

Centro Educativo

**FUTURO VERDE**

March 2018

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*Inspiration. Dedication. Innovation.*

## Mission

We are a bilingual, international school where students are encouraged to be reflective learners who – through processes of inquiry and critical thinking – develop the knowledge needed to address global issues related to social justice, intercultural relations, and the environment.

## Vision

To be a progressive, international, and bilingual institution with a dedicated, supportive, and humanist community that strives to peacefully promote a harmonious world.



# 2017 - A Year Full of Accomplishments!

Director, Lural Ramírez



*"Inspiring students, dedicated staff and an innovative educational philosophy- this is what makes Futuro Verde unique!"*

## Moving Forward Together

If ever there was a year for our Futuro Verde community to come together, the challenges 2017 presented us gave us reason to unite, to lift one another up and to feel the support from those around us. The challenges were many: a set goal of \$140,000 to raise toward our scholarship fund, the final step in our IB accreditation process and the looming need to complete minimum infrastructure and materials requirements needed for quality instruction to be assured. And those were just the challenges we knew of beforehand. Little did we know that mid-year would bring us a series of health crises that meant turnover in several beloved staff members. As we know all too well - life in the jungle is never simple and 2017 was no exception! I am so proud to say we met all of the challenges we faced successfully. By the end of last year, we had achieved so much:

- In April our students fronted a coordinated effort, joined by board members, parents, community members and the like, to tackle the Earth Day Charity Challenge, raising thousands of dollars for important initiatives in our local area.
- At the end of May we received our IB verification visit! Two days of intense interviews ended with a vote of confidence and encouragement from

the evaluators and a long list of pending needs to be done in the next couple of months.

- June brought us our 3rd annual International Conference on Bilingual, Holistic and Sustainable Education and our staff left re-inspired and rejuvenated in their teaching.
- July and August were big months for the acquiring of materials and the completion of infrastructure projects. The final touches were put on our library spaces and our science and music laboratories finished taking shape. Thanks to a generous Futuro Verde supporter, \$15,000 worth of books, curriculum and materials for students pre-k through the IB years was ordered and began arriving in shipping containers.
- September brought our students out in force to celebrate Costa Rican Independence with beautiful presentations at the county bullring, and with all our students bringing their talent to the Independence Day parade and their strength and speed to the Torch Run.
- By October, good news was in the works with confirmation that, in 2018, Futuro Verde would become an IB World School.
- We didn't think it could get much better, and yet it did. Our final group of graduating 11th graders all passed their Costa Rican bachillerato exams! We were so proud!
- In December, our students inspired with their sustainable solutions projects by hosting a community fair meant to teach and inspire the greater community to commit to sustainable practices for the good of our planet.

I encourage you to take the time to read through this report and to see the amazing successes Futuro Verde has had this past year! As I often feel, yet don't say quite enough, it is an enormous pleasure to lead this amazing school and to work each day with our incredible students, parents, staff and community of supporters. Thank you for all you do and for accompanying us on this unforgettable educational journey!

Lural Ramirez  
Director

# Investment in infrastructure and resources

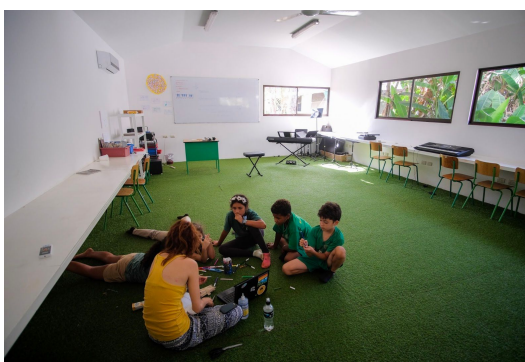
## Facilities and installations

Following the decision to remain at the existing location, and the negotiation of a 40-year lease agreement, a long-term and short-term program for investment in facilities and installations was developed. Although the first stage of this plan was largely focused on satisfying requirements for International Baccalaureate accreditation, students of all ages benefited directly, in multiple ways. The work was financed by a combination of capital investment by the school and generous donors.

- Purpose-built preschool facility with the creation of two new rooms geared towards our youngest learners.
- Multimedia room equipped with twenty desktop computers and internet access.
- Primary and high school libraries with built-in shelving, comfortable reading areas, and study spaces.
- Music room with open and versatile space as well as air conditioning to ensure instruments are protected in a climate-controlled environment.
- Science laboratory equipped with tiled benches, sinks, gas, electrical points, and all necessary safety measures to allow students to do practical work in small groups.
- Resource room provides provides a central point for our teachers to print, photocopy, laminate, and access all the materials they require to deliver quality lessons.

## Resources

- Musical instruments and recording equipment.
- Science lab materials and safety equipment.
- Physical and digital resources for our library inventory. These included new titles for all students of all ages in both Spanish and English across all subject areas.
- EBSCO school site license which allows students to access filtered academic research databases.
- Literacy programs in English and Spanish.



# Where are they now?

## 2014 Graduates

**María Quesada:** University of Costa Rica, Orthodonture

**Naleska Daza:** U. Latina, Audiovisual Production

**Joseph Callahan:** Mount Hood College, Oregon, Sports science

**Allan Rodríguez:** U.Latina, Public Relations



Naleska Daza

## 2015 Graduates

**Fabio Quesada:** University of Costa Rica, Biology

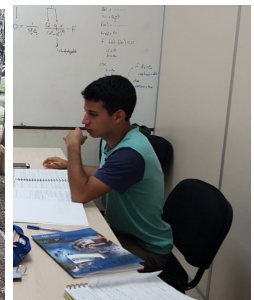
**Felipe Monge** TEC, Industrial Engineering

**Alize Siegfried:** University of Costa Rica, Law and Biology

**Joaquín Swett,** University of Costa Rica, Biology

**María José Jiménez:** UTEC, Forestry and Wildlife Management

**Florencia Corvera:** Criminología, Argentina



María Jose Jiménez, Joaquín Swett, Felipe Monge

## 2016 Graduates

**Kianny Pérez:** U. Creativa, Graphic Design

**Sara Pardo:** U. Latina, Gastronomía

**Yarin Tal:** Tourism/hotel

**Ismael Cortéz:** Working at Barceló Hotel

**Kalianna Masis:** U. Latina, Nursing

**Valeria Elizondo:** U. Latina, Nursing



Kianny Pérez, Sara Pardo

## 2017 Graduates

**Aarón Henkel:** Tourism/surf, sporting events coordinator

**Juan Guillermo García:** University of Costa Rica, Geology

**Valeria Madrigal:** Universidad Castro Carazo, Education

**Rio Verquin:** Gap Year

**Derlyn Dilana Campos:** IB Futuro Verde

**Elian Gonzalez Talvera:** IB Futuro Verde

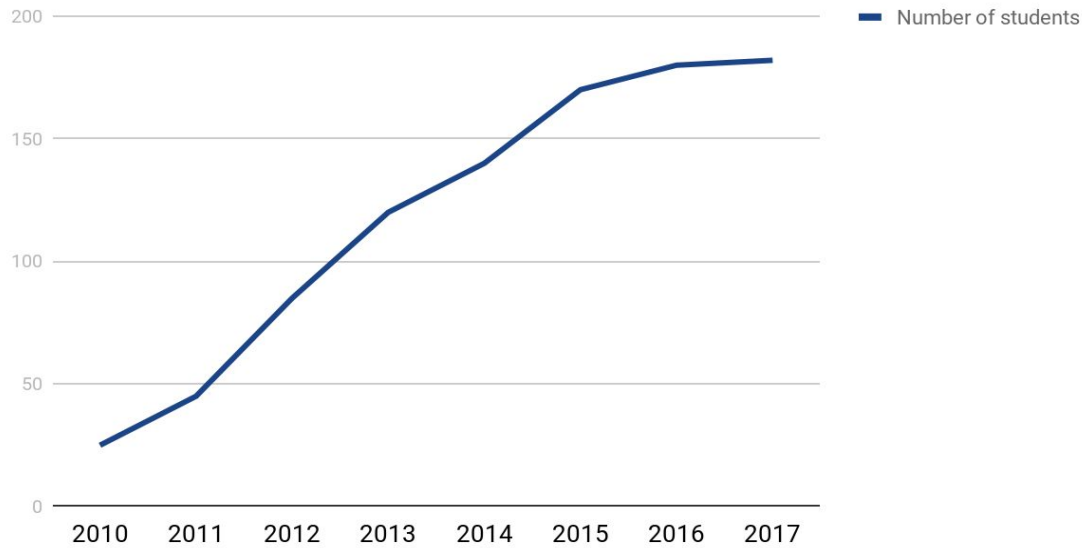


Derlyn Dilana Campos, Elian Gonzalez Talvera

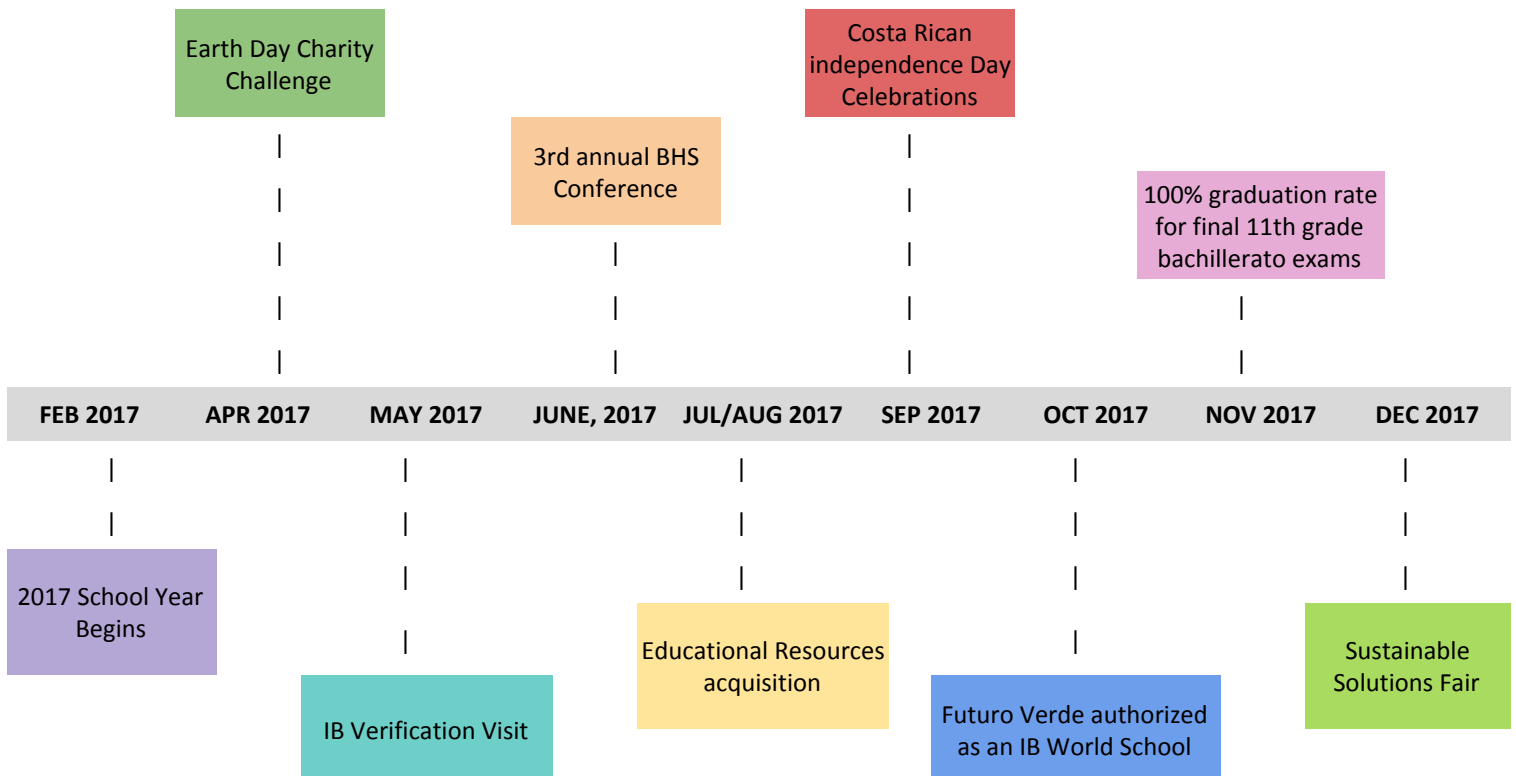
# 2017 Highlights

## Stable enrollment

Student Enrollment



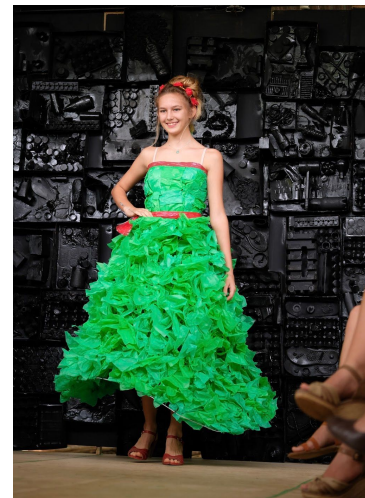
## 2017 Futuro Verde Timeline



## Arts and Music

The Arts Department was active and innovative in the 2017 school year. Highlights include:

- ★ The first annual **Futuro Verde's Got Talent Show**, held in May which showcased talented Futuro Verde students in the performing arts, literary arts and visual arts. Many of the winners went on to participate in the Costa Rican Ministry of Education's Festival de Artes Estudiantiles with two winners reaching the final National Showcase in November in San Jose.
- ★ In June Futuro Verde hosted the first annual **Futuro Verde Trashion Show**, which was held during the BHS Conference on campus. Student created designs of rescued and repurposed trash ranged from superhero ninja outfits, to trendy casual wear, to glamorous ball gowns. These ready-to-wear creations were modeled by students and a couple of brave staff members.
- ★ Inspired by the devastation of some Costa Rican communities by the Tropical Storm Nate, Futuro Verde high school students hosted an **Empty Bowls** sale of functional ceramic bowls created by the students in their Art Studio. The sale was held in conjunction with the annual Thanksgiving luncheon and raised over 100,000 colones! These funds were given as a direct donation to a needy family from one of the areas most deeply affected by Tropical Storm Nate, Perez Zeledón, which just happens to be the hometown community of our Social Studies teacher, Karol.
- ★ At the close of the 2017 school year, the annual **RAP (Respeto, Amor y Paz)** celebration provided yet another opportunity to showcase our students' artistic talents. Musical performances from all levels took center stage. Complimenting the show, a curated exhibit of selected student artworks was displayed in the new Music Room. Furthermore, an interactive art installation "What Lifts You?", inspired by the artist Kelsey Montague provided a colorful portrait and selfie opportunity for the community.



# Board President

Enrico “Rico” Reolon

Reflection on the 2017 school year has me feeling extremely thankful for our wonderful staff and community of supporters! It has been said that *it is the people that make the place*. Nowhere is that sentiment more evident than at Futuro Verde. We are so fortunate to have a caring and supportive board, a competent and passionate administrative team and a dedicated and driven group of teaching professionals. With their enthusiasm, teamwork and focus we have achieved every goal we have made for ourselves. I have had the pleasure of serving as board president now for more



years than I can count and in that time we have weathered difficult challenges and we have celebrated great successes. I look forward to the successes to come, and hey, even the challenges we know will come. In the end, with the team we have, we can face these challenges and bask in our successes together, as a team!

Rico Reolon  
Board President, Asociación Escuela Futuro Verde

# Board Members



Cristiano Bonfigli (2016) Vocal III, Nohelia Hidalgo Montero (2016) Secretary, Sonya Danchick (2013) Vice President, Georges Lefebvre (2013) Vocal II, Enrico Reolon (2013) President, Tandy Demarchelier (2015) Treasurer, Brad Shaw (2013) Vocal I [unpictured: Daniel Jiménez Grimás (2016) Fiscal]



# Authorized: Futuro Verde - an IB World School.

Stuart Millar, IB Coordinator

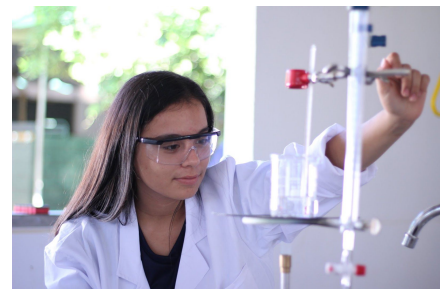
A highlight of 2017 was undoubtedly receiving the official final authorization decision from the IB director general on the 2nd of October. Futuro Verde is now an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, authorized to offer the diploma program.

**Commendations:** The verification visit report echoed some of the positive comments we heard from the site inspectors in May. Our students did a wonderful job and made us so proud. They talked with passion and knowledge and really conveyed the essence of Futuro Verde, reinforcing why the school is so aligned with the IB philosophy.

*“The school has embraced a philosophy which promotes access to the diploma for all students”*

*“The head of school and DP coordinator provide extensive support in promoting the understanding of the IB philosophy within the whole school community.”*

**Development and growth:** Since the formal authorization was received, school administration, the board, teachers and students have continued to prepare for the launch of the program on February 1st, 2018. Recommendations in the report focused our attention on specific areas, which will only help us develop and grow, enabling us to offer a strong diploma program to all our students. Thanks to generous donations and effective budgeting, all resources have been purchased and facilities have built or improved, which benefits everyone in the school community. Futuro Verde now proudly boasts an equipped science laboratory, a multi-media lab, separate primary and high school libraries, a new music room, a renovated art room, and a new classroom for business management, language acquisition and Theory of Knowledge.



# Futuro Verde - it feels like family

More than two thirds of our staff have students at the school. We talked to some of them about why they feel Futuro Verde is the right place to be, for them and their children.



*Don Byrne with his children Niko (3rd) and Laxmi (1st)*

**Don Byrne** arrived in October from North Carolina, USA, where he and his family ran their own farmstead, living in a tiny house off the grid. Teaching at Futuro Verde allowed him to go from “green to green” and continue living closely connected to the environment. Don enjoys working in such a progressive school. “The leadership is high quality. I have been in a lot of schools and it is rare that the vision is actualized to such a meaningful degree.”

**Raquel Tellez**, was born in Nicaragua but has lived most of her life in Costa Rica. She has worked as a kitchen assistant at Futuro Verde for four years. Raquel loves working at the school, being able to see her children as they learn. It makes her emotional to think about all the love and support she and her children have received as part of the Futuro Verde family. “There are no words,” she said as she tried to explain the deep emotion and gratitude that she feels. Diego was all smiles when asked why he liked Futuro Verde. “The teachers speak English slowly and I can understand!”



*Raquel Tellez with her children Sebastian (11th), and twins Francini (9th) and Diego (8th)*



*Joaquín Salas, Daniela Ugalde and their son Santiago (Kinder).*

**Joaquín Salas** is the high school math teacher while his wife Daniela Ugalde is the librarian and IT specialist at Futuro Verde. Their son, Santiago, is in kinder. Daniela particularly appreciates the school for its diversity and the way it includes people from so many different backgrounds. She admires Lural, the school director, for the way she is so engaged with all students and staff, offering support and motivation whenever it is required. They feel that Futuro Verde gives Santiago the support he needs to be successful and involved in his classroom community, while allowing him to be himself at the same time.

The feeling of family is strengthened by the sibling groups and extended family connections we have at Futuro Verde.



Geo Bonfigli (11th) with his sister, Gaia Bonfigli (Kinder)

“Me gusta Futuro Verde porque hay tres recreos y tenemos tiempo para divertirnos y por la práctica de paz, para cantar canciones.”

– Gaia



Dylan Vargas (2nd) and Mariela Vargas (5th) with their niece, Floriela Cañada (5th)

“Me gusta ir a Futuro verde porque me hacen aprender más cosas interesantes” “ ... como aprendí que las lombrices, cuando tiene una cosa en el medio ya pueden tener bebés.”

– Dylan



Twins at Futuro Verde: Sadie and Porter Miller (9th) with Aithor and Persis Ferrón (8th)

“You can learn at your own pace, which is nice if you’re struggling, as you get student-specific support.”

– Sadie

“It’s a more fun-loving atmosphere than other schools with less emphasis on technical quality of what you do at the time, but how much better you get throughout the year.”

– Porter

“There are so many things I love about the school. I can’t decide. I love the school. Everyone is like family and Lural is the best director I have ever had.”

– Persis

# Futuro Verde in a nutshell

## 2017 Enrollment:

180

## Student Teacher Ratio:

8 to 1

## Financial Aid

Percentage of students who receive

some form of financial aid (35%)



## Students:

### First to second generation familial countries of origin (32):

Costa Rica, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Germany, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, USA

### Languages spoken in the home (10):

English, Flemish, French, Hebrew, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish, Swiss German, Portuguese, German.

## Staff:

### Total number of teaching and administrative staff:

33

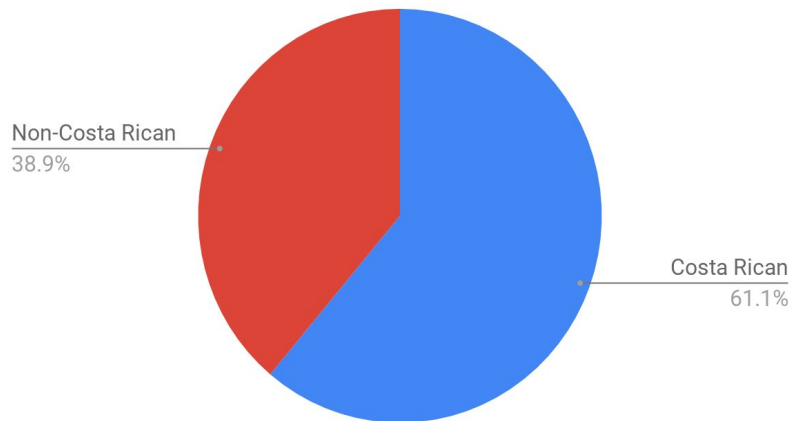
### 11 countries of origin:

Costa Rica, US, Chile, Puerto Rico, Belgium, Mexico, Scotland, Argentina, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and England

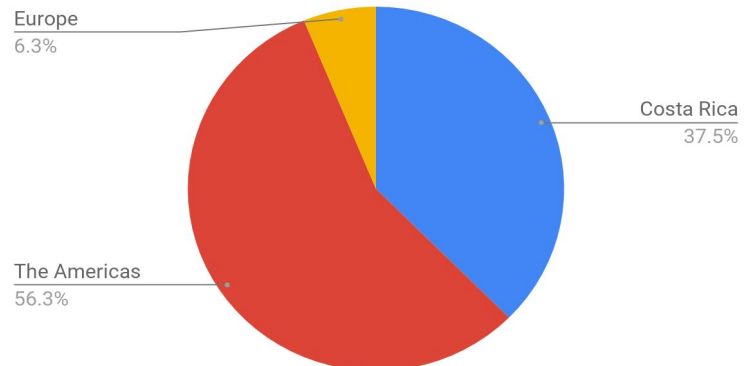
### Percentage of teaching staff holding either a Master's or Doctoral Degree

41%

Student country of origin

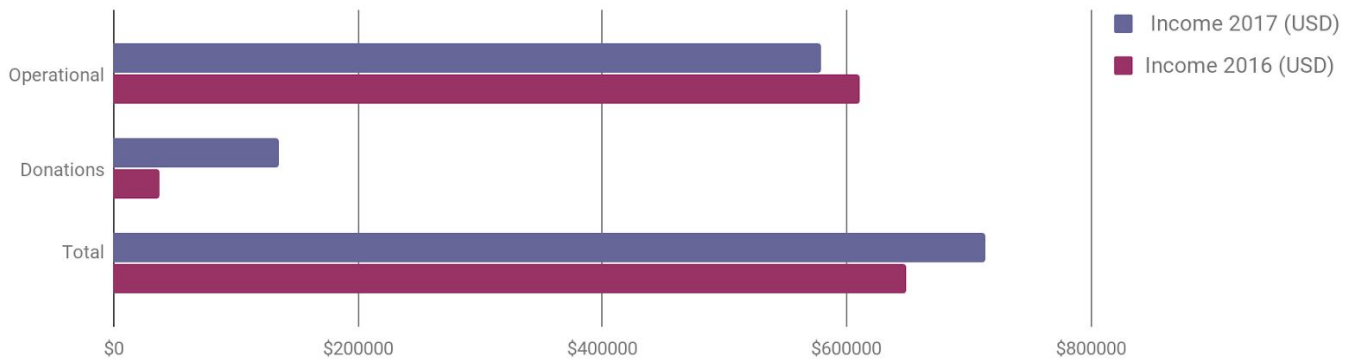


Staff Country of Origin

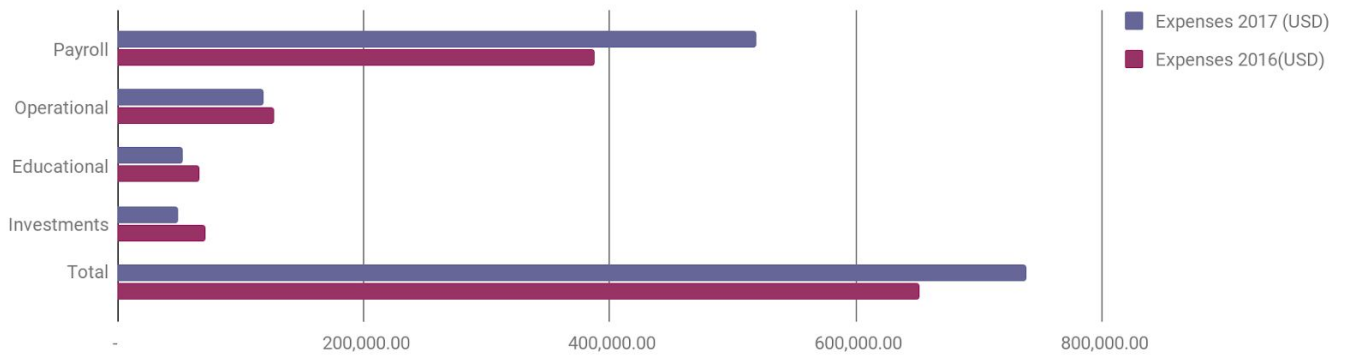


# Financials

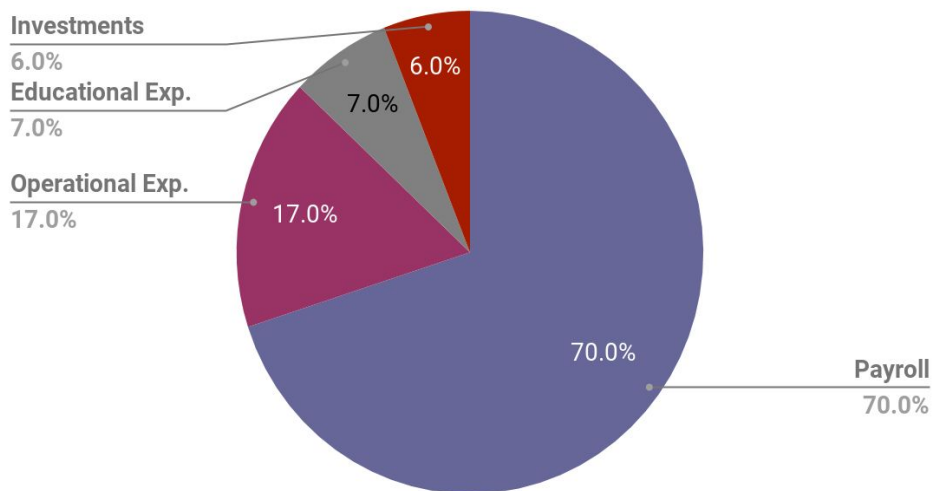
**Income 2017 vs. 2016 (USD)**



**Expenses 2017 vs. 2016 (USD)**



**Expenses Distribution 2017**



# Fundraising

## Fundraising Events



### Earth Day Charity Challenge

*Benefitted: ASOPROLAPA, Nicoya Waterkeepers, Green Wave and the Futuro Verde's Multimedia Center*

Amount raised: \$6093



### Semana Civica Food Sales

*Benefitted: FV Sports Facilities*

Amount raised: \$1106



### Futuro Verde Race

*Benefitted: FV Sports Facilities*

Amount raised: \$370



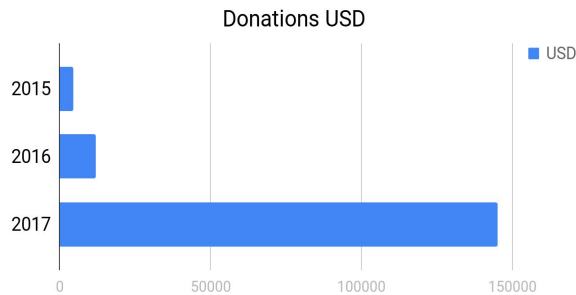
### Green Fair: Sustainable Solutions

*Benefitted: FV Sports Facilities and local, sustainable businesses*

Amount raised: \$760

# Donors

## Donations At-A-Glance



## Individual Donors

### \$125,000+

Dolan Family (John & Marianne Dolan)

### \$5000-\$10,000

Daniel Snyder  
Hans & Tina Bodmer

### \$1000-\$5000

Meg & Rob Campbell  
Frank Katz  
Graham Katz  
Marlaine Lockheed

### \$500-\$1000

James Estopinal  
Fariba Khosravani  
Music Computing

### \$200-\$500

Geoff & Jazmín McCabe  
Tandy Althoff  
Villas Hermosas  
Bomholt Lars Henning  
Scott Litt  
Maria Velazquez  
Dan Gruben  
Mahnaz Foroutan

Get Press  
Green Wave Enterprises (GWE)  
Linda Hume-Johnson  
Nancy Bartholomaei  
Suzann Brantner  
Mona Afary

### \$50-\$200

Richard Bishop  
Allison Hill  
Graham Hatfield  
Stephanie Nilva  
Barbara Dawson  
William Jeurissen

Meg Nicholson  
Jennifer K. Driver  
Nicholas Sevier  
Hamid Tablesh  
Ashkaan Khatahotan  
Shadi Razifard

### \$10-\$50

Walter Spencer  
Andrea Hammond  
Zoe Watson  
Victoria Bernier  
Alex Polyachenko  
Frankie Poullain  
Aric Webb  
Morgan Lavery

Nicola Breymaier  
Star Mountain Jungle  
Lodge  
Nicole Owen  
Angela Teufer  
Cindy Alfredo  
Lucille Ritchie

Judy Paik  
Kristine Cook  
Sarah-Jane Ingram  
Joann Jordan  
Sascha Hill  
Bridget Featherby  
Fiona Wilkins  
Samantha Heller

Eva York  
Azadeh Malek  
Martin Walker  
Melanie Alexandre  
Sharon Doughery  
Bahia Rica Fishing &  
Kayak Lodge

Paula J. Henry  
Michelle Guy Arthur  
K&B Talkeetna  
Michael Kaliski  
Julián Reyes  
Tim  
Poullain-Patterson  
Julio Sánchez

Jackie Thacker  
Anita Coetzee  
Massin Consulting  
Marta Iglesias  
James Morris  
Francisco Bustillo  
Bradeck Morales

# Scholarship Fund

## John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde



**John Dolan** believed in the power of education in the life of a child and he was committed to helping his sponsor student, Josue, thrive at Futuro Verde! Having fully sponsored Josue's education up until his passing in February of 2017, John's family made the decision to continue giving in John's name in benefit of the local children from humble, local families who make up over 30% of the Futuro Verde student population each year. In 2017, John's family made two significant donations: one donation nearly fulfilled our school's yearly fundraising goal for our scholarship fund and the second went toward encouraging others to contribute toward next year's goal of \$140,000 dollars raised.

With these funds raised, Futuro Verde is able to assure that all scholarship students who meet our program requirements can keep their scholarships and that investments can continue to be made in the high quality resources and experiences Futuro Verde students deserve.

Please consider the John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde in your yearly giving. Tax deductible donations can be made through our U.S. fiscal sponsor Green Wave. In country donations can be made via wire transfer.

Donations like yours are life changing for students like Josue, who are filled with potential and need the support of others to have the quality of education that will assure a future full of choices and opportunities.



*For more information on the John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde, its real impact on students or ways to give and support today, visit: [www.futuro-verde.org](http://www.futuro-verde.org).*