Learning Values” workshops at CREA and in outreach communities. These interactive sessions emphasized the importance of education and the vital role of families in shaping values such as respect, empathy, and responsibility. Through dynamic activities and shared experiences, parents explored ways to create a positive, nurturing home environment. By promoting the importance of education, CREA is helping build a foundation for stronger communities and a brighter future.

Community events, like World Book Day, were led by youth participants and staff and focused on promoting literacy and learning. CREA events are always fun and festive and very popular in the communities we serve.



Professional Development

Believing education is a pathway out of poverty, CREA promotes professional development for all its employees to strengthen the capacity of our team and set good examples for our participants and the communities we support.

35

**TEACHERS AND STAFF
EMPLOYED AT CREA
FROM LOCAL
COMMUNITIES**

32

**EMPLOYEES RECEIVED
FINANCIAL LITERACY
TRAINING**

11

**DAYS OF
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FOR
STAFF**



Though many hours of online and in-person professional development, CREA teachers learned strategies to strengthen participants' skills in both primary and early secondary school math. Teachers implemented this approach, guiding participants from abstract to representational to concrete concepts, connecting lessons to real-life applications.

Bilingual literacy interventionists conducted literacy workshops and one-on-one training with CREA staff in both reading and writing instruction. Online training continued throughout the year and staff worked on strategies for participants who are struggling most.

THANK YOU

CREA's deep-rooted connection with the communities we serve is driven by the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our exceptional staff, and the unwavering support of our Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Together, we are transforming the lives of children and youth in rural Nicaragua through impactful literacy and learning initiatives.



CONNECT WITH US

We'd love to hear from you.

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