



Dear Amigos,

On behalf of the Project Amigo Board of Directors and staff it is our great pleasure to send you this report showcasing all the wonderful and positive impact that your partnership and generosity are having for our Becarios, their families and the great Colima community. We are forever grateful to you for your support of our mission to ensure that students in the state of Colima, Mexico achieve the education necessary to improve their quality of life and that of their communities.

Project Amigo has been around since 1984 when Susan Hill and Ted Rose made the decision to help the rural children of Colima, to then becoming a 501 (c) (3) officially in 1996. There have been many opportunities and challenges since our humble beginnings with most recently surviving the global pandemic and all its short- and long-term effects. Our Becarios, their families and Project Amigo staff continue to grapple with the rising inflation that affects everything that we do.

As you read the enclosed report you will see that the number of Becarios served has grown in leaps and bounds in the recent years! Our long-term dedication to serving Colima's children has yielded our largest group of university graduates—twenty young men and women graduated. The short-term impact is that they are the first in their families to graduate from the university. The long-term ripple effect is that they in turn will help their younger siblings go to school, they become role models for the community and over time they become entrepreneurs and business owners.

Our collective generosity and actions have led to changing the course of the lives of children and generations to come forever. Together we provide education, a tool to overcome poverty. You made a choice to volunteer on a Service Week, you chose to be a sponsor and mentor to a student, or you made the decision to make a year-end gift. We thank you for your contributions that are the energy behind all that we do.

We have operated on a shoe string for many years, always putting the needs of our Becarios first which has meant that we have deferred many needs like building maintenance. Today we are asking you to make a generous year-end gift. We thank you for being a Sponsor, can we count on an additional year-end gift? If you are a Service Week volunteer, can we count on an additional year-end gift? And if you are a year-end donor, will you increase your year-end gift to help address the increased needs we have in accomplishing our mission?

Again, we want to thank you for your generosity, for the many ways in which you support our Becarios and for being key in making our vision to help students in the state of Colima, MX achieve the education necessary that improves their quality of life for themselves and for their community.

Mil gracias,



Jeff Galchenberg

President of Board
Produce Program & Category Manager
New Seasons Market



Kirk Dretzka

Executive Director



Transform Lives and Experience Mexico: Join a Service Week with Project Amigo!

Immerse yourself in the heart of Central Mexico while supporting Project Amigo's mission to change lives through education. Experience daily life in Mexico and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges families face in accessing education.



As a Service Week volunteer you will connect with our inspiring Becarios, engage in activities with elementary incentive students, savor authentic Mexican cuisine and relax in our beautiful facilities.



Whether you're a family, Rotarian, or youth group, there's a Service Week theme for everyone! Please note that starting January 1, Service Week registration will be \$1,500 for adults, children 11 to 17 are half price, and children 10 and under are our guests.

[Sign Up at ProjectAmigo.org](https://ProjectAmigo.org)



Discover Your Service Week: Explore Unique Themes!

Winter themes range from Community Service, Literacy, and Mexican Cooking to exciting new offerings like:

- ♦ **Fiesta Mexicana**
Celebrate Mexican Independence
- ♦ **ART, Art, and More Art**
Unleash your creativity
- ♦ **English as a Second Language**
Make a linguistic impact

Swim Week: A family favorite full of fun sponsored by Bestbath.



Empowering Futures: Celebrating Our Graduates, Thanks to You

As we celebrate the accomplishments of 20 University and 2 Vocational graduates, we extend our deepest gratitude.



María Guadalupe de Jesús Ramírez | International Business

I am full of happiness for having achieved my professional goal thanks to the valuable support of Project Amigo. The scholarship has been the key to a promising future with better opportunities, and I cannot express in words the deep gratitude I feel. The Project Amigo team was instrumental in facing challenges and keeping me motivated along the way. Words are not enough to express the deep gratitude I feel towards my sponsors. Your generosity and trust have been fundamental support on my path to success. Thank you for believing in the potential of young people like me and for opening the doors to a better future.

Evelin Jimena Sebastián Varela | Public Accounting

I feel very happy now that I have graduated. It was and is a dream that I am fulfilling, to be a professional and I feel very grateful to my sponsors for never leaving me and always supporting me and taking care of me and my colleagues. Project Amigo is a very valuable part of me that has taught me a lot as a person and as an intern, it changed my life in many ways and taught me to be better. I think that without Project Amigo I would have struggled a lot to get to where I am right now.



Rotary Clubs: Generosity in Action

Project Amigo was founded by a Rotarian, ensuring that the guiding principles of Rotary are at the heart of everything we do. We are deeply honored to partner with Rotary Clubs and their members. Gracias for coming on a Service Week, for unrestricted & special purpose grants, supporting Becarios as club sponsors, and encouraging your members to sponsor Becarios.

Thank you for the many ways in which you encourage our Scholars to thrive!



Dalia Martínez Pérez
Administration

Thanks to the support of my sponsors, I have managed to complete my professional career successfully. I know that my success would not have been possible without their contributions, and I deeply appreciate the positive impact they have had on my life.

I hope they feel very proud and know that all their effort was worth it. I admire your generosity and your willingness to make a tangible difference in my life. Your selfless act of support has not only changed my life, but has also reinforced my belief in the importance of solidarity and empathy in the world.



Merle Citlali López Soberanis
Digital Business

I feel deeply fortunate and grateful to have achieved my valuable goal of obtaining a professional career, all thanks to the immense support provided by Project Amigo. Without their support and belief in me, I likely would never have had the opportunity to study and follow my passion. If I had my sponsors in front of me, I would express my deepest affection and gratitude to them. I would tell them that I love them very much and that I greatly appreciate the fact that they believed in me and my potential. Your generosity and unconditional support have been fundamental in my path to personal and academic fulfillment.



Jesús Antonio Honorato Plascencia | Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

I honestly feel proud, content, happy and excited, because, despite all the challenges and obstacles, I managed to remain firm. Project Amigo has been my source of inspiration to improve myself, since, thanks to the financial support, and the warmth of the members, I have been given many very important tools. To my sponsors, I say thank you for the trust you gave me by choosing me, since you changed my life and my perspective on life for the better. All the experiences you share with me in your letters have had a great positive impact.

María Guadalupe Martínez Ascencio | Tourism Management

For me this is a very great achievement since many years ago it was just a dream. I want to thank you infinitely not only for the financial support but also for the words of encouragement. Achieving this was not easy but the emotional support of Project Amigo was always there, as well as that of my sponsors. I would thank my sponsors for the infinite support they gave me all this time, for believing in me, for always being there reading each of my letters. I thank you very much for that great generous heart that you have, blindly trusting in me.





Project Amigo Students

350 Incentive Students



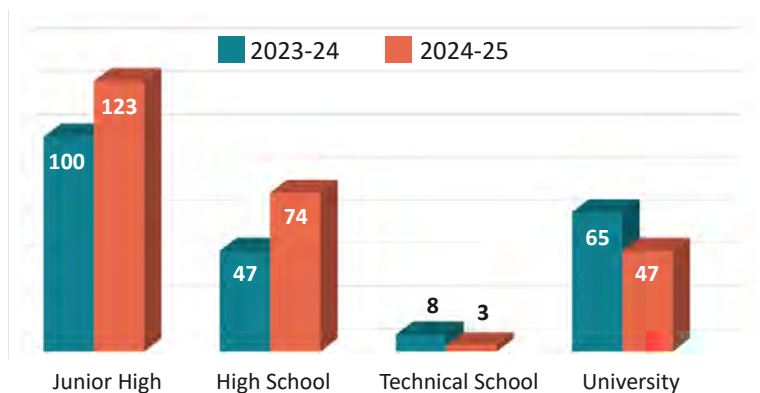
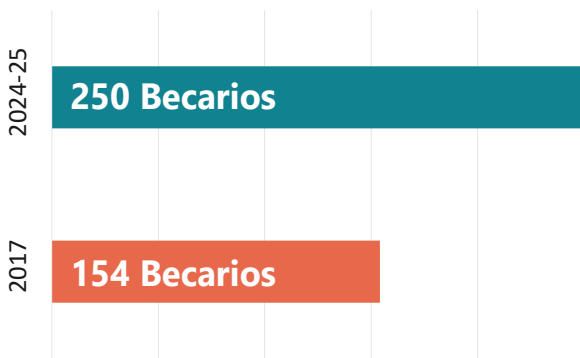
Incentive Students

Our Incentives Program, serving Elementary School children, inspires young learners by promoting education, creativity, and healthy habits. Through homework clubs, tutoring, and activities like literacy workshops, arts and crafts, and learning essential skills such as proper dental care, we empower children to thrive academically and personally.

As an exciting reward, participants enjoy a memorable field trip to the beach and celebrate at the annual Christmas Fiesta in December. This year, 350 children are benefiting from the program, and your support helps make it all possible. Together, we can continue to nurture their growth and bright futures!

Students on Scholarship

Total number of students on scholarship has grown in the last few years from 154 students served in 2017 to having 250 Becarios for the 2024-25 year, and 20 additional children on a wait list.



Adriana Rincón Ramírez | Administration

If I had not been part of Project Amigo, the scenario I imagine is not having anything planned. I would be frustrated at my age for not having anything to support myself and unable to get a job that supports me and my family, without having lived the experiences I had and without knowing the valuable people I met. Now, I feel very happy and complete to graduate, it is very exciting to know that I have achieved my goal. If I had my sponsors in front of me, I wouldn't have enough words to thank them for the significant change in my life, which has completely changed for me and those around me.

Daniel Alejandro Martínez Rivera | Customs

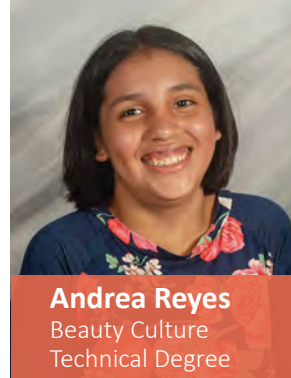
To my sponsors, thank you for all the support you have given me throughout these years. My deepest gratitude for your unconditional support, your help has been essential to overcome the challenges I faced, I cannot describe in words how much it has meant to me to know that I can always count on you. Thank you for your generosity, your support has made a big difference in my life and I will be eternally grateful. My school years were very beautiful and meaningful, I had numerous experiences and important moments for me.



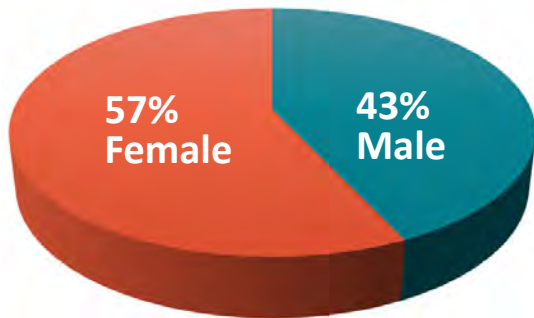
Vocational/Technical Graduates

Our goal is that each Becario makes an educational choice that is right for them and for some, it means pursuing a vocational/technical education. This path almost always guarantees gainful employment in their area of study upon graduation.

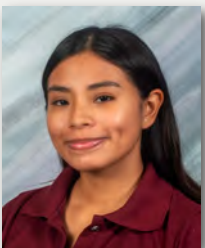
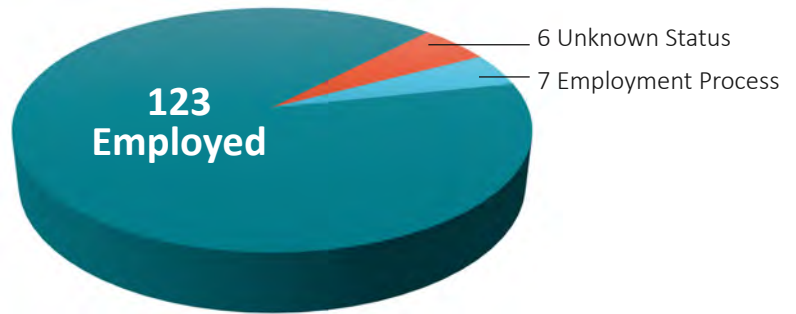
*Congratulations Andrea and David,
we are proud of you!*



Current Becarios



136 University Graduates To Date!



Erika Litzeth García Martínez | Architecture

First of all, I want to thank you for the great support you have given me during my school career. It is a pleasure for me to be completing my university years, which makes me very happy because in a short time, I will be an Architect. I am very grateful to my sponsors for all of this, for being present with me at all times, for giving me encouragement when I needed it and for all the love I received through your emails and responses. Believe me, it has all been worth it.

Siobhan Jesús Martínez Martínez | Software engineering

I feel very happy to be achieving goals step by step and one as important as this, finishing my university career. If I had not had the opportunity to receive the Project Amigo scholarship, I surely would not be here at this moment. To my sponsors, I don't know how to express enough gratitude for the constant support. Their contributions have not only been financial, but they have also been an incredible emotional support. They have allowed me to grow, learn and develop in areas I never imagined. Your generosity has completely transformed my life, opening doors for me that previously seemed unattainable.

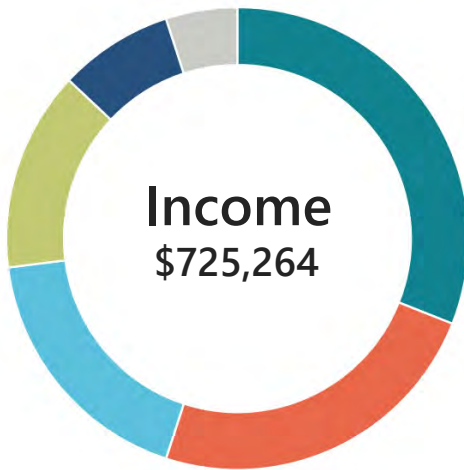


Fátima Esmeralda Quintero Ramírez | Architecture

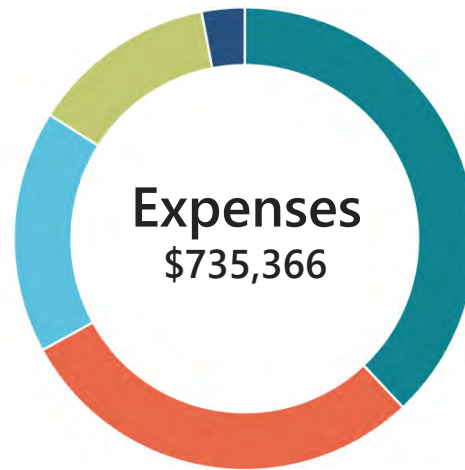
I do not have enough words to express everything I feel, but today I am more than excited for this great achievement in my life. Project Amigo has not only been a scholarship program, it has also been my family, my life teacher, my counselor, and a great friend. Project Amigo is not only a person, but it is a team formed with special people who during these 8 years have left a footprint on my path. If today I had the opportunity to see my sponsors in person, I would thank them for giving me confidence and for believing in me when even I doubted my abilities, and for accompanying me on this great journey.



Financial Highlights 2023



- 31% Scholarships
- 24% GROW Grants
- 18% Donations
- 14% Service Weeks
- 8% Net Investments
- 5% Other Grants



- 38% Student Services
- 29% Scholarships
- 17% Service Weeks
- 13% Fundraising
- 3% Administration

Source: Project Amigo Form 990, 2023



Mariana Torres Cruz Biology

With deep emotion and gratitude, I write to you to express my sincere gratitude for the invaluable support you have given me. Without this scholarship, studying for a university degree would have been a considerable challenge. To my dear godparents who have accompanied, advised, and supported me, I want to dedicate a special recognition. Through Project Amigo, I not only found financial support, but also a family that gave me invaluable advice and sincere affection.



Margarito Navor Silva Software Engineering

I feel full of many emotions such as happiness, worry, the desire to know it remains with me, and above all a feeling of fulfillment as this entire stage of my life involved several challenges. If it were not for this opportunity to be a Project Amigo scholarship recipient, I believe that my university life would have been very different from what I lived. To my sponsors, I say thank you very much for this opportunity. This help encouraged me to finish and to be a person with many values and virtues which I can use to help others.



Stephani Renata Guzmán Marroquín | Primary Education

I feel fulfilled in finishing the degree since with so much family sacrifice and Project Amigo I have been given the support required to finish a degree. They have been of great help in my life since they constantly support young people to finish and strive to become someone in life with a profession. If Project Amigo had not supported me, I would have found myself having to study, and work, and it would have been harder.

Jorge Alberto Serrano de Asis | Digital Business

Now that I am at the end of my university career, I feel so proud of myself, to know how far I have come, and for the obstacles that I have survived. I thank Project Amigo so much for crossing my path. They were my reason to move forward, without the support of the scholarship I would not have studied and I would only be working, and that is why I am so grateful to Project Amigo. If one day, God willing, I am in front of my dear godparents, I would offer them all my thanks and love, for all the support they gave me throughout my university stage. My hugs to them.



Karla Sarahi Carrillo Andrés | Special Education

I feel very happy to be able to complete a degree since I thought I was not going to achieve it. Thanks to Project Amigo that has been supporting me throughout this course of my career. If I had my sponsor here, I would thank him very much for everything he did for me, for always supporting me, and for taking me into account. Thanks to him and Project Amigo, I am already finishing a better career. I will always be very grateful for the people who always supported me, no matter what situation I found myself in.

GROW & Organics Unlimited: Partnering to Cultivate Educational Futures

In 2005 Organics Unlimited partnered with the International Community Foundation to find a local partner in Colima who understood the needs of the local community and would be able to help them achieve their objective of doing more for the communities where their organic bananas were grown. Project Amigo and Organics Unlimited/GROW (Giving Resources and Opportunities to Workers) began working together to improve the lives of children and families through the GROW Education Center in Cerro de Ortega.

Mil gracias, Organics Unlimited, for your partnership with Becarios, their families and Project Amigo. Thank you for donating 60 cents/case of GROW Bananas & 40 cents/per case of GROW Papayas to making a difference for Colima families.



Jeff Salchenberg & owner of GROW,
Mayra Velazquez de León

19 Year partnership
HAS PRODUCED **30** UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES **4** more graduates
this coming year!



María Enedina Cueto Chavarín | Administration

Completing one of my most important goals in my life with the support of Project Amigo makes me feel proud of myself, because I have shown myself that nothing is impossible and that I can continue achieving the goals that I continue to set for myself. If I had my godparents in front of me at this moment, I would hug them very tightly and say thank you for all the time, for trusting in my ability, and in my desire to improve myself. They are people that I will love, admire and always remember as an example for my life.

María Montserrat Carrillo Pascual | Preschool Education

Saying how I feel about fulfilling one of my greatest goals, which is to be a teacher in Preschool Education, is difficult for me because it is a sea of emotions, and nostalgia at the end of this stage. I am happy to be able to share it with people who have accompanied me on this path. Without the unconditional support that Project Amigo gave me throughout these years my path would have been more complicated. Words are not enough to tell you how grateful I am to my sponsors. All the effort they made for me will be reflected in each of my actions.



Vianey Yoselín Ávalos Velázquez | Zootechnical Veterinary Medicine

I feel very grateful to Project Amigo for all the opportunities it gave me during this stage of my life. It is a scholarship that gave me many tools for my career. Many times little is said about the benefits it has regarding the mentality that inspires you not to stay stagnant in one area but to grow and improve in all aspects. If I had not had the opportunity to be part of Project Amigo, I believe that I would have studied another career. Veterinary medicine was only available in Tecoman which would have meant extra expenses. I would like to say that thank you for supporting me at all times, thank you for being part of my family and always being there for me.



PROJECT AMIGO

936 B 7th Street #168

Novato, CA 94945



Education and literacy are powerful keys to enabling a brighter future for the children, who in turn benefit the nations they live in. For nearly three decades, Project Amigo has helped rural children in Mexico continue their formal schooling up to and including college level.

Your generosity makes our mission possible—please consider making a year-end gift today to transform lives



PROJECT AMIGO

www.ProjectAmigo.org ♦ 608.345.6769 ♦ info@ProjectAmigo.org

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Mil Gracias!

“ I have a set of mixed feelings, between joy, nostalgia and emotion. I thank Project Amigo for being my family on this journey of my life and being the key piece in the construction of this long-awaited dream. They have taught me a lot and one of those lessons is not to give up despite adversity. Without Project Amigo I would not be the person I am today, happy, sociable and empathetic. To my sponsors, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me throughout these years, thanks to you I had more motivation to continue. ”



Laura Alejandra Jiménez Andrés
Administration Graduate