

20

ANNUAL REPORT

17



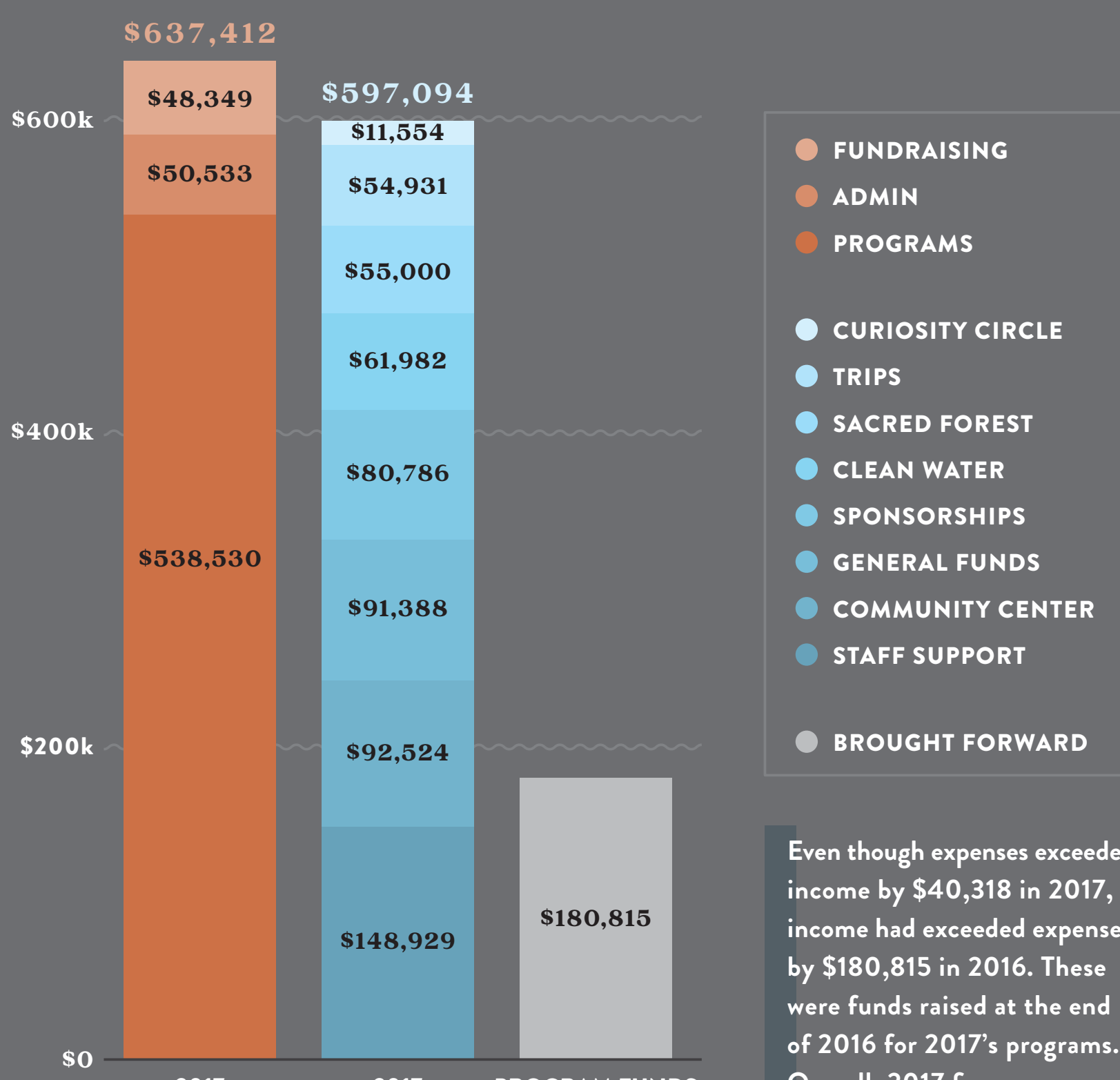
SU|NICA

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS THROUGH
CLEAN WATER, EDUCATION, & MENTORSHIP.

OPERATIONS

FINANCES

Finances on Target for 2017



Even though expenses exceeded income by \$40,318 in 2017, income had exceeded expenses by \$180,815 in 2016. These were funds raised at the end of 2016 for 2017's programs. Overall, 2017 finances were right on target.



STAFF

22 NICARAGUANS
7 GRINGOS
1 CHILEAN



CLEAN WATER

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CLEAN WATER IN SAN CARLOS

SuNica clean water projects are not only about transforming community health. They are intense, practical lessons in discipleship: learning to cooperate and sacrifice for the good of your neighbor. Digging a three-foot deep, mile-long trench is grueling – but an awesome way to bring people together for the common good.

In the second half of 2017, the community of San Carlos hand dug one mile of trench for the water system (of a total of 9 miles, project-wide). Their hard work has paid off – the water system will be up and running by August 2018. We were interviewing people about the most significant changes they had seen in their communities last year. Words like these show that the project started having a significant impact even before the water started to flow.

You could say we're one big family because we all work together for the community. And the working together has itself turned out to be a great benefit for us all.

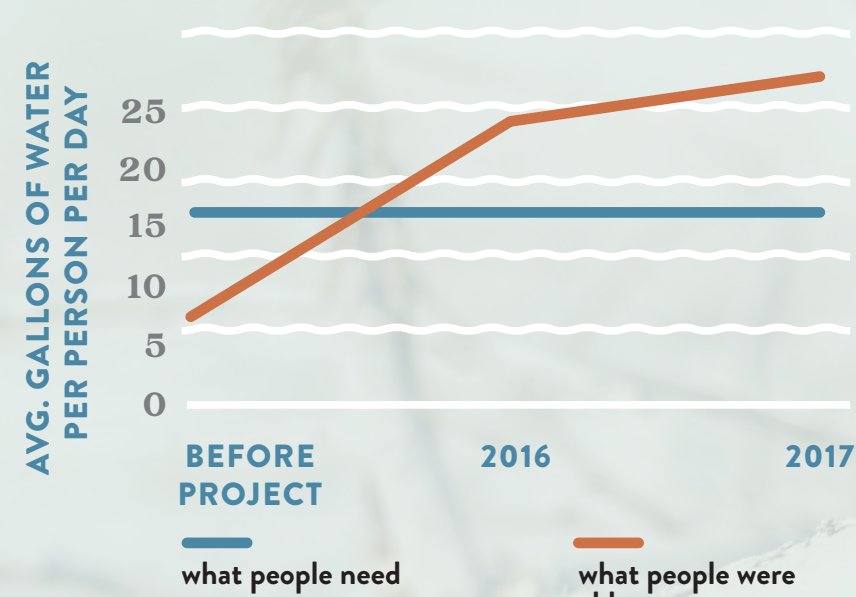
- VICTORIA PÉREZ

The project has made the community work together and see the potential that the community has when it works together.

- EUGENIO DÁVILA

TWO YEARS OF CLEAN WATER IN EL PORVENIR

Continuing to Increase Water Access



Gallons of Water Pumped

IN 2016 1,400,000
IN 2017 4,836,725

That's a lot of water!

EDUCATION

OUR BIGGEST INVESTMENT YET

Last year SuNica made its biggest investment yet in Nicaraguan education with the construction of the El Limonal Community Center. At the close of 2017, the center was over half complete, and we're already using parts of the space even though it's not 100% finished.



In Nicaragua, half of all students drop out of school by sixth grade and only one in five students graduate from high school. Our weekly mentoring program is working to slash dropout rates, but some youth – especially adolescent girls – have home situations so toxic that once-a-week mentoring isn't enough to keep them in school. Many try to escape by abandoning home and school to move in with a partner, which is a big reason why Nicaragua had a 92% adolescent pregnancy rate at the beginning of this decade.

The El Limonal community center is a safe space where youth can receive affirmation, emotional support, and after-school learning opportunities every day of the week. Our goals are ambitious, but the community center has opened a whole new world of opportunities for these kids.

El Limonal Community Center Goals

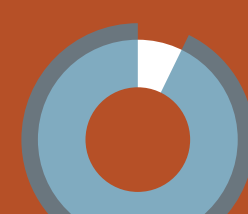
- All youth will experience hope and love through nurturing relationships.
- Mentors will learn the value of service as a way to transform their communities.
- All youth will identify personal and academic goals.
- All youth will participate in educational extracurriculars.
- Dropout rates will be below 10%, and high school graduation and college attendance will be at least 80% for youth leaders.



50% OF ALL STUDENTS drop out of school by sixth grade



ONLY 1 IN 5 STUDENTS graduates from high school



92% OF GIRLS become pregnant by the age of 19

Project Completion in 2017

EL LIMONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

55%



SAN CARLOS CLEAN WATER SYSTEM

50%



MENTORING

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE: I FEEL FREE OF EVERYTHING

SuNica is starting an annual tradition of finding our most significant stories of change. It is a chance for our staff to share the on-the-ground stories that are inspiring them, helps deepen our vision, and gives a glimpse into the hidden ways that God is making His kingdom come.

There were more than a dozen finalists, but this year's Most Significant Story touched many of us to the core—a few team members had tears on their cheeks as they explained why this was their favorite. It is sensitive, so we've left out this student's name. But so many girls' lives are touched by tragedy here. If you inserted the name of any Nicaraguan girl, a piece of this story would probably ring true. And from that perspective, this one story is a witness to the Gospel's power to give hope to thousands of girls.

When I was born, my father denied I was his, and I was rejected by my other family members. Not being loved by them had an effect on me.

When I was nine, my mom started working. And since then, my siblings and I have raised ourselves, without the warmth of our mother. I know it was for our good, but we've always needed her.

Later, I was sexually assaulted by two cousins. I stayed quiet out of fear, but that affected me a lot. I ended up being afraid of all men.

I ended up losing love for God.

But thanks to SuNica, my life changed. I feel free of everything. My love for God was reborn. Now I realize that I'm here thanks to Him, happy and loved by everyone.

SACRED FOREST



SuNica received a huge, unexpected gift last year!

We received a donation of forest preserve in the mountains of Matagalpa to serve as the future site for a youth discipleship camp. It's an incredibly beautiful spot where many kids will be guided, for the first time, into the ancient, biblical practice of meeting with God in the wilderness.

