

Centro Educativo

FUTURO VERDE

JANUARY, 2020

2019 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.



From our Director

Lural Ramírez



"What we saw at HEP 2019 was that Futuro Verde offers strong value outside our school walls. Higher education institutions are motivated to receive our students, universities are eager to work with our teachers in continuing education, teacher colleges want to place their student teachers with us and educational leaders are interested in seeing our innovative practices first hand. These are achievements to be proud of!"

Lural Ramirez
Director

2019 Was the Year Futuro Verde Went Global!

National and International Partnerships

It has been a year of incredible evolution in Futuro Verde and the future is looking quite bright! Thanks to diligent work from our board of directors, the support of our parent community and the hard work of our newly reorganized finance and business department, we have been able to project and communicate our school's strengths and needs effectively and the positive results of these efforts are starting to be seen!

With renewed enthusiasm, I accompanied our school administrator and development director, Angie Briceño, to the 2019 Higher Education Partnerships conference held in Guanacaste, Costa Rica this year and hosted by Partners of the Americas. The 4-day conference and networking event offered us the opportunity to meet representatives from diverse higher education institutions, language schools, consortiums, publishers, and service providers. All activities and sessions were set up to offer the maximum opportunity possible to network with others, to explore potential partnerships and to start the process of formalizing alliances.

Angie and I worked hard preparing our proposals prior to our arrival at the conference and we went in prepared to seek the partnerships we knew would most benefit Futuro Verde and to reach out to partners who might benefit from the hard work and expertise we have to share from Futuro Verde. I am pleased to announce that our hard work was a huge success! We are currently developing partnerships that would benefit our students, our teachers and our school with the following prestigious institutions:

1. **Minnesota State University Mankato**
2. **Eastern New Mexico University**
3. **Earth University**
4. **UNIBE**
5. **Universidad Santa Paula**
6. **Veritas**
7. **GlobalEdu Costa Rica**
8. **Quality Leadership University of Panama**
9. **Xavier University**
10. **Partners of the Americas**



Board Treasurer

Laura Fidler

We were fortunate this year to bring a highly capable new financial advisor on board, allowing 2019 to be a year of investment for Futuro Verde. We used carefully preserved assets to invest in our infrastructure, including expansion of classroom space, administrative and specials buildings, kitchen, parking lots, and wastewater treatment facility. We invested in curriculum, expanding our bilingual teaching support, introducing online math practice, and ensuring our staff has reference material sufficient for their needs. We invested in our staff, incentivizing the return of great staff and teachers and rewarding their ongoing commitment to our children.

As we plan for 2020, during which we expect a significant growth in our student body, we will continue investing in our school. For example, we are preparing our infrastructure for additional enrollment, especially in primary school, as the peninsula continues to attract new families. We are creating an endowment sufficient for future expansion and community inclusion through scholarships and events. We will continue rewarding excellence in teaching in the ways most meaningful to our staff. Many thanks to our generous sponsors for their gracious support of our initiatives and dedication to the beautiful children of Costa Rica.

Thank you all for forming part of the Futuro Verde family!

Laura Fidler
Board Treasurer, Asociación Escuela Futuro Verde

Board Members

Enrico Reolon (2013) President
Sonya Danchick (2013) Vice President
Ginette Poirier (2019) Secretary
Laura Fidler (2019) Treasurer
Brad Shaw (2013) Vocal I
Georges Lefebvre (2013) Vocal II
Christina Aguinagalde (2018) Vocal III
Mario Matarrita (2016) Comptroller



Board at work

The IB Diploma Program

Stuart Millar, IB Coordinator



The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program looks to develop students both academically and personally through a holistic approach. This can be clearly seen in the three core components that students are required to undertake, in addition to the six academic group subjects. Students must satisfy all requirements in the core elements *and* the academic subjects to receive their diploma.

The extended essay is an independent research project, finishing with a written work of not more than 4,000 words. This year our students investigated topics in business management, film, psychology, and culture and identity. The process is so much more than writing the final written report. Students were required to examine what truly interests them, carry out in-depth research, take notes, evaluate the topic from different perspectives, and write according to MLA formatting guidelines.

Theory of Knowledge is a very popular class at Futuro Verde which culminates in each student giving a ten-minute presentation and writing an essay in response to a choice of questions prescribed by IB. Every year our visiting students from Jersey take part in a TOK class and comment on how fun and dynamic it is. In every class, students are required to reflect on their own perspectives and question their assumptions as they explore how we know what we know. This year's presentations challenged cultural beliefs versus scientific findings, the double-edged nature of curiosity, and the extent to which truth is distorted by societal norms of ethical behavior.

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) is the counterbalance to the academic pressures of the diploma program, giving students a chance to grow personally by learning through different experiences. CAS experiences and projects varied depending on each student but included: beekeeping, surf coaching, volunteering at Refugio Romelio, traveling to New York, learning to juggle, and taking part in Zumba classes. Even though CAS is a required part of the IB core components it is a time to try new things and have fun!



Student Profiles

Meet a Student from Each of our School Sections

Futuro Verde students come from the most diverse countries around the globe and they integrate into our school with their cultural differences, traditions, habits and languages under the same roof forming a unique cosmopolitan community that accepts differences as we learn and grow together.



Meet Mateo

Mateo Guido Aguinagalde, Preschool, Prepa

Mateo was born in Costa Rica but he has dual nationality with Spain. Before attending Futuro Verde, Mateo was at our sister school, Only Love Kindergarten, located in Malpais. Before this, he attended a nursery school in San Pablo de Heredia. What Mateo loves the most about Futuro Verde is the science lab and environmental education class.

Meet Ana

Xiaojun “Ana” Yang, Primary, 3rd grade

Ana arrived from her homeland China a year ago and settled with her family in Cóbano. When she started at Futuro Verde she couldn't speak any English or Spanish. Today, after a year attending Futuro Verde, Ana speaks fluent Spanish and continues to work on improving her English language abilities. She loves that the school has plenty of trees and most of them green. She loves all her great teachers and her friends.



Meet Morgan

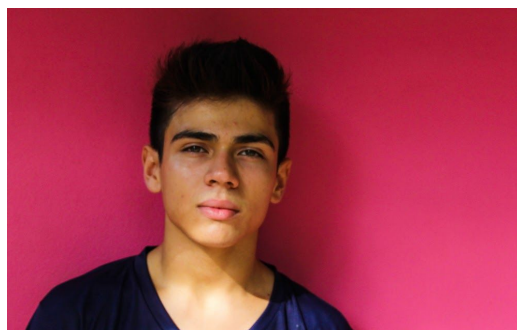
Morgan Leigh Grimm, Middle Years, 8th grade

Morgan was born in California, United States. Morgan previously studied at Coastal Academy, a non-bilingual school in California. When she arrived at Futuro Verde in sixth grade she didn't speak any Spanish, but today Morgan writes and speaks fluently and clearly in Spanish. She loves the fact that Futuro Verde is a bilingual school and that everyone is very accepting.

Meet Alejandro

Alejandro Mora Madrigal, IB Generation 2020

Alejandro is originally from Cóbano. Before attending Futuro Verde he studied at the public school and also went to Tambor Bay School. He decided to change to Futuro Verde because it was a better option in terms of quality in education and because of the high level of English we provide. What he likes most about Futuro Verde is the quality of the teachers and the student culture.



Hallmarks of a Futuro Verde Education:

Futuro Verde 5 Core Values

Defining what it means to be Futuro Verde:

In our 11th year as a school, we continued to reflect throughout the year on what the core underlying values are that Futuro Verde holds dear and which make the Futuro Verde experience such a powerful and unique one. We came upon the wording of our core values through a series of reflective and creative opportunities held with our staff, board of directors, students and the broader community. The results of these efforts brought us the following 5 core values:

1. Futuro Verde: Always connected, forever evolving



In 2018, the IB celebrated its 50th anniversary and, that same year, Futuro Verde celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over the course of our 10 years, much like the path taken by the IB in its anniversary book, “The International Baccalaureate: 50 Years of Education for a Better World” which was sent to all IB Heads of School, we have seen an evolution of our school and the benefits to our students of a coherent, connected educational experience. The Futuro Verde community continues to grow in size, but our evolution in numbers, in quality of teaching and learning and in scope

and breadth of servicing for students has not led to a disconnection from our original mission as a school and our main goal of connecting our diverse communities.

For our staff and our board of directors, it is essential that our school community know that we will continue to grow and evolve and, as we do so, we will continue to prioritize our connections and support of each other! The heart of our school is the connections we have with one another, the multilingualism, the diversity in national origin, religion and beliefs and the unity we all share as we progress forward and evolve as a school.

2. Futuro Verde: Feeling safe and comfortable to be ourselves helps our learning to thrive



Student well-being is an essential component to the educational experience. When a student feels safe and comfortable throughout their day at school they are more able to access their learning and acquire and internalize new concepts and enduring understandings. School safety includes being free from physical, social and emotional harm and it is an integral aspect to school leadership and design. Student comfort should include the ability by all students

to feel accepted and understood by their teachers and peers and to also have an internalization of the school procedures, traditions and routines and to come to expect consistently how the school environment will be. When these conditions are in place, students not only learn and grow, but they thrive!

At Futuro Verde we are fortunate to be situated in the middle of the countryside and jungle. We have secure campus infrastructure and because our students are encouraged to take risks and explore their natural environment they are well-equipped to keep themselves physically safe. Our commitment to active staff supervision during all structured and unstructured times of the day ensures that adults are present to guide, correct and encourage. Our strong social-emotional structure at school includes whole school commitment to mindfulness, reinforcement of our learner profile throughout all aspects of student life, democratic and reciprocal processes of student-teacher engagement, and restorative justice approaches to behavior management. Through our Peace Practices and multi-age learning with Buddy Classes, our students feel connected to one another, they come to deeply know each other and they learn to interact and engage with one another under a pretext of respect and understanding. Our staff are highly qualified and then are trained and supported regularly in their ongoing professional development needs. This school-wide, professional focus on calibration and collaboration among all Futuro Verde staff leads to the consistency and coordination that allows for a predictable and stable learning environment for all students.

This is why students who learn at Futuro Verde can be described as thriving in their learning environment and we are proud of our structures, the articulated support systems we have in place, and our prioritization of student well-being throughout all ages and stages of the educational process!

3. Futuro Verde: Our cultural oxygen expands your curiosity



But, wait...what is cultural oxygen? As our former school counselor, David Brookshire, who coined the term, said: "Our school culture is so palpable, you breath it!" He isn't the only person to proclaim that there is a feel to Futuro Verde. Futuro Verde is truly a unique community! There are aspects of the school you can point to that are great examples of our culture and then, much like the oxygen we breathe, we have aspects to our school culture that are much less palpable. But, when you enter the school gate you are bound to exit that same gate some day with an expanded personal

curiosity!

Speaking with our 12th graders, all International Baccalaureate (IB) students, they identified the following palpable and nonpalpable school culture components:

- *Do the right thing!* Not because you are afraid of getting into trouble but because you want to be a person who does the right thing.
- *Be open-minded* and seek to understand your peers that are so different than yourself.
- *Make connections all the time:* to your own life, to the place you live, to other places you have lived or traveled, to what you have read or to what you are learning in other classes at Futuro Verde!
- *Find a passion and go for it-* without fear! You will be supported and loved as you take risks. You are not likely to be criticized when you try new things (and aren't perfect yet) here at Futuro Verde!

- *Make sure you are always thinking* because you will always be asked what you think- about an environmental issue, about a subject you are studying, about something happening in the world, or even about what you want to learn and how you want to learn it!
- *Come in peace!* We don't welcome conflict, anger or hate. But come with your own criteria, your arguments and be ready to share them so that others can hear them.
- *We welcome you!* You, person X with X characteristics and X beliefs! You belong here too!

4. Futuro Verde: We take the best of our diversity to live in harmony



Futuro Verde is an international school unlike most others! Here are some of the fascinating facts about our diverse community:

- Each year our student population is made up of students from around 33 unique countries from around the world.
- Over 60% of our student population is Costa Rican.
- Most years we boast over 10 unique native languages spoken in our students' homes.
- Our school staff comes from 14

different countries, with four English dialects taught and five Spanish dialects represented.

- We are a fully bilingual school, providing instruction equally amounts of time in Spanish and English from ages 3-18.
- A minimum of 30% of our students each year receives some form of financial aid in order to attend school with us.
- We are a secular school that welcomes all forms of belief and spiritual practice and our staff and student population is full of diversity in faith as well.

5. Futuro Verde: We grow and learn in harmony with nature



With a name like Futuro Verde, this final core school value might be the most obvious one to pop into your mind! Futuro Verde has green in its name but most importantly we are truly 'green' in our hearts- not perfect in our ecological footprint but certainly striving and working hard to be the model of what green, sustainable, harmonious living with nature can be like. From one year to the next our commitment strengthens and grows. Here is a quick sampling of how we grow and learn in harmony with nature at Futuro Verde: purpose-built new classroom construction, a full permaculture campus is in the works,

school-wide environmental campaigns, and consistent environmental advocacy and activism.

Amazing Field Trips at Every Grade Level

During the course of the 2019 school year, each grade level actively worked to raise funds for their annual field trip. This past year the students fundraising efforts included preparing and selling food items at the school soda, holding garage sales, running raffles, and hosting special activity days. All Futuro Verde student field trips, throughout Costa Rica and beyond, are extensions of classroom experiences connected to student learning which allow students to apply skills and concepts within a real-world context.

Field trips by grade level

- Preschool:** Turtle Conservation Project in Tambor
- 1st grade:** Horseback riding and bird tour in Tambor
- 2nd grade:** Kidzania Interactive Children's Museum in San Jose
- 3rd grade:** Boat trip to Isla Tortuga
- 4th grade:** Visit to Cafe Britt (coffee company) to learn about land use, conservation strategies, and sustainable development
- 5th grade:** Bioluminescence boat tour in Bahia Rica
- 6th grade:** Visit to La Paz Waterfall and Poas Volcano
- 7th grade:** Learn to scuba dive: earn PADI certification and participate in an open dive



8th grade: Mini Science camp at Karen Mogensen Nature Reserve

9th grade: Visit Earth University and Catarata Oropendola in Rincon de la Vieja

10th grade: Art City Walk and San Jose Museums, International College Fair



11th grade: A week without walls in Antigua, Guatemala and International College Fair



12th grade: A trip to Mount Chirripó, UCR campus visit in San Pedro



Unparalleled Professional Development Opportunities

Regular In House Professional Development for Teachers

One of the hallmarks of the Futuro Verde experience for teachers is the commitment to regular, meaningful and ongoing professional development. Each academic school year more than 10 professional development days, including pre-service, trimester and midyear development days are organized and provided for all Futuro Verde staff.

Regular External IB Course Trainings

As needed yearly Futuro Verde teachers attend Category 1, 2 or 3 IB authorized trainings in order to provide optimal instructional practice, in order to learn about new curricular changes, as needed when course structural changes are needed or when staff changes indicate a need for new teachers to come into the IB fold. IB trainings happen in person at a host site in San Jose over a two day period or are taken as online courses with a 4-6 hour commitment weekly over the course of a month of time.

Invited Experts and Facilitators

Often times at Futuro Verde we are fortunate to receive invited experts or facilitators to our campus. This year we had a one-day session with Dr. Mia Sosa Provencio from the University of New Mexico in the United States. Dr. Sosa Provencio, along with two of her graduate students, provided a powerful, full-day experience for our staff focused on the concept of supporting student writing through the power of “testimonials”. Staff immersed themselves in the experience by going through the powerful process themselves and then planned how to integrate the experience and concept with students. What a powerful and meaningful way to explore cultural connection through writing and reflective processes!





Futuro Verde's Annual Conference: International Conference on Bilingual, Holistic and Sustainable Education (BHS) 2019

This year's BHS conference was again an unforgettable experience as we explored the contributions of indigenous culture within the concept of dual language programming in schools and continued to explore the challenges and opportunities we face as a bilingual school within our specific context. We were inspired by our keynote speaker, David Rogers, the Executive Director of Dual Language Education of New Mexico and encouraged to see the enthusiasm from our conference participants who joined us from across Costa Rica and North America.

La Cosecha 2019

One of the unexpected benefits of our relationship development with David Rogers from Dual Language Education of New Mexico was the opportunity he provided our staff to attend without cost his group's yearly dual language education conference in New Mexico in the United States! Multiple Futuro Verde staff members took up David's offer and we headed to New Mexico in November to attend the conference, to learn from the broad diversity of sessions available and to present two sessions of our own at the conference. We offered two unique presentations: "Reflection and Metacognition in Upper Elementary and Secondary Grades" and "Translanguaging Done Right: Transcending Traditional Additive Language", both of which brought in large audiences and were very well received. Additionally, David Rogers offered Futuro Verde the opportunity to have a jobs table at the event and longtime Futuro Verde collaborator, Dr. Eileen Waldschmidt supported our hiring table by recruiting for future teachers throughout the event. La Cosecha 2019 was a huge success!

First IB Generation: 2019



The founders had a dream for Futuro Verde to be an IB World School and offer the diploma program. The 19th of December 2019 marks an important piece of Futuro Verde history - the first graduation of 12th-grade students. Elian, Dilana, Mateo, and Lawrence were pioneers, bravely taking on new subjects, new ways of working, and new ways of being assessed. They learned about lots of new topics, dealt with deadlines, challenged themselves to think from different perspectives, and acquired a whole host of transferable skills. Highlights included some fascinating TOK presentations, interesting extended essays, and the visual arts exhibition. Even though students were spent after three weeks, the final exam was a time to celebrate!

The first generation provided the school leadership and teachers the opportunity to put theory into practice and to learn with the students. The experience has taught us how best to support students going forward and has led to many refinements in the structure of each course and the administration of the program.

Futuro Verde in a nutshell

At a Glance

2019 Enrollment 218

Student Teacher Ratio: 8 to 1

Financial Aid
Percentage of students who receive some form of financial aid 29%



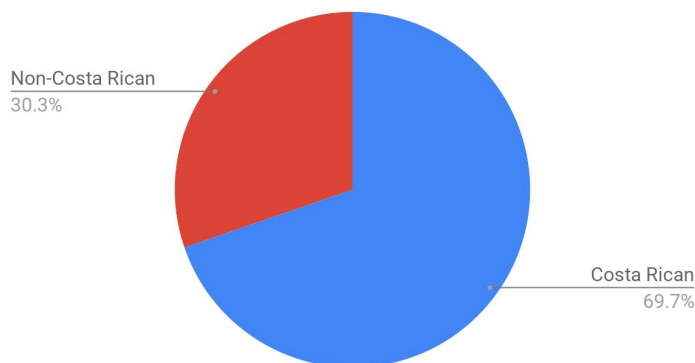
Students

First to second generation familial countries of origin: 32

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

Languages spoken in the home: 11
Spanish, English, French, Flemish, Dutch, Hebrew, Italian, Mandarin, Swiss German, Portuguese, German.

Student country of origin



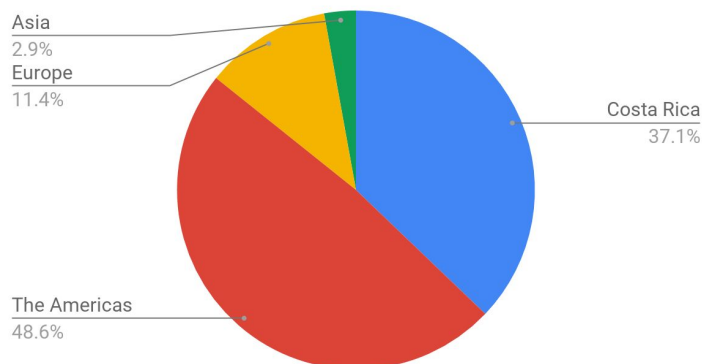
Staff

Total number of teaching and administrative staff: 35

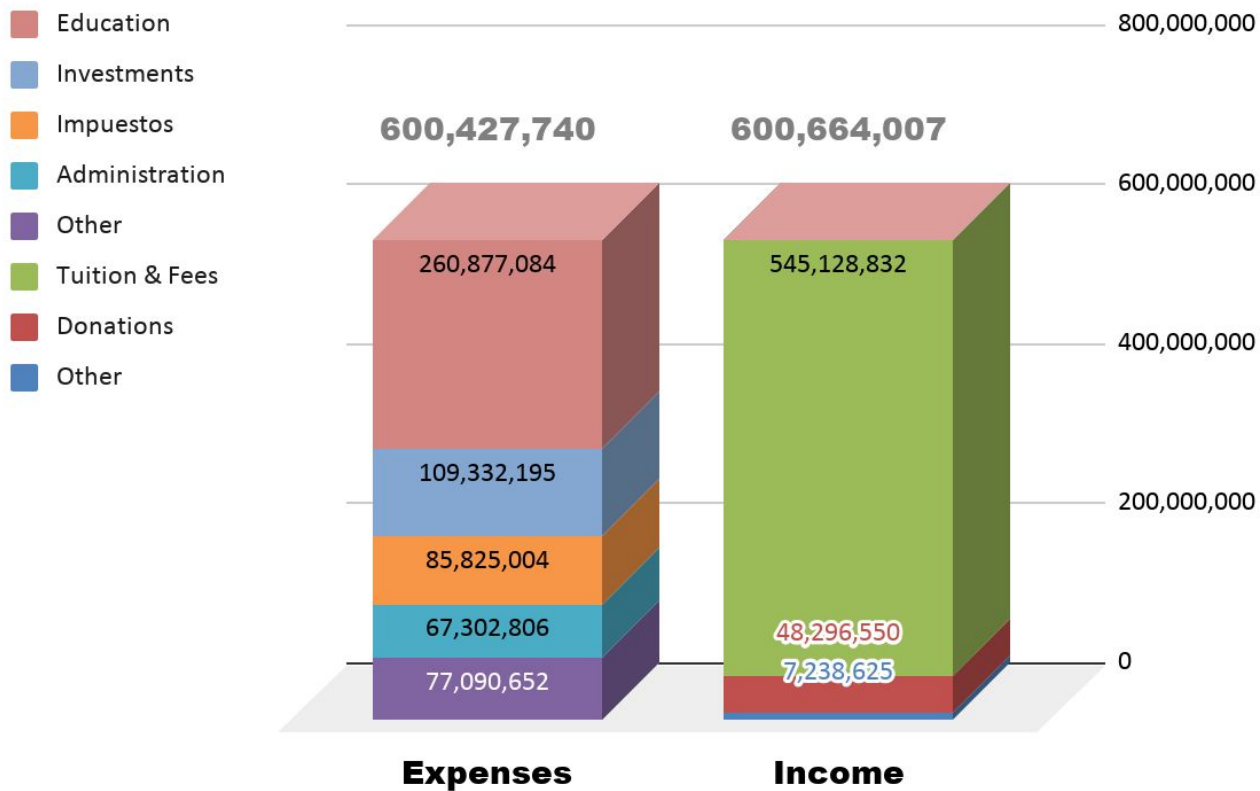
Countries of origin: 12
Costa Rica, United States, Canada, Scotland, Argentina, Mexico, Spain, India, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua

Percentage of teaching staff holding either a Masters Degree 46%

Staff Country of Origin



Financials



Fundraising

Fundraising Efforts in 2019

Student Sponsorship

(which benefitted:)

Amount raised: \$39,795

FV Gives Back!

Charity campaigns run by Futuro Verde and successful thanks to our donors

Earth Day Charity Challenge

(which benefitted: Refugio Romelia, ASVO, Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco and Futuro Verde)

Amount raised: \$2000

Futuro Verde Holiday Giving Campaign

Which benefitted the community of Los Mangos, during 2 weeks students, parents and teachers brought presents and clothes to give to Los Mangos school in Cobano as is one of the most in need communities in Cobano.

Green Fair: Sustainable Solutions

(Which benefitted: local sustainable businesses by giving them the opportunity to sell and expose their products on our Christmas Bazaar)

Amount raised: \$120

Futuro Verde Fun Run

(Which benefitted: Sports Facilities)

Amount raised: \$100



Donors

Individual Donors

\$5001-\$10000

Marianne Dolan
Meg Campbell
Sharon Snyder
Elena Schelegel
Jim Moran
Jamie McLennan
Don and Meaghan Kellet

\$1001-\$5000

Susie & Jerry Rickmeyer (*Teach a Man to Fish Foundation*)
Robin Stebbins
Edward Katz
Frank Katz

\$501-\$1000

John Fulford
Andrew Thompson
Marlaine Lockheed

\$201-\$500

Holly Scheuer

\$51-\$200

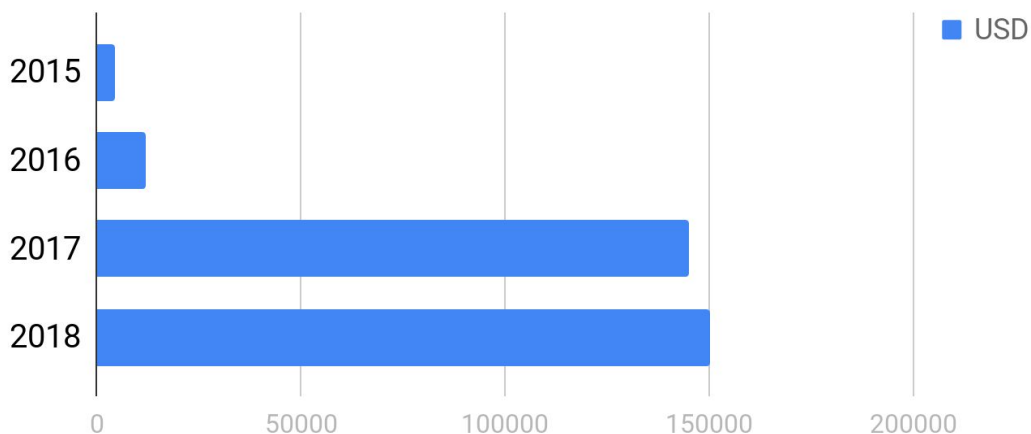
Catriona Fagan
Morgan Mckee
Tara Parker
Ken Mantie
William Panella
Stella Saylor
Ben Saylor
Marlene & John Kestle
William Jeruissen
Nefertiti Ingalls

\$10-\$50

Lisa Sinkie
Lisavette Saylor
Miriam Albu
Tara Shaw
James Kelly
Judy & Mitch Paik
Villas Oasis Manuel Antonio
Melanie Alexandre
Sorrel & Robert Dod
Mary Francis Crezcenzo
Susan McMillan
Jarret Dod

Donations At-A-Glance

Donations USD



Scholarship Fund Highlights:

John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund Launch Scholarship



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 around 30% of the Futuro Verde student population each year.

This year we had our first class graduating with an International Baccalaureate degree, what an exciting year and celebration!

As you our Scholarship Fund is named after John Dolan, who valued the power of a high quality education and he showed this commitment through direct student sponsorship at Futuro Verde.

John's legacy at Futuro Verde continues to grow with our high school students. From now

on, 12th grade students who meet the requirements will have another opportunity that comes from John Dolan's legacy.

Our highschoolers that have been regularly enrolled at Futuro Verde, graduate from FV, have attained the International Baccalaureate Diploma and were successfully accepted into college will be eligible to obtain the \$1000 John Dolan University Launch Scholarship.

We are very grateful to John Dolan and his family for this incredible opportunity to support students to begin a new stage of their educational career and we wish them all success in this new path of life.



Ways to Give:

Patreon Account

 [Become a patron](#)

Futuro Verde is excited to announce that you can become a patron of Futuro Verde through our Patreon Creator Account. Learn about our school and see the latest news, view locked content! Donations via Patreon are tax deductible in the USA.

Giving Assistant



Support your favorite charity (Futuro Verde) by transforming every online purchase into a donation! Donations are tax deductible in the USA through our fiscal sponsor Green Wave Enterprises.

529 Savings Plan

Futuro Verde's fiscal sponsor can receive tuition payments from 529s for students through Green Wave Enterprises. Please contact Futuro Verde for specifics on how to contribute to Futuro Verde using a **529 Savings Plan**.

Embedded Advertising for FV Community

Starting in 2020, Futuro Verde will be offering embedded advertising opportunities to businesses aligned with our school values. Advertisers can purchase space in our monthly newsletters, on an outside reader board to be installed in 2020 in the school parking lot and on our school website. Please email our School Finance Officer (SFO), Tania, at tania@futuro-verde.org for details and specifics.

Perspectives from a Sponsorship Family

Where is your family originally from? How has Allison's sponsorship to Futuro Verde impacted her and your family?



We are originally from El Salvador. Allison is so happy and we can see how much she has learned and grown and just how much she has taken advantage of this opportunity to the fullest extent possible, she is just so incredibly motivated. We are so impressed with how much she has learned and how quickly her English has developed and perfected over time. Our family has been impacted tremendously by this opportunity and that was always our plan when we came to Costa Rica, to offer our girls a better future, something better than our current circumstances and we can see how Allison has really taken advantage of this marvellous opportunity and how much she is more and more prepared each day for her future. She already helps me at my work to translate to clients that come into the

shop and it is a huge support to me. Our family just feels so proud each and every time that Allison speaks English and expresses herself with such confidence and I just get very emotional as her father and so grateful for this life we are living alongside Allison as we watch her learn and grow.

What are the opportunities you see for your daughters and your family having thanks to this school sponsorship?

We see so many opportunities thanks to this sponsorship because we are a family of very limited resources and our living situation is very hard, but with this opportunity for a better education that my daughters are now both receiving, we know they will have a much brighter future. We are people who highly value education and we know that with a good education our girls will be able to face any challenge they may come upon in life because they'll be bilingual and they'll have everything else in them that Futuro Verde teaches too. Allison has learned to be independent, to persevere in sports, she is learning so many important values and qualities, habits and behaviors that are so indispensable to us and that have been so great to have her learn. As a family we have been incredibly impacted by this change we have seen in Allison on a personal level, and it has not only filled us with pride but also given us the confidence that Allison will have this broad perspective as she moves forward toward the challenges life will bring her. We have no words to express how grateful we are to Jim Moran and his family for everything they are doing for our daughters.

Finally, what message do you have for your daughter's sponsor?

Never ending appreciation and absolutely no words to sufficiently express my emotion each and every time that I think about this in my life. I am just so very grateful, so happy and I just pray that God gives Jim and his family life and health, that they are always protected and cared for and free from harm and any ill that could befall them because then, just as they are helping us, they will continue to be in the world and able to impact others with their generosity of nature and spirit because we are living in difficult times around the world in which you are often confronted with such hate, and good people like Jim and his family give us hope to continue on and to keep fighting and persevering because they are the proof in this world that there are good people with big hearts and whom, even though they didn't even know us, they have lent us a helping hand, a huge support and this is something for which we will be grateful for the rest of our lives.