

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FROM WITHIN

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

# HEARTS OF GOLD



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. CONNECT. | CUENCA, ECUADOR

# A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2017 was an excellent year, one where - together - we were able to launch the Community Assistance Program (CAP). It has been such a special experience to be part of this initiative, along with a marvelous group of volunteers and colleagues that are committed to supporting our Ecuadorian community.

The CAP program has made us witnesses of the growth of nonprofit organizations through our workshops and dialogue circles. Together we have formed alliances between organizations such as El Arenal, FUPEC, NOVA, CETAP, ADACAPIA, and more, and made wonderful friendships, all while breaking down barriers. We have realized that the best results are achieved when we work together and, therefore, rise together.

This experience in the pilot year working with a network of nonprofits has assured us that we are on the right path. Hearts of Gold is honored to be able to offer this program, the only one of its kind in Cuenca, and in Ecuador.

This program has encouraged us to unite forces and affiliate ourselves with NGOs and businesses, while being pioneers to encourage a city committed to social responsibility.

In 2017 alone, we have been able to bring together 42 community leaders with a total of 540 hours of service to the leaders and staff of our CAP pilot members.

Our CAP program, along with all of the projects that Hearts of Gold administers under its umbrella, continues to strengthen and grow every day. The CAP program will continue to grow into 2018.

Thank you for your trust and dedication to our work. It truly would not be possible without each and every one of you. Together we move forward making our community stronger!

From Our Hearts to Yours,

**María José Orellana**

Executive Director, Hearts of Gold Foundation





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## MISSION

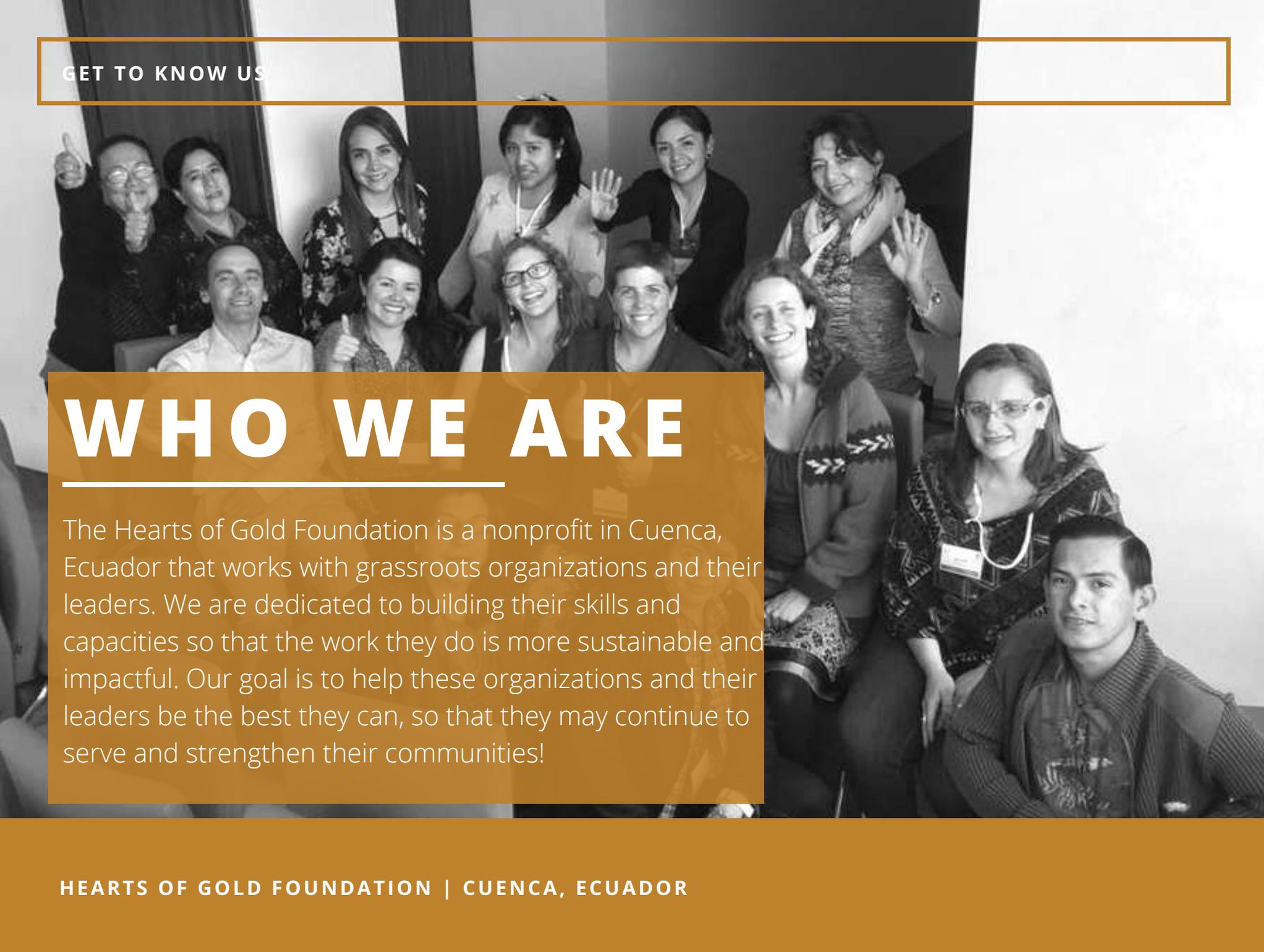
Strengthen the capacity of community organizations through education, mentorship & mobilization

## VISION

An Ecuador where every individual enjoys a life of dignity, hope, and empowerment

## VALUES

Self-Determination / Culturally Sensitive / Holistic / Integrity / Collaboration / Courage



GET TO KNOW US

# WHO WE ARE

The Hearts of Gold Foundation is a nonprofit in Cuenca, Ecuador that works with grassroots organizations and their leaders. We are dedicated to building their skills and capacities so that the work they do is more sustainable and impactful. Our goal is to help these organizations and their leaders be the best they can, so that they may continue to serve and strengthen their communities!

HEARTS OF GOLD FOUNDATION | CUENCA, ECUADOR

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## GROWING A CULTURE OF NONPROFIT SUSTAINABILITY IN ECUADOR

# OUR IMPACT

Hearts of Gold is playing a pivotal role in supporting the sustenance of nonprofit work in Ecuador. Our method? Provide critical educational opportunities to leaders of nonprofits that have been isolated for far too long. Hearts of Gold wants to see Ecuadorian grassroots organizations not only survive, but thrive, despite poor social conditions that make their work all the more challenging.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### UNITY

Brought together 17 organizations to our nonprofit network, impacting 42 leaders and 3,000 beneficiaries.

### LEADERSHIP

Were selected by the European Libre Foundation to offer the first 5-day leadership conference for nonprofits

### PARTNERSHIPS

Signed a 5 year contract with the Universidad de Cuenca and collaborated with American University and WPI University to perform research on capacity building for nonprofits, evaluations, and women's empowerment in Ecuador.

# OUR 2017 PILOT YEAR

# THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

CAP is a program that works to *educate, empower* and *connect* Ecuadorian nonprofit leaders who are changing the lives of vulnerable populations. This program is a direct response to listening to the needs of the leaders and communities we have supported for over 4 years. This isn't charity. This is empowerment. This is the evolution. *Together, we support these leaders of our society by giving them something they have never had. Hope.*



## EDUCATE

We host skills-building workshops in 8 capacity areas, mentor our partners in nonprofit management, and collaborate in setting goals and evaluate programs to encourage program sustainability.



## EMPOWER

We facilitate dialogue sessions with our partners' directors and leaders in the community to build solidarity in a nonprofit network.

## CONNECT

We founded the first nonprofit network in Ecuador, bringing leaders and community members together to share lessons learned and build strategic connections and foster collaboration.



# 42

## COMMUNITY LEADERS

We built the first-ever network for nonprofits in Ecuador, bringing together leaders that now have somewhere to turn for personal and professional support.



## BENEFICIARIES

By collaborating with 20 nonprofits and offering them unique educational opportunities, we impacted over 3,000 beneficiaries in 2017.

# 3,000

# \$111,073

## IN PROGRAM SERVICES

Between our Community Assistance Program and our Project Facilitation Services, we distributed \$111,073 to **8 projects**.

## WORKSHOP HOURS

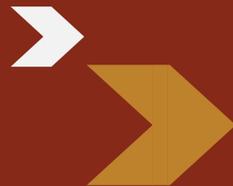
# 86

We offered 21 workshops with 86 hours of interactive, specialized education for nonprofit leaders.

# 540

## HOURS OF SUPPORT FOR PILOT CAP MEMBERS

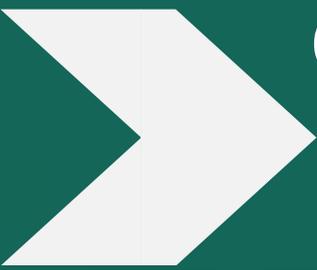
Provided 540 hours of private mentoring and program support for our three CAP pilot members.





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**Some folks may just see a classroom, but we see the potential to plant a seed that will impact hundreds of lives, one leader at a time.**



“

Kelly Mitchell, Hearts of Gold Program Manager



# PILOT MEMBERS



## IN THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

The CAP's Pilot Members received the opportunity to improve their organizations with access to educational workshops, dialogue circles, mentoring hours, and evaluations. Pilot members also received access to programmatic support and access to online funding via our web platform. The organizations were selected based on a balance of their history with Hearts of Gold with the goal that each nonprofit may be balanced, efficient and effective in the work they do.



### CETAP-LUCY

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CETAP-Lucy is an early stimulation center dedicated to the well-being of 35 children in the rural community of Chilcapamba. It provides pre-school programs, after-school programs, various disability and trauma therapy programs, sexual education courses, and counseling for individuals and families.



### NOVA

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NOVA is an inclusion school where special needs and regular children are educated together, fostering acceptance and compassion between children. Special needs students receive courses to help cultivate their independence and personal growth and participate in creative therapies, such as horse therapy.



### EL ARENAL

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Fundación El Arenal features an after-school program, an educative counseling program, and also a nutritional lunch program for up to 84 children from the poorest sector of Cuenca. El Arenal is a safe haven for many children whose families work long days in marketing booths in the Feria Libre, the city's largest "mercado."



Proyecto Saman moves from its camp to build homes for families in Canoa



Rural youth are given the opportunity to finish high school thanks to Its About Children



Families unite to support children with autism at ADACAPIA

## WHO ELSE DO WE SUPPORT? PROJECT FACILITATION

As an umbrella foundation, Hearts of Gold is honored to serve the nonprofit community through project administrative services. We support the funding, administration, and financial reporting. This type of service helps keep these projects sustainable and up to date on Ecuadorian legal requirements.

### **ADACAPIA**

ADACAPIA is an association of parents, friends, and professionals who are challenging the circumstances, and opening new opportunities, for all persons within the Autism spectrum and their families. ADACAPIA offers therapy services and support groups, and educates the community about Autism.

### **ITS ABOUT CHILDREN**

It's About Children is a volunteer based organization dedicated to the education of underprivileged youth in Cotacachi, Ecuador. Through charitable donations, they provide high school scholarships to 75 local students each year that enable them to complete their high school education.

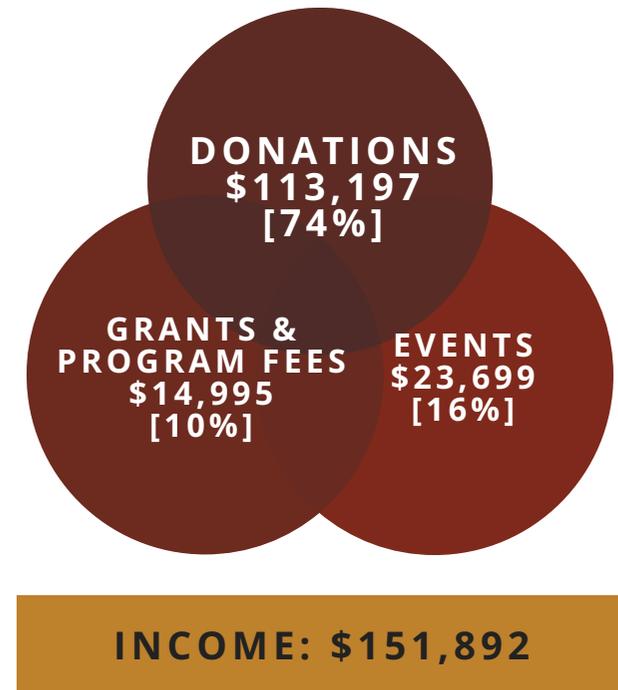
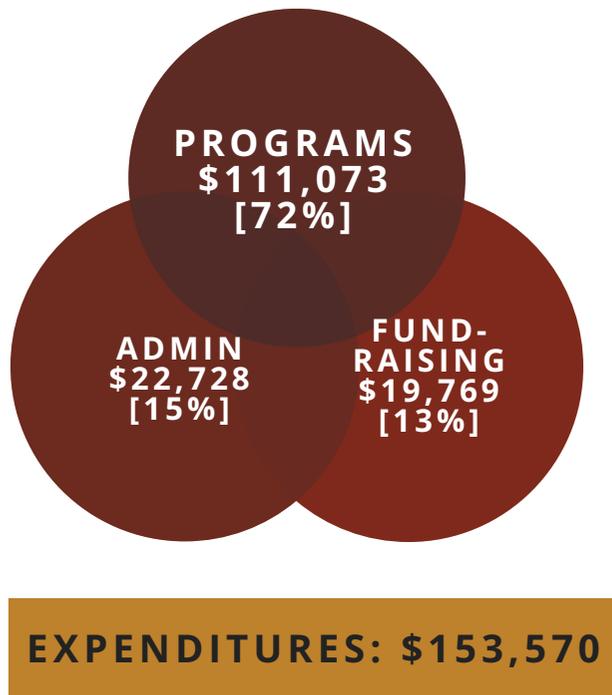
### **EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

In 2017 Hearts of Gold continued its long-term vision to support victims of the 2016 earthquake in Ecuador. We worked with a collaborative effort in Portoviejo and with Proyecto Saman in Canoa, Ecuador to continue building homes for families in need of housing security after disaster struck.

## HEARTS OF GOLD

# 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

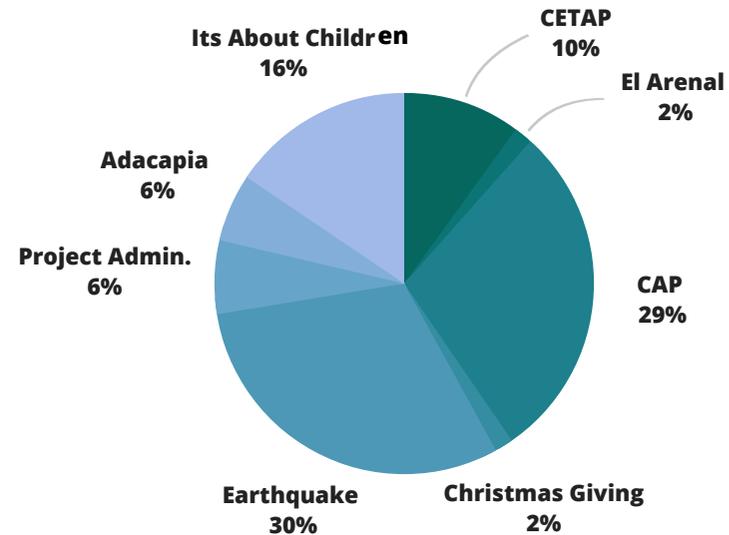
We worked hard to put YOUR money to work in 2017.



# HEARTS OF GOLD 2017 PROGRAMS

We worked hard to put YOUR money to work in 2017.

<b>CETAP-Lucy</b>	<b>\$11,115</b>
<b>Fundación El Arenal</b>	<b>\$1,750.37</b>
<b>Christmas Giving Program</b>	<b>\$1,738.96</b>
<b>Its About Children</b>	<b>\$17,309.03</b>
<b>Earthquake Relief</b>	<b>\$33,835.28</b>
<b>ADACAPIA</b>	<b>\$6,398.18</b>
<b>Project Administration Facilitation</b>	<b>\$6,926</b>
<b>Community Assistance Program (CAP)</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>



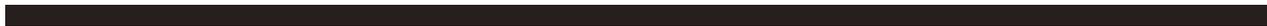
# EMPOWER. EDUCATE. CONNECT.



“Our organization was at a point of transformation when we met Hearts of Gold. The love, appreciation, knowledge, and motivation that we received from this nonprofit network helped us move forward at FUPEC, especially when I was afraid. This type of work often leaves us feeling very tired, so it is so nice to be here in this network and know that we are not alone, and that we can indeed continue and give a little more.”

**Maria Fernanda Jimbo**

**FUPEC Project Coordinator**



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FROM WITHIN, TOGETHER.

FROM ALL OF US AT HEARTS OF GOLD

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**



### **SPREAD THE WORD**

Join our newsletter, follow us on Facebook & Twitter and help us spread the word about our work in Ecuador to your friends!



### **VOLUNTEER**

Lend your talents to Ecuadorian communities by becoming a Hearts of Gold volunteer!



### **CONTRIBUTE**

Every donation makes a difference. Visit [www.heartsofgoldfoundation.org/donations](http://www.heartsofgoldfoundation.org/donations)

