

LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales · Charity number 1115796

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2006-08-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Gordon House
Gordon Avenue
London
SW14 8DZ

Phone 07880546960

Email contact@lavidia.org.uk

Website www.lavidia.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE RESIDING PERMANENTLY IN LATIN AMERICA, IN PARTICULAR, BY PRESERVING AND PROTECTING HEALTH, RELIEVING SICKNESS, RELIEVING POVERTY AND ADVANCING EDUCATION.

Activities: La Vida is a small, effective, 100% volunteer run Latin American charity supporting communities health, education and environment. Founded in 2006, La Vida distributes grants in areas such as youth development, primary and secondary education initiatives, school expansions and community health and environmental programmes.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LATIN AMERICA
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Peru
- Venezuela

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£60,454	£72,923	-	-
2023-12-31	£79,544	£71,925	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,251	£45,128	-	-
2021-12-31	£57,757	£55,735	-	-
2020-12-31	£90,871	£70,943	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KATY JANE VATIS	Chair	2006-08-14
ANA BEATRIZ ALENCAR		2015-04-01
HELEN ILSLEY		2006-08-14
IVONNE CANTU		2019-01-01
Susana Knaudt		2023-09-15
ZARELA FEENEY		2013-01-01

LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1115796

Accounts

Vital Investment for
Development Aid
in Latin America



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Supporting
communities'

HEALTH
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENT



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How we change lives

La Vida focuses exclusively on projects supporting communities' health, environment and education. Our targeted support has a positive impact on lives in some of the world's poorest countries.



La Vida has raised more than **£1 million** so far



More than **99 pence** of every **£1** raised is donated to our projects

Everyone working for La Vida does so on a voluntary basis. We have an impressively low cost base with almost every penny raised going directly to our projects.

We have a rigorous governance process. We go to great lengths to ensure funds are properly allocated, well-monitored and have a significant, long-term local impact.



We have helped more than **100,000** disadvantaged children and families



Our mission

La Vida raises funds to support community health, education and environment projects throughout Latin America

The charity is registered in the UK and has been established to help disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America, by advancing education, preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty and raising environmental awareness.

Our story

La Vida was co-founded in 2006 by Katy Vatis and Helen Ilsley when, after a business trip to Brazil, they met Dr Monica Nogueira, a paediatric orthopedic surgeon trying to raise funds to train her peers in the non-surgical Ponseti method of treating children with clubfoot.

La Vida raised the funds needed, and the project was a success; in 2008, 556 doctors were trained, and 5,000 children were treated. Thousands more children have been successfully treated in subsequent years.

La Vida has since supported highly effective grassroots projects in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; some of which we support on a continuing basis and some which are now complete.

The grants aided projects in areas such as youth development, education initiatives and school expansions, as well as community health and environmental programmes.

Despite being a relatively small charity, so far La Vida



has raised over £1 million through sponsorship, fundraising events, direct donations and partnerships with other foundations. We estimate the funding we have deployed has directly impacted the lives of over 100,000 disadvantaged children and their families in Latin America.

CASE STUDY

Brenda, student
FONDO GUADALUPE
MUSALEM, MEXICO

“ The bursary has changed my life. It’s given me the opportunity to participate in activities that push me out of my comfort zone ”

High-school student Brenda has made excellent use of La Vida's funds via Fondo Guadalupe Musalem's support. The ability to afford travel, accommodation and supplies for school has helped Brenda to achieve top marks in her studies.

Brenda has also implemented an inspiring community project, 'Preserving Our Mother Tongue'. She worked with the children of Santa Maria Tlahuitoltepec, promoting the importance of keeping cultural identity alive through language.

Our year

From hosting our first-ever **Safeguarding Forum**, to laying the foundations of a new partnership in Brazil, 2024 was a year of collaboration and connection for La Vida.

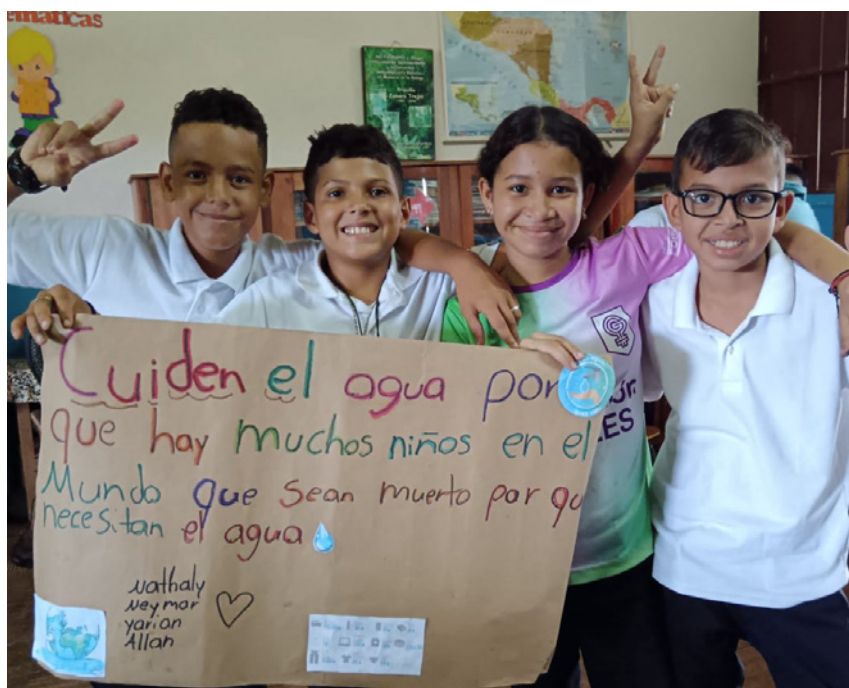
We raised **£60,454** through donations, with significant sums contributed by **The Royal Bank of Canada, The Alan Goodwin and Aimee Reynolds**

Foundation and another large financial institution. We also had considerable donations from private individuals and companies, and our supporters continued to sponsor children's education at Villa Maria School in Peru.

We granted **£72,641 to causes throughout Latin America** and continued to provide support to **12 projects**. We have also been delighted to begin work with a new partner in Brazil. Base Colaborativa offer immersive experiences in the Amazon rainforest in order to promote sustainable tourism and preserve biodiversity while supporting local communities. We look forward to seeing the impact of our work in 2025.

In March, La Vida's second **Leaders Forum** provided a digital meeting place for our projects, enabling attendees across eight countries to exchange a broad range of ideas and experience. Presentations included topics such as finance and governance. A series of 'breakout rooms' facilitated in-depth discussions on individual challenges and solutions, including how best to build an effective board and ways to implement financial controls.

In November, we hosted our first **Safeguarding Forum**, allowing Trustees and Leaders to share best practice in order to protect beneficiaries, staff and volunteers from abuse and exploitation. La Vida will continue to promote open communication among our partners.



Corcovado Foundation, Costa Rica

Our Trustees



« Katy Vatis Co-Founder and Chairperson

Katy co-founded La Vida with Helen Ilsley in early 2006. She has a degree in Economics with Spanish. Most recently, Katy worked at Fullerton Fund Management as a Senior Analyst in Emerging Markets. She has spent most of her career as a Fund Manager covering Latin American equity markets. Katy's travel to the region has given her first-hand experience of its extreme levels of poverty and the need for improvements in health and education.

» Helen Ilsley Co-Founder and Treasurer

Co-Founder Helen spent 15 years as a stockbroker in the Latin American investment community. Having left the City in 2012 to set up her own property asset business, Helen is now an executive coach, heading up Business Development for the Executive Coaching Consultancy, specialising in helping businesses retain and develop their talented women. Helen has a Business Economics degree and is an accredited member of the Association of Coaching.

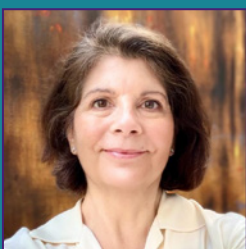


« Zarela Feeney Trustee

Zary joined La Vida in December 2012. She began her career with Ernst & Young's Financial Advisory Team in Washington DC where she focused on Latin America. She moved to London to join Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's M&A team. She has subsequently been involved in the non-profit sector and serves on the boards of foundations that have a significant social and environmental impact in Latin America. She has a MBA from George Washington University.

» Ivonne Cantu Trustee

Ivonne joined La Vida in 2018. She is Head of Investor Relations and Sustainability at Benchmark Holdings plc, and a Director of Creo Medical plc and Primary Health Properties plc. Ivonne is also Chair of Info Latinos, a UK-based charity providing support to the Latin American community in the UK. Prior to this, Ivonne was a corporate finance adviser for 20 years at Merrill Lynch and Cenkos Securities. She has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.



« Susana Knaudt Trustee

Susana joined La Vida in 2023. She has a background in financial regulation, development finance and education. She worked at Citibank, the Central Bank of Bolivia and the World Bank, working on financial sector reform and micro-lending projects in Latin America. She believes education and grassroots financing are key to securing better futures for local communities. Susana has an Economics degree from LSE and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard.

» For further details of our Trustees and volunteers please visit www.lavida.org.uk

Our projects



>> KEY

PROJECT FOCUS: ● HEALTH ● EDUCATION ● ENVIRONMENT

Project updates

AMANTANI

>> Grant in 2024: £5,000

>> Location: Peru

>> Partner since: 2014



Empowering young people from indigenous communities in the Andes to access further education and fair employment.

La Vida supports Amantani's Transitions Project, which was developed in response to the growing need for support for school leavers in rural communities. Residents of rural Cusco are 75% less likely to enter further education than their urban peers, resulting in reduced job opportunities.

The project has so far helped over 180 young people to access further education, including 88 in 2024. The project's three phases help prepare young people for their studies, supporting them throughout and facilitating access to fair and formal employment.

When the project started in 2016, only seven residents in the District of Ccorca had accessed further education. Since then, Amantani's work has expanded to the district of Huanquite. Fifty one young people have completed courses so far, and of these graduates, 83% are currently employed in jobs with fair working conditions, 50% with formal contracts.

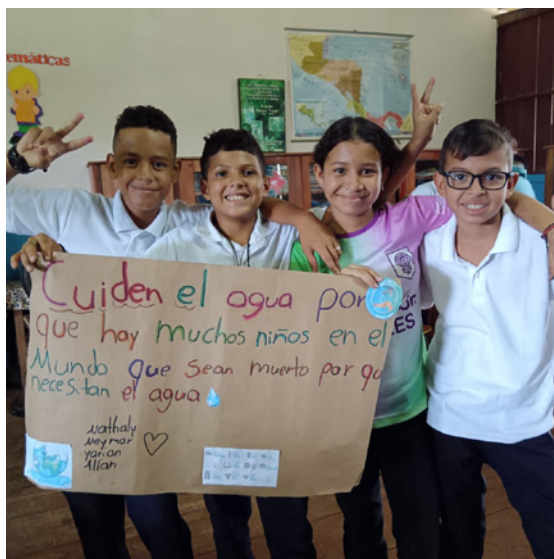
For more information, visit www.amantani.org

CORCOVADO FOUNDATION

» Grant in 2024: £5,417

» Location: Costa Rica

» Partner since: 2020



Promoting regenerative agriculture and environmental education within local communities.

The Corcovado Foundation in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula continues to make strides in regenerative agriculture and environmental education. With support from La Vida since 2020, the foundation initially focused on school-based environmental education. When the pandemic hit, it pivoted to support local families through regenerative farming, a shift that has improved food security and resilience in the region.

This year, the foundation's 'Manos Cambiadas' programme brought together five communities to share labour and knowledge of sustainable farming practices, including planting methods, composting, and biofertiliser production. Corcovado Foundation organised seed exchanges to preserve local biodiversity and also hosted nine regenerative agriculture events with 55 participants. Meanwhile, over 100 families have now learned to make their own compost and biofertilisers.

Environmental education remains strong, with students staging the play *La Gotita Tita* to highlight the impact of agrochemicals, water pollution, and bullying. Hands-on workshops and creative activities such as poster-making helped over 300 students engage with water conservation issues.

For more information, visit www.corcovadofoundation.org

educate.

» Grant in 2024: £8,846

» Location: Honduras

» Partner since: 2021



Grass-roots NGO educate. works to empower children and young people in Honduras through community-driven initiatives focused on education.

La Vida helps fund educate.'s scholarship programme, which supports high-potential students from low-income backgrounds and provides access to high school and university education. In 2024, the programme supported 30 students – 25 in high school, and five in university – giving access not only to education but also leadership workshops, empowerment programmes and mental health support. La Vida has sponsored 10 of these students and so far three have completed their high-school programme, and one has graduated from university.

In addition, the organisation's STEM programme saw 36 students graduate from Level 1 courses in 2024, and 27 students participated in the Level 2 programme. All students completed their courses. Participants gained a broad base of skills across Microsoft Office, Canva, and basic coding. Soft skills gained include teamwork and public speaking.

In June, educate. partnered with STEM IN A BOX to facilitate their first robotics camp, attended by 32 students and two teachers. Participants used electronic waste and recycled materials to build robots. They also explored how these skills and ideas could be applied to solve real-world problems in their community.

A dedicated Youth Centre helps support all these projects, with a computer lab funded by La Vida.

For more information, visit www.educate-ngo.com

CASE STUDY

**Mahely, student
educate., HONDURAS**

**“My time with
educate. has had
a great effect on
my life and my
confidence”**

Mahely has been with educate. since she was 13. In 2024, she graduated from 11th Grade and is now a rising young leader, having taken the reins of the communications programme at the Youth Centre and led the creation of four mini-documentaries about educate.'s programmes. At the end of 2024, Mahely received a medal of excellence for achieving the highest grade-point average in her school. “When I joined, I felt a lot of social pressure when speaking in public. I felt that others would make fun of me for giving my opinion. That feeling has now diminished. I continue to learn how to be a great leader with educate..”



EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN FOUNDATION

>> Grant in 2024: **£4,860**

>> Location: **Guatemala**

>> Partner since: **2022**



EFTC's School of Hope and Further Education Program supports over 630 students and their 385 families in Jocotenango, a remote region in Guatemala.

This urban area has one of the lowest literacy rates in the western hemisphere. Extreme poverty, gang crime, domestic violence and alcoholism are everyday realities for local children. EFTC offers extensive education, nutrition, healthcare, social support and employment programs to local children to remove any obstacle to education and enable students to realise their potential.

In 2024, La Vida continued to sponsor a cohort of nine children at the School of Hope, and this group now includes several siblings. The children's ages span across 1st, 3rd and 4th Grades.

The school's broad curriculum includes maths, language and literacy, history, geography, PE, art, music, ICT, and Kaqchikel. Additionally, the children have English classes three times per week. The curriculum also includes Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education – for example, 4th Grade students have been working on fostering healthy habits, establishing daily routines, fellowship and reinforcing self care and personal hygiene.

Besides academic and personal achievement, the children benefit from two nutritious meals per day. The school also undertakes health evaluations and provides treatment to students where they are able, as well as eye tests and dental hygiene education.

For more information, visit www.eftcfoundation.org

EL RIO FOUNDATION

>> Grant in 2024: £10,280

>> Location: Colombia

>> Partner since: 2021



El Rio Foundation provides ten educational, sporting, environmental and wellbeing programmes that positively impact five local communities around Buritaca, benefiting more than 600 children.

La Vida continues to support El Rio's flagship Academic Tutoring programme, which provides a safe, positive space for disadvantaged children to access tailored academic and wellbeing support. Local government-run schools often suffer from insufficient funding, lack of qualified teachers and large class sizes. Children can also face significant challenges at home and so El Rio's Academic Tutoring programme offers a vital lifeline of education and personal support. The programme offers a high teacher-pupil ratio, with personalised plans for children with challenging behaviour, designed by their psychologist and delivered in tandem with their teaching team.

Numbers of regular students are rising year-on-year, with more than 80 weekly attendees. Assessments in 2024 concluded that participants' academic and life skills have improved by 57% on average, with maths seeing the greatest progress. The children's English, team-work skills and empathy also saw great improvement.

As a reward for high attendance and good behaviour, El Rio organised several enjoyable trips for students throughout the year, including a pony club theme park day, several trips to Yay Sustainable Eco-hotel, and a Halloween Horror Maze Experience. Multi-sports beach games provided a fun end-of-year celebration.

For more information, visit www.elriofoundationco.org

FONDO GUADALUPE MUSALEM

>> Grant in 2024: **£1,450**

>> Location: **Mexico**

>> Partner since: **2022**



By providing educational bursaries, one-on-one mentoring and a rich programme of extracurricular activities, Fondo Guadalupe Musalem helps talented girls from indigenous, underprivileged backgrounds access high school and university education. The organisation's mission is to help these girls develop all the skills and ethical values that will enable them to achieve their full potential and exercise their rights.

Since its foundation in 1996, Fondo Guadalupe Musalem has awarded more than 200 high-school bursaries and has supported 66 young women through university. In 2024, La Vida funded bursaries for three girls – Betza (above left), Zeltzin (above right) and Brenda.

Seventeen-year-old Betza lives in a rural community without a local high school. Thanks to a bursary, Betza can afford the accommodation, transport, uniform and school supplies for her to attend school. In addition to achieving top marks, Betza dedicates time to volunteering in her local community and is applying to study medicine.

Brenda is a high-school student who particularly values FGM's extracurricular activities and the opportunity to volunteer in community programmes, which make her feel capable and empowered. Brenda says: "Being part of the group has been very important because we have received love, economic and psychological support, and help in many academic subjects." See our case study on page six for more details of Brenda's achievements.

For more information, visit www.fondoguadalupemusalem.org

HELPING HANDS

>> Grant in 2024: £5,000

>> Location: Bolivia

>> Partner since: 2009



Helping Hands provides tailored financial support, mentoring and an enrichment programme for disadvantaged young people in and around La Paz, Bolivia. Participants are encouraged to complete their studies and take their first steps into working life.

Helping Hands has supported more than 500 young people since the organisation was founded in 2004. More than 120 students have finished high school with the support of the project, and more than 250 have finished a program of post-secondary studies. In 2024, Helping Hands supported 64 students with help from La Vida's funds.

Helping Hands' enrichment programme is informed by the needs and views of the young people it supports, details of which are obtained via an annual survey. Recent workshops have focused on self esteem, resilience and public speaking. In addition, Helping Hands encourages students to volunteer in their local community, which helps them foster local connections, and develop skills and confidence.

In 2024, students's subjects have included nursing, tourism, languages, systems engineering, veterinary medicine, dentistry/medicine, psychology, social work, mechanics, graphic design, and accounting.

Helping Hands also provides dental, medical and eye care for its students, taking care of healthcare expenses and removing health barriers to educational success.

For more information, visit www.helpinghands-bolivia.com

CASE STUDY

Miriam, university graduate
HELPING HANDS, BOLIVIA

“I’m deeply grateful for the financial and moral support I’ve received”

Single mother Miriam graduated with a degree in Public Accounting from UNICEN University in La Paz, after receiving support from Helping Hands and La Vida.

Despite many challenges, Miriam was determined to achieve a brighter future for herself and her young son, Ismael, and now has long-term, stable employment at Farmacorp Pharmacy.

Miriam has plans to further her education by pursuing a diploma program. She hopes this additional qualification will open doors to even better career opportunities.

MANO VUELTA

» Grant in 2024: **£5,000**

» Location: **Mexico**

» Partner since: **2020**



Mano Vuelta was founded six years ago in Oaxaca, Mexico, by a multidisciplinary team of indigenous and Afro-Mexican women. Mano Vuelta's mission is to promote an equitable life and rights for children and women in Oaxaca. The organisation offers a broad range of educational, community and research initiatives with a focus on gender, cultural and ethnic diversity.

In the last year, more than 500 people participated in Mano Vuelta's initiatives including its seventh Artistic and Feminist Retreat for girls and young women, funded by La Vida. The primary objective of the retreat was to educate and empower indigenous and Afro-Mexican girls aged seven to 15, giving them the confidence to address and discuss sensitive and important topics including sexual health and sexual violence.

Through targeted workshops, participants were equipped to understand and express openly their views on women's rights, sexual health and other issues such as harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence.

Throughout the year, the Mano Vuelta team also participated in more than 50 panels at workshops and conferences on topics including gender rights, community participation and PSHE. They led a seminar for 34 indigenous women focused on empowering political participation and organised five artistic festivals to promote PSHE and gender equality.

For more information, visit www.manovuelta.org

PLANT YOUR FUTURE

» Grant in 2024: **£5,000**

» Location: **Peru**

» Partner since: **2023**



Plant Your Future empowers farmers in the Peruvian Amazon through agroforestry, education and promotion of responsible land use.

La Vida's grants have enabled Plant Your Future to support 28 smallholder farmers in Honoria, Peru. The project has helped farmers build sustainable agroforestry systems by providing training, tools, and over 59,000 trees, including valuable native species such as mahogany and cocoa.

Since February 2024, Plant Your Future's regular farm visits and monthly field schools have delivered hands-on support in pruning, pest control, organic fertilisers, and fire prevention. Farmers, including women entrepreneurs, have gained vital skills and are beginning to see measurable economic benefits from harvesting crops like cocoa and guava.

This project is already transforming lives and landscapes. With farmers reinvesting in community nurseries and sharing knowledge, the initiative is fostering resilience, restoring ecosystems, and building a sustainable future for both people and planet.

In 2024, the organisation continued to expand their conservation area, purchasing 40 hectares of primary rainforest. An international team of scientists documented a wide variety of wildlife, including two species of frog that are yet to be classified.

For more information, visit www.plantyourfuture.org.uk

PODER JOVEN

>> Grant in 2024: **£12,570**

>> Location: **Colombia**

>> Partner since: **2010**



Based in Medellin, Poder Joven provides support to 75 children, aged five to 17, who live in precarious conditions and often suffer from insufficient food, limited healthcare access and exposure to drugs and gangs. Poder Joven's comprehensive programme offers essential support, including school enrolment, homework and academic reinforcement, nutrition, psychosocial support, vocational guidance and family counselling.

While poverty, violence, and deprivation are prevalent in Medellin, Poder Joven contributes to social development, provides opportunities for personal progress and supports families, ensuring children are well cared for, free of charge.

In 2024, 45,000 meals were provided to children. Each menu was designed with the advice of a doctor and nutritionist. Seventeen children also received medical appointments and medications.

All 75 children in the program were enrolled in the local school and provided with a school kit, supplies and daily support for homework. Complementary activities were offered, including sports training, yoga, art and workshops on topics such as substance abuse prevention, pregnancy prevention and hygiene. Additionally, 24 adolescents received vocational training in barbering, hairstyling, and manicure courses, and 14 have been able to generate personal income using their new skills.

For more information, visit www.fundacionpoderjoven.org

PROJECT SOMOS

>> Grant in 2024: **£1,970**

>> Location: **Guatemala**

>> Partner since: **2023**



Project Somos Learning Village is a nurturing educational community for at-risk children in Guatemala. They provide early-childhood education, academic support for primary school students, and nutritional programmes.

Many young women in the village of Tecpán and the surrounding area face economic, cultural and family constraints that prevent them from graduating high school. This limits their future opportunities and can result in early marriage and motherhood.

In 2023, with funding from La Vida, Project Somos launched an eight-week training programme to teach cooking skills, offering participants a chance to work at the Learning Village and then go on to secure future employment. Trainees are empowered to see alternative life possibilities, inspired by Guatemalans and visitors leading vibrant lives. Project Somos also provides educational and psychological support where needed.

At exit interviews conducted by La Vida, trainees said the experience had broadened their horizons and created a desire to finish school and pursue further professional or vocational opportunities. One of the trainees is in the process of opening her own business after leaving the programme.

La Vida is currently funding a second cohort of young women.

For more information, visit www.projectsomos.org

VILLA MARIA SCHOOL

>> Grant in 2024: £7,250

>> Location: Peru

>> Partner since: 2007



Villa Maria is a school in Villa Maria del Triunfo, a deprived area on the outskirts of Lima, which is underserved by state schools. Villa Maria School was set up as a charitable organisation to help close the significant gap in the provision of basic education locally.

The school provides 110 primary school students from low-income families with a quality education, free to the neediest children, as well as a programme of outings and extra-curricular activities designed to broaden young minds and offer stimulating, educational experiences.

Villa Maria School's aim is to develop the next generation of community leaders, with strong ethical values and a commitment to help the local community and protect the environment. The school promotes a broad, practical education including creative skills, entrepreneurship, environmental awareness and self-reflection.

La Vida has supported the school since 2007, funding the costs of c.30 children per year and providing additional support for computers, books and sports equipment as needs arise. The school is run in conjunction with Quest Overseas, an organisation which attracts students from the UK to volunteer at the school, helping with leisure activities for local children during the school holidays as well as building new homes for the poorest families in the community through its charitable arm, Quest4Change.

For more information, visit www.lavida.org.uk

Financial review

Policy on reserves

For 2024, La Vida kept six months of our ongoing commitments to projects as reserves. We will continue to do this in 2025.

For the period from January 2024 to December 2024

Section A: Receipts and payments

A1 RECEIPTS	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)	Total funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Donations	31,034	29,000		60,034	59,010
Fundraising events					20,444
Interest on deposit	420			420	90
SUB TOTAL (Gross income for AR)	31,454	29,000		60,454	79,544

A2 Asset and investment sales (see table)					
SUB TOTAL					
TOTAL RECEIPTS	31,454	29,000		60,454	79,544

A3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)	Total funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Cost of fundraising events					1,455
Internet costs	216			216	198
Grants to LATAM projects	55,391	17,250		72,641	70,205
FX and bank charges	66			66	66
SUB TOTAL	55,673	17,250		72,923	71,925

A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)					
SUB TOTAL					
TOTAL PAYMENTS	55,673	17,250		72,923	71,925

Net of receipts/ (payments)	(24,219)	11,750		(12,469)	7,620
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	72,643	15,414		88,057	80,438
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	48,424	27,164		75,588	88,057

Section B: Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)
Cash CAF bank balance	48,424	27,164	
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	48,424	27,164	

Signed by two Trustees, on behalf of all Trustees:

Helen Ilsley

Helen Ilsley, date of approval: 20/09/2025

K J Vatis

Katy Vatis, date of approval: 20/09/2025

Independent examiner's report

**Report to the
trustees/
members of**

LA VIDA Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2024

Charity no.

1115796

**Set out
on pages**

24-26

**Responsibilities
and basis of
report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed



Date

20/09/2025

Name

Tracey Falero

Relevant professional qualifications or body (if any)

Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA)

Address

c/o LA VIDA
Gordon House, Gordon Ave, London, SW14 8DZ, UK

Administrative details

Charity name	La Vida – Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America
Charity number	1115796
Registered address	GORDON HOUSE GORDON AVENUE LONDON SW14 8DZ
Trustees	Ivonne Cantu Zarela Feeney Helen Ilsley Susana Knaudt Katy Vatis
Independent examiner	Tracey Falero (ACA)

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Trust deed
How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

La Vida – Trustee Selection Process Statement:

- Interest in the Latin American region and improving the conditions of its people.
 - Skills and experience that add value to the board, such as good relationships with potential sponsors and strong marketing skills for fundraising.
 - Good character.
 - Nomination by one of the Trustees.
 - Unanimous approval by current Trustees.
-

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in this governing document

To further any charitable purpose for the benefit of disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America. In particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty and advancing education.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

Provide funding for specific health, education and environment projects identified in any country in Latin America.

La Vida is 100% volunteer run. All of the Trustees and Executive Committee work on a

»

voluntary basis and aim to keep expenses to a minimum so the money raised goes directly to the project beneficiaries.

Donations and fundraising have allowed us to improve and directly benefit the lives of over 100,000 children and their families across Latin America.

We continue to fund health, education and environment projects throughout the region. In 2024, we continued to support our existing ongoing projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru.

Additional details of objectives and activities

Policy on grant making

The Trustees of La Vida endeavour to directly grant funding to specific projects that relieve sickness and/or improve education in any Latin American country. Preference will be given to independent projects, but trustees could also look to partner with local organisations that will see through the success and completion of compelling projects in health, education and the environment in Latin America.

The project committee meets every 3-6 months to discuss and approve new project proposals. We assess our projects in depth and have a rigorous selection process. Each grant application has to complete our project proposal form and give proof of identity of their organisation and the people running it, plus two years of bank statements.

Every project we support has a partnership agreement signed by La Vida and the organisation receiving the project funding which includes all of our reporting requirements. The agreement sets out the timeline of the project with final goals to be reached, all of our reporting requirements such as photos of the project, receipts for items purchased etc.

The executive committee, all of whom are volunteers, continues to help organise fundraising events, develop the website, publish newsletters and broaden the reach of the charity. ■

LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1115796

Accounts

Vital Investment for
Development Aid
in Latin America



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Supporting
communities'

HEALTH
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENT



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Our mission

La Vida raises funds to support community health, education and environment projects throughout Latin America

The charity is registered in the UK and has been established to help disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America, in particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty, advancing education and raising environmental awareness.

Our story

La Vida was co-founded in 2006 by Katy Vatis and Helen Ilsley when, after a business trip to Brazil, they met Dr Monica Nogueira, a paediatric orthopedic surgeon trying to raise funds to train her peers in the non-surgical Ponseti method of treating children with clubfoot.

La Vida raised the funds needed, and the project was a success; in 2008, 556 doctors were trained, and 5,000 children were treated. Thousands more children have been successfully treated in subsequent years.

La Vida has since supported highly effective grassroots projects in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; some of which we support on a continuing basis and some which are now complete.

The grants aided projects in areas such as youth development, education initiatives and school expansions, as well as community health and environmental programmes.

Despite being a relatively small charity, so far La Vida



has raised over £1 million through sponsorship, fundraising events, direct donations and partnerships with other foundations. We estimate the funding we have deployed has directly impacted the lives of over 100,000 disadvantaged children and their families in Latin America.

Why support La Vida?

La Vida focuses exclusively on projects supporting communities' health, environment and education. Our targeted support has a positive impact on lives in some of the world's poorest countries.



La Vida has raised more than **£1 million** so far



98p of every £1 raised is used to create real and lasting change

Everyone working for La Vida does so on a voluntary basis. We have an impressively low cost base with almost every penny raised going directly to our projects.

We have a rigorous governance process. We go to great lengths to ensure funds are properly allocated, well-monitored and have a significant, long-term local impact.



We have helped more than **100,000** disadvantaged children and families





CASE STUDY

Kimberley, age 15
PROJECT SOMOS,
GUATEMALA

“At Project Somos, the staff help you. They never turn their back on you”

Kimberley is from a large family and was unfortunately unable to continue her education after sixth grade.

Without key skills or qualifications, a future of financial security and freedom seemed out of reach until Kimberley completed an eight-week cookery course with Project Somos. She learned to cook and bake, and take care of health through diet. She has shared her skills with her family, helping them to live a healthier lifestyle.

Thanks to the encouragement and dedication of Project Somos' team, Kimberley has found the confidence to dream of a positive future and hopes to find a way to study to become a nurse.

Our year

From our first-ever Leaders Forum, to the revival of a fundraising favourite, 2023 was a year of growth and opportunity for La Vida.

We raised **£79,544** through donations, of which almost 90% has already been distributed directly to our projects.

In March, our **annual fundraising event** – Salsa Frenzy – contributed £15,000 to our funds.



Education for the Children Foundation, Guatemala

This year we had **significant donations** from the Royal Bank of Canada plus another large financial institution, as well as the Alan Goodwin and Aimee Reynolds Charity. We also had considerable donations from private individuals and companies, and our supporters continued to sponsor children's education at Villa Maria School in Peru.

Our project leaders met with our trustees online at **La Vida's first-ever Leaders Forum** in January to share experience, knowledge and advice. They discussed topics including safeguarding, fundraising strategies and programme development. Key points included funding flexibility, social media connectivity and core values.

We granted **£70,205 to causes throughout Latin America** and continued to provide support to the following projects: Amantani (Peru), Corcovado (Costa Rica), educate. (Honduras), Education for the Children Foundation (Guatemala), El Rio Foundation (Colombia), Fondo Guadalupe Musalem (Mexico), Helping Hands (Bolivia), Mano Vuelta (Mexico), Poder Joven (Colombia) and Villa Maria School (Peru).

Three **new projects** received funding from us in 2023: Project Somos Children's Village (Guatemala), Plant your Future (Peru), and Healing Venezuela.

» For further details on these projects and La Vida's impact, turn to page 10

Our Trustees



« Katy Vatis Co-Founder and Chairperson

Katy co-founded La Vida with Helen Ilsley in early 2006. She has a degree in Economics with Spanish. Most recently, Katy worked at Fullerton Fund Management as a Senior Analyst in Emerging Markets. She has spent most of her career as a Fund Manager covering Latin American equity markets. Katy's travel to the region has given her first-hand experience of its extreme levels of poverty and the need for improvements in health and education.

» Helen Ilsley Co-Founder and Treasurer

Co-Founder Helen spent 15 years as a stockbroker in the Latin American investment community. Having left the City in 2012 to set up her own property asset business, Helen is now an executive coach, heading up Business Development for the Executive Coaching Consultancy, specialising in helping businesses retain and develop their talented women. Helen has a Business Economics degree and is an accredited member of the Association of Coaching.

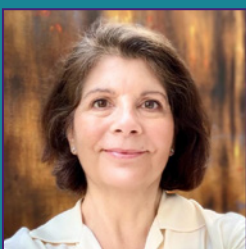


« Zarela Feeney Trustee

Zary joined La Vida in December 2012. She began her career with Ernst & Young's Financial Advisory Team in Washington DC where she focused on Latin America. She moved to London to join Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's M&A team. She has subsequently been involved in the non-profit sector and serves on the boards of foundations that have a significant social and environmental impact in Latin America. She has a MBA from George Washington University.

» Ivonne Cantu Trustee

Ivonne joined La Vida in 2018. She is Head of Investor Relations and Sustainability at Benchmark Holdings plc, and a Director of Creo Medical plc and Primary Health Properties plc. Ivonne is also Chair of Info Latinos, a UK-based charity providing support to the Latin American community in the UK. Prior to this, Ivonne was a corporate finance adviser for 20 years at Merrill Lynch and Cenkos Securities. She has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

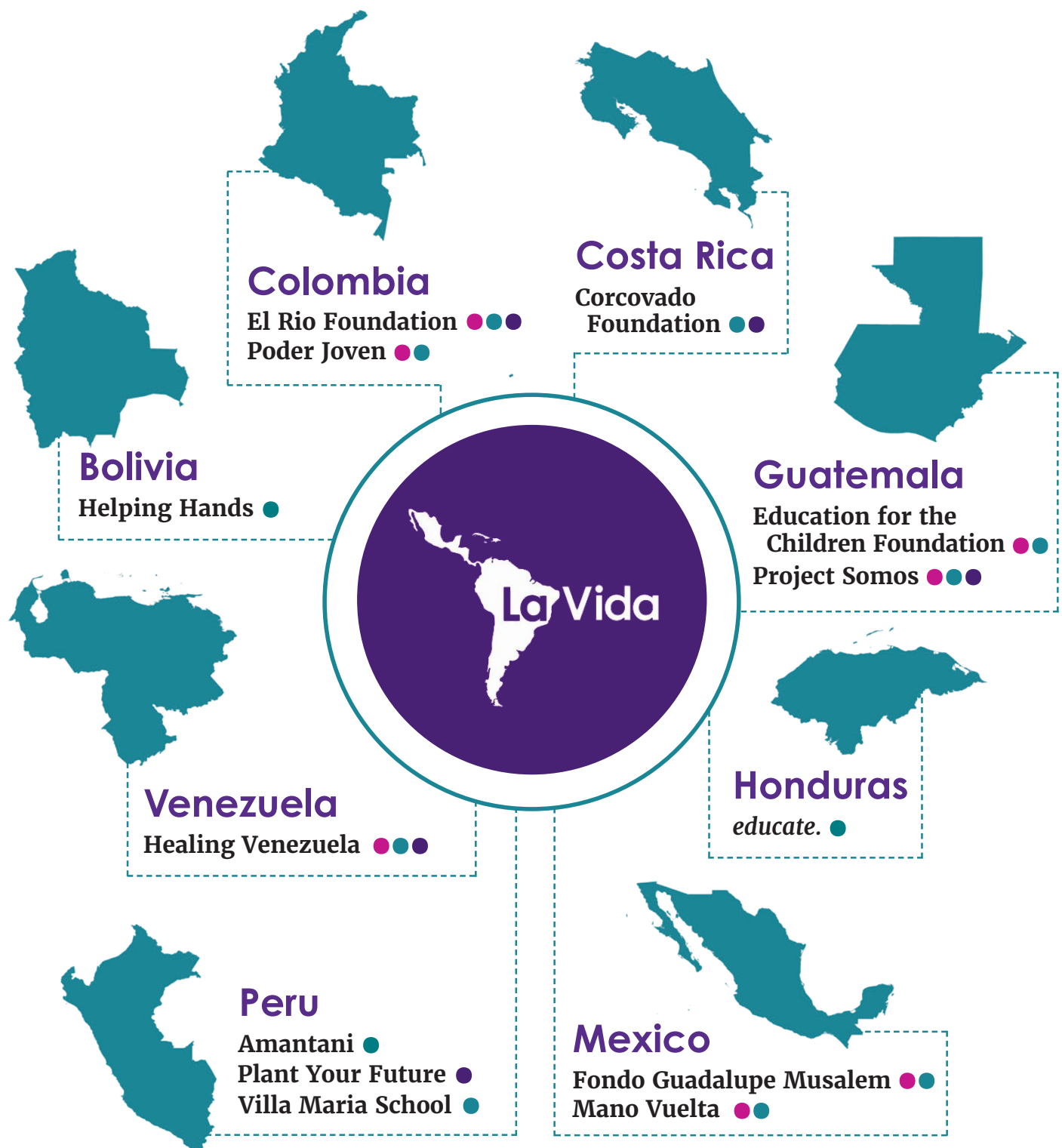


« Susana Knaudt Trustee

Susana joined La Vida in 2023. She has a background in financial regulation, development finance and education. She worked at Citibank, the Central Bank of Bolivia and the World Bank, working on financial sector reform and micro-lending projects in Latin America. She believes education and grassroots financing are key to securing better futures for local communities. Susana has an Economics degree from LSE and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard.

» For further details of our Trustees and volunteers please visit www.lavida.org.uk

Our projects



Project updates

AMANTANI

>> Grant in 2023: £3750

>> Location: Peru

>> Partner since: 2014



Amantani works with young people in the Peruvian Andes, enabling them to access high-quality education and fair employment, and helping to stimulate social development in rural communities. They also support women producing artisanal goods to foster financial independence.

La Vida supports Amantani's Transitions Project, which has so far helped over 150 indigenous young women and men to access further education, including 23 in 2023. Three phases of the project assist young people by preparing them for further education, supporting them throughout their studies, improving their literacy, numeracy, computer competency and interpersonal skills, and facilitating access to formal employment. La Vida's grant funds financial scholarships, as well as academic and psychosocial advice.

When the project started in 2016, only seven residents in the District of Ccorca had accessed further education. Since then, Amantani has helped 150 young people to study after secondary school and find fair employment.

For more information, visit www.amantani.org.uk

CORCOVADO FOUNDATION

>> Grant in 2023: £6,604

>> Location: Costa Rica

>> Partner since: 2020



Corcovado Foundation supports economic development and environmental education in the southern pacific region of Costa Rica. This area, known as the Osa Peninsula, is one of the most important conservation areas in Central America. It is famous for its biodiversity and pristine wilderness, and is home to half of all species found in Costa Rica. Isolation has helped to protect the natural resources of the area, but it has also proven to be a huge challenge for its communities, who live in poor socio-economic conditions and hence must exploit their natural surroundings in order to survive.

La Vida's support helps Corcovado to run a programme of reforestation, regenerative agriculture, environmental groups, community support, and educational activities in different communities in the region.

During 2023, Corcovado worked with seven schools, 250 students and 25 families to advocate for sustainable productivity. They also received help from 115 national and foreign volunteers who participated in environmental projects, and continued to work with schools and businesses. Since the Foundation's inception, more than 4,500 students have received environmental education in their schools, 500 tourism employees have been trained in good practice, and more than 25 companies have been helped to reduce single-use plastic within their businesses. In addition, over 10,000 sea turtles' nests have been protected, and over 100,000 hatchlings have been freed to the ocean.

For more information, visit www.corcovadofoundation.org

educate.

» Grant in 2023: **£4,315**

» Location: **Honduras**

» Partner since: **2021**



Grass-roots NGO **educate.** works to empower children and young people in Honduras through community-driven initiatives focused on education. In 2023, La Vida sponsored 10 students through **educate.**'s secondary-school scholarship programme, which supports high-potential students from low-income backgrounds and provides access to high-school and university education. The project's Youth Centre is now up and running, aided by a computer lab funded by La Vida. The centre provides space for scholars and teachers to host art courses, computer classes and community workshops.

This year, **educate.** have developed and solidified their holistic approach to student scholarships. Their scholarships include engagement in weekly programmes focusing on technology, art, sport, communications, environmental protection and youth rights. Young people gain skills, develop a sense of belonging, and create impact in their communities. The challenges that come with growing up in a context of poverty and violence can lead to serious mental health challenges. Psychological support is provided by a new partnership with a network of psychologists who offer virtual counselling services.

In addition, **educate.** keep track of students' progress and set up peer-to-peer tutoring sessions at the Youth Centre when needed. All scholars participate in monthly personal development and leadership workshops.

Community projects such as new school libraries, donation of resources, teacher training, and the Youth Centre all help to strengthen the public education system from within, driving long-lasting change at the institutional level.

For more information, visit www.educate-ngo.com

EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN FOUNDATION

» Grant in 2023: **£4,860**

» Location: **Guatemala**

» Partner since: **2022**



Education for the Children Foundation runs the School of Hope, *La Esperanza*, in the Jocotenango region, near Antigua. This urban area has one of the lowest literacy rates in the western hemisphere. Extreme poverty, gang crime, domestic violence and alcoholism are everyday realities for local children. The school's admissions process checks that prospective pupils would not otherwise have access to an education, and ensures its students are fed, clothed, have safe water to drink, and any medical and mental health issues identified. The school has a holistic approach – while it follows the Guatemalan curriculum, it also focuses on wellbeing, health and entrepreneurial skills.

In 2023, La Vida continued to sponsor a cohort of nine children at the School of Hope. One of the students left the area and La Vida welcomed the younger sister of one of the remaining students into the cohort.

As 2023 was the first normal year of schooling since 2020, every effort since has been focused on making up for lost time and rebuilding core skills such as reading and writing. As well as the continuation of a Saturday School programme, tutoring has been implemented in both primary and middle school to ensure every student is getting the tailored support they need. Currently, 68 primary students and 46 middle school students are being tutored.

Besides academic achievement, the children benefit from two nutritious meals per day. The school also undertakes health evaluations and provides treatment to students where they are able, as well as eye tests and dental hygiene education/fluoride.

For more information, visit www.eftcfoundation.org

EL RIO FOUNDATION

>> Grant in 2023: £9,160

>> Location: Colombia

>> Partner since: 2021



El Rio Foundation provides ten educational, sporting, environmental and wellbeing programmes that positively impact the local community around Buritaca. La Vida supports El Rio's Academic Tutoring programme, which provides a safe, positive space for disadvantaged children to access tailored academic and wellbeing support. Aiming to close a huge gap in education caused by covid, the programme offers a high teacher-pupil ratio, with personalised plans for children with challenging behaviour, designed by their psychologist and delivered in tandem with their teaching team.

With little funding in the Colombian education system, schools are struggling. Insufficient money for teachers means class sizes are large, teachers often lack professional qualifications, and classes frequently have to wait for a teacher to become available. Children who missed school for almost two years during the pandemic are behind with key skills such as reading, writing and basic maths. Children with significant challenges in their home lives (such as violence, absent parents, or drug abuse) have limited options for accessing external support or advice.

In addition, previous generations' schooling was regularly interrupted by the 55-year Colombian civil war, so parents often have a low level of education and find it difficult to support their children with homework. Many pupils also come from large families, and childcare responsibilities for other family members make it difficult to learn at home.

The challenges are huge but El Rio's work, particularly its Academic Tutoring programme, ensures the young people they work with are making huge strides year on year.

For more information, visit www.riohostel.co/foundation

CASE STUDY

Cleyde, tour guide
AMANTANI, PERU

“I kept up my studies despite the pandemic, and now I have a new career”

After struggling to gain the qualifications to study tourism at university, Ccorca resident Cleyde joined Amantani's Pathways project, and forged ahead with a new future as a tour guide.

Amantani provided Cleyde with a scholarship, the support of their Youth Hub, English classes, a laptop and mobile data. With the encouragement of her tutor, Cleyde was able to keep studying hard throughout the covid upheaval and graduated in 2022.

She now works for the Office of Tourism at the Municipality of Ccorca, has experience as a professional tour guide, and is continuing her studies.



FONDO GUADALUPE MUSALEM

>> Grant in 2023: £1,100

>> Location: Mexico

>> Partner since: 2022



Fondo Guadalupe Musalem helps disadvantaged young women, mainly from rural, indigenous communities in Oaxaca, Mexico, to attain secondary and university education and develop personal skills, grounded in ethical values. The state of Oaxaca has one of the largest indigenous populations in the country, and such communities frequently reside in rural localities where access to secondary education is limited.

By providing educational bursaries, enrichment workshops and one-on-one support, Fondo Guadalupe Musalem supports talented girls from indigenous backgrounds, enabling them to complete high school and, in many cases, go on to obtain a university degree. Since its foundation in 1996, the organisation has awarded a total of 181 high-school bursaries and has supported 66 young women into university. In 2022/23, Fondo Guadalupe Musalem aided 25 high-school pupils and 16 university students.

In 2023, La Vida funded two bursaries, which were granted to two girls – Betza and Brenda. Sixteen-year-old Betza comes from a rural community without a local high school. Thanks to the bursary, Betza is able to afford accommodation, transport, uniform and school supplies. In addition to achieving top marks, Betza dedicates time to volunteering in her local community. Brenda is a high-school student. She particularly values the extracurricular activities and workshops provided, as well as the opportunity to volunteer in community programmes, which make her feel capable and empowered.

Brenda says: "This has changed my life, by giving me knowledge about the world and the opportunity to participate in activities that push me out of my comfort zone."

For more information, visit www.fondoguadalupeemusalem.org

HEALING VENEZUELA

>> Grant in 2023: **£10,000**

>> Location: **Venezuela**

>> Partner since: **2023**



Economic crisis has deeply impacted the foundations of public health in Venezuela. Hospitals have struggled with scarcity of basic equipment, medicine, skilled staff and access to clean water. One in three families are 'food insecure' and 26% of children are malnourished. Healing Venezuela provides aid to less-privileged Venezuelans through a series of high-impact programmes including scholarships for junior doctors, installation of water treatment plants in hospitals, and reproductive health campaigns. The charity also provides food for children and advocates for Venezuelans internationally.

Since 2014, Healing Venezuela has helped more than 400,000 people, including 400 junior doctors, and they have provided 400,000 meals for children. In 2023, with support from La Vida, 100 junior doctors benefited from Healing Venezuela's scholarships, and they carried out 170,000 consultations. An additional 20 senior doctors received specialised training, and 60,000 meals were provided for children.

For more information, visit www.healingvenezuela.org

HELPING HANDS

>> Grant in 2023: **£1,702**

>> Location: **Bolivia**

>> Partner since: **2009**

Helping Hands provides tailored financial support, mentoring and an enrichment programme for disadvantaged young people in and around La Paz, Bolivia. Participants are encouraged to complete their studies and take their first steps into working life. Originally focused on teenagers leaving care, Helping Hands has expanded its

>>

PROJECT OVERVIEW



activities, supporting more than 300 students since the organisation's foundation in 2004. In 2023, Helping Hands supported 65 students, of which La Vida supported three.

Helping Hands' enrichment programme is informed by the needs and views of the young people it supports, details of which are obtained via an annual survey. Recent workshops have focused on self esteem, resilience and public speaking. In addition, Helping Hands encourages students to volunteer in their local community, which helps them foster local connections, and develop skills and confidence.

For more information, visit www.helpinghands-bolivia.com

MANO VUELTA

» Grant in 2023: **£5,000**

» Location: **Mexico**

» Partner since: **2020**

Led by a multidisciplinary team of indigenous and Afro-Mexican professional women from Oaxaca, Mano Vuelta's mission is to promote an equitable life and rights for children and women through educational, community and research initiatives with a focus on gender, cultural and ethnic diversity. A highlight of Mano Vuelta's programme is an annual retreat for girls and young women exploring topics such as gender equality, identity and connection.

In 2023, La Vida funded Mano Vuelta's sixth Artistic and Feminist Retreat, which was held in Mazunte, a coastal region in Oaxaca. The aim of the retreat was to empower indigenous girls and young women aged between 15-25 to exercise their rights, helping to address issues including reproductive rights, harassment and discrimination, as well as raising

PROJECT OVERVIEW

their aspirations to continue their education and pursue a career of their choice. During the retreat, Mano Vuelta organises a number of activities which involve the participants' families and the local community, further extending their impact.

For more information, visit www.girlsnotbrides.org



PLANT YOUR FUTURE

» Grant in 2023: **£5,000**

» Location: **Peru**

» Partner since: **2023**

Plant your Future works in the Peruvian Amazon to promote sustainable land use. The charity provides support for reforestation and sustainable agricultural systems on degraded lands through agroforestry. Rural smallholder farmers are empowered with regular incomes through the commercialisation of natural assets, including fruit, carbon and timber. Plant your Future's work helps to fight poverty, protect the natural habitat of critically endangered species, and combat climate change.

Since 2009, the charity has planted over 150,000 trees, restored 150 hectares of deforested land, and has expanded activities to Ucayali, where the rainforest was cut down decades ago. It has also achieved certification under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard and the Verified Carbon Standard.

La Vida's contributions help the organisation to meet the upfront costs of planting and maintenance, and provide tools and ongoing technical support to ensure that the trees and crops planted continue to thrive. For example, training includes how to manage »

PROJECT OVERVIEW



pests and diseases, and effectively prune and graft trees. The goal is to enable farmers to become self-sufficient within five years by helping navigate the challenges preventing them from returning to sustainable farming. The farmers are helped to introduce an 'agroforestry system' into their land: a combination of growing both long-term (trees) and short-term (crops) produce, and they share this knowledge with their community.

For more information, visit www.plantyourfuture.org.uk

PODER JOVEN FOUNDATION

» Grant in 2023: **£10,436**

» Location: **Colombia**

» Partner since: **2010**

Based in Medellin, Poder Joven provides support to 75 children and adolescents (aged five to 17) living in precarious conditions, including insufficient food, limited healthcare access, exposure to the dangers of drugs, narco-gangs, and the absence of functional family structures. This comprehensive program offers essential services ranging from balanced meals and medical treatments to education on disease prevention, hygiene practices, and academic support.

La Vida's funding has helped Poder Joven to provide 45,000 balanced meals, covered medical treatments for 11 children and enabled health promotion activities, sports and yoga practices. Children in the public school system have also been offered school kits and tutoring.

La Vida's grant played a crucial role in preventing children from engaging in activities »

PROJECT OVERVIEW

that pose significant risks within the community. These activities include drug consumption, dealing, sexual exploitation, disease prevention, hygiene, involvement in gangs and road safety. The children's families also experienced a positive impact as parents could engage in full-time employment, with the knowledge that their children were well-cared for, empowering parents, particularly women. Training and workshops were offered to 41 parents on topics ranging from parenting and communication strategies, to managing finances at home. Workshops were also held for children and adolescents on life projects, self-esteem, rights, duties, environmental awareness, and citizenship.

In addition, La Vida's grant enabled 22 adolescents to receive job training in hairdressing and beauty. This training equips them with the skills necessary to contribute financially to their families.

For more information, visit www.fundacionpoderjoven.org



PROJECT SOMOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

» Grant in 2023: £1,012

» Location: Guatemala

» Partner since: 2023

The Project Somos Children's Village is an eco-sustainable community aiming to break the cycle of poverty in Guatemala by providing quality education and healthy food to families in need.

In Guatemala, education is not free. Families living on little income cannot afford to send their children to school, and child labour is common. Project Somos aims to break the »



cycle of poverty through education and nutrition. As an education centre, the Village provides early-childhood schooling, academic support and nutritional programmes to children in the surrounding community who were falling through the cracks of the Guatemalan system.

Project Somos further supports the children's families by providing vocational training and opportunities to the mothers, as well as parenting classes in topics such as nutrition and hygiene.

La Vida provided Project Somos with funding for two-month cookery training for six teenage girls. Skills help girls escape early marriage and violence. The girls will learn to cook in the village and, after training, will be able to help the cooks. When they reach working age, they will be able to sustain themselves with practical skills and experience. La Vida is monitoring the progress of the girls and will interview them on completion.

For more information, visit www.projectsomos.org



VILLA MARIA SCHOOL

» Grant in 2023: £7,266

» Location: Peru

» Partner since: 2007



Villa Maria is a school in Villa Maria del Triunfo, a deprived area on the outskirts of Lima, which is underserved by state schools. Villa Maria School was set up as a charitable organisation to help close the significant gap in the provision of basic education locally.

The school provides 110 primary school students from low-income families with a quality education, free to the neediest children, as well as a programme of outings and extra-curricular activities designed to broaden young minds and offer stimulating, educational experiences.

Villa Maria School's aim is to develop the next generation of community leaders, with strong ethical values and a commitment to help the local community and protect the environment. The school promotes a broad practical education including creative skills, entrepreneurship, environmental awareness and self reflection.

La Vida has supported the school since 2007, funding the costs of 26 children per year and providing additional facilities such as computers, books and sports equipment as needs arise. In addition, La Vida has brought in third-party sponsors for, on average, another 20 children per year and has helped secure donations from other organisations including the Maitri Trust. The school is run in conjunction with gap-year organisation Quest Overseas, which brings UK students to Peru to volunteer, helping with leisure activities for local children during the school holidays as well as building new homes for the poorest families in the community through its charitable arm, Quest4Change.

For more information, visit www.lavida.org.uk

Financial review

Policy on reserves

For 2023, La Vida kept six months of our ongoing commitments to projects as reserves. We will continue to do this in 2024.

For the period from January 2023 to December 2023

Section A: Receipts and payments

A1 RECEIPTS	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)	Total funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Donations	42,337	16,673		59,010	37,173
Fundraising events	20,444			20,444	
Interest on deposit	90			90	79
SUB TOTAL (Gross income for AR)	62,871	16,673		79,544	37,251

A2 Asset and investment sales (see table)					
SUB TOTAL					
TOTAL RECEIPTS	62,871	16,673		79,544	37,251

A3 PAYMENTS	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)	Total funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Cost of fundraising events	1455			1455	750
Internet costs	198.00			198	
Grants to LATAM projects	53,533	16,673		70,205	44,297
FX and bank charges	66			66	81
SUB TOTAL	55,252	16,673		71,925	45,128

A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)					
SUB TOTAL					
TOTAL PAYMENTS	55,252	16,673		71,925	45,128

Net of receipts/ (payments)	7,620	0		7,620	-7,876
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	65,024	15,414		80,438	88,314
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	72,643	15,414		88,057	80,438

Section B: Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds	Unrestricted funds (nearest £)	Restricted funds (nearest £)	Endowment funds (nearest £)
Cash CAF bank balance	72,643	15,414	
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	72,643	15,414	

Signed by two Trustees, on behalf of all Trustees:

Helen Isley

Helen Isley, date of approval: 20/09/2024

K J Vatis

Katy Vatis, date of approval: 20/09/2024

Independent examiner's report

**Report to the
trustees/
members of**

LA VIDA Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2023

Charity no.

1115796

**Set out
on pages**

24-26

**Responsibilities
and basis of
report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed**Date**

20/09/2024

Name

Tracey Falero

**Relevant
professional
qualifications or
body (if any)**

Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA)

Address

c/o LA VIDA
Gordon House, Gordon Ave, London, SW14 8DZ, UK

Administrative details

Charity name	La Vida – Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America
Charity number	1115796
Registered address	GORDON HOUSE GORDON AVENUE LONDON SW14 8DZ
Trustees	Ivonne Cantu Zarela Feeney Helen Ilsley Susana Knaudt Katy Vatis
Independent examiner	Tracey Falero (ACA)

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Trust deed
How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

La Vida – Trustee Selection Process Statement:

- Interest in the Latin American region and improving the conditions of its people.
 - Skills and experience that add value to the board, such as good relationships with potential sponsors and strong marketing skills for fundraising.
 - Good character.
 - Nomination by one of the Trustees.
 - Unanimous approval by current Trustees.
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Objectives and Activities

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To further any charitable purpose for the benefit of disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America. In particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty and advancing education.

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Provide funding for specific health, education and environment projects identified in any country in Latin America.

La Vida is 100% volunteer run. All of the Trustees and Executive Committee work on a

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voluntary basis and aim to keep expenses to a minimum so the money raised goes directly to the project beneficiaries.

Donations and fundraising have allowed us to improve and directly benefit the lives of over 100,000 children and their families across Latin America.

We continue to fund health, education and environment projects throughout the region. In 2023, we continued to support our existing ongoing projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. We funded new projects in Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela.

Additional details of objectives and activities

Policy on grant making

The Trustees of La Vida endeavour to directly grant funding to specific projects that relieve sickness and/or improve education in any Latin American country. Preference will be given to independent projects, but trustees could also look to partner with local organisations that will see through the success and completion of compelling projects in health, education and the environment in Latin America.

The project committee meets every 3-6 months to discuss and approve new project proposals. We assess our projects in depth and have a rigorous selection process. Each grant application has to complete our project proposal form and give proof of identity of their organisation and the people running it, plus two years of bank statements.

Every project we support has a partnership agreement signed by La Vida and the organisation receiving the project funding which includes all of our reporting requirements. The agreement sets out the timeline of the project with final goals to be reached, all of our reporting requirements such as photos of the project, receipts for items purchased etc.

The executive committee, all of whom are volunteers, continues to help organise fundraising events, develop the website, publish newsletters and broaden the reach of the charity. ■

LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1115796

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting communities' health, education and
environment

20
22



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About La Vida

La Vida was co-founded in 2006 by Katy Vatis and Helen Ilsley following a business trip to Brazil in February that year, when they met Dr. Monica Nogueira, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon trying to raise funds to train her peers in the non-surgical 'Ponseti Technique' of treating children with clubfoot. La Vida raised the funds needed in the UK, and the project was a success; just in 2008, 556 doctors were trained who helped 5,000 children. Many more thousands have been successfully treated using this technique over the subsequent years.

La Vida has since supported highly effective grassroots projects in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela, some of which we support on a continuing basis and some which are now complete. The grants were for projects in areas such as youth development, supporting primary and secondary education initiatives and school expansions, as well as community health and environmental programmes.

Although La Vida is a relatively small charity, so far we have raised over £ 1 million through sponsorship, our annual La Vida fundraising events, direct donations and partnerships with other foundations. The funding we have deployed we estimate will have directly impacted the lives of over 100,000 disadvantaged children and their families in Latin America.

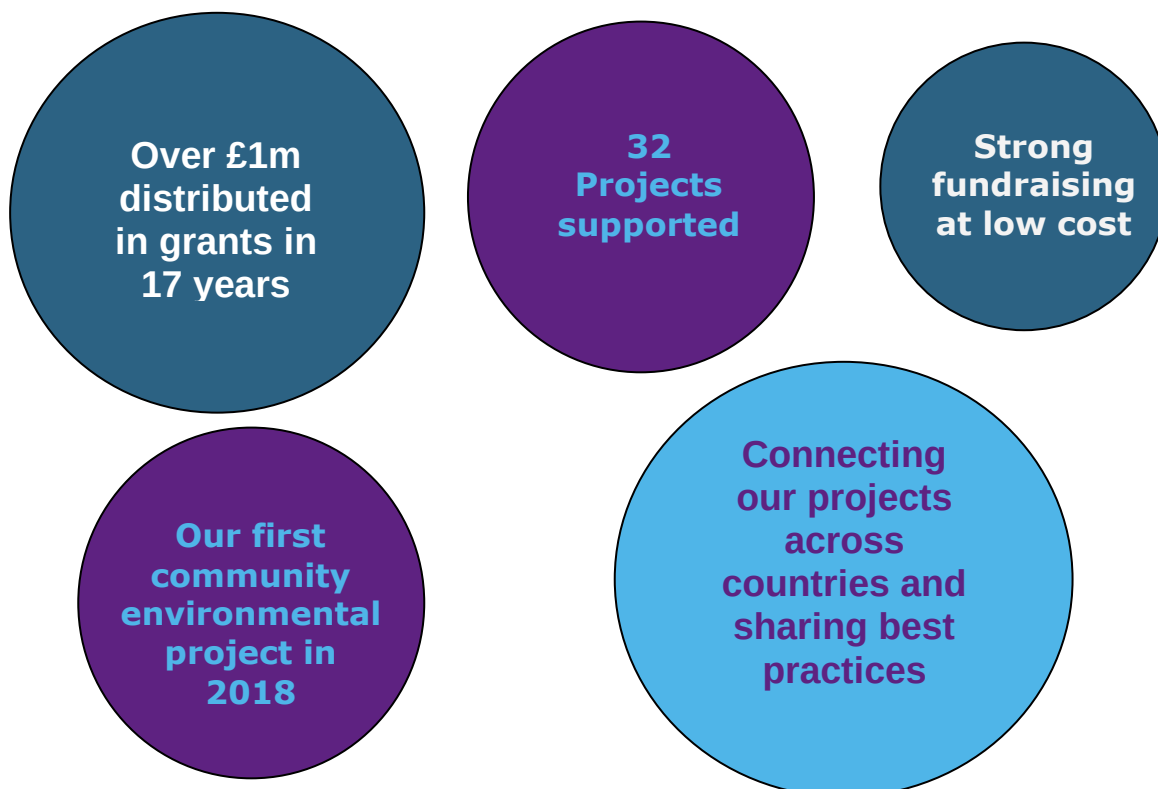
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- Everyone working for La Vida does so on a voluntary basis – we have an impressively low cost base with over 98% of funds raised going directly to our projects.
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Our Achievements



Our trustees



Katy Vatis
Founder

Katy has a degree in Economics with Spanish. She most recently worked at Fullerton Fund Management as a Senior Analyst in the Emerging Markets team and has spent most of her career as a Fund Manager covering Latin American equity markets. Her work has involved a lot of travel to the region where she has experienced first hand the extreme levels of poverty and the need for improvements in health and education.



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Helen spent 15 years as a stockbroker in the Latin American investment community. Having left the City in 2012 and set up her own property asset business, Helen is now an executive coach, heading up Business Development for the Executive Coaching Consultancy, specialising in helping businesses retain and develop their talented women. Helen has a Business Economics degree and is an accredited member of the Association of Coaching.



Zary Feeney

Zary joined La Vida in December 2012. She began her career with Ernst & Young's Financial Advisory Team in Washington DC where she focused on Latin America. She moved to London to join Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's M&A team. She has subsequently become involved in the non-profit sector and serves on the boards of foundations that are having a significant social impact in the areas of the arts, health, education and the environment in Latin America. She has a MBA from George Washington University. She is fluent in English and Spanish, with conversational Portuguese.



Ivonne Cantu

Ivonne grew up in Mexico and has been living in London since 1996. Currently she is head of Investor Relations at Benchmark plc, a global aquaculture business, and a Director of Creo Medical plc, a medical devices tech company. Prior to joining Benchmark, Ivonne was a corporate finance adviser for 20 years at Merrill Lynch and at Cenkos Securities. She has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BSc Engineering. Since 2016 she has been advising small UK charities as a member of Pilotlight, a charity that connects professionals with charitable organisations.



Ana Beatriz Alencar

Ana Beatriz is Brazilian and has been living in London since 1997. Ana Beatriz has a background in digital development and project management. She has a degree in Electrical Engineering from PUC-Rio, an MBA from Cass Business School and an MSc in Management of Innovation. She works at the Ministry of Justice Digital & Technology. She has previously volunteered for Cancer Research UK, Task Brazil, CAFOD and London 2012. She joined La Vida in 2013 as she strongly believes in fundraising for good projects in Latin America.

Summary of 2022 projects

In 2022, we raised £37,173 through donations which was lower than previous years as we did not hold our annual fundraising event and did not run any specific fundraising campaigns.

This year we had a significant donation from the Royal Bank of Canada. We also had some larger donations from private individuals and companies and our usual supporters continued to 'sponsor a child's education'.

We have continued to keep in regular contact over video calls with our projects and we have continued to provide additional help to certain projects still suffering the impacts of the Covid crisis, by granting extra funds for food etc. where needed. Some of our projects have had to adapt their activities but many have returned to normal operations following the pandemic.

Summary of the year

During 2022, we granted £44,297 to causes throughout Latin America. We continued to support the following projects: Amantani, Peru; El Rio Foundation in Colombia; Helping Hands in La Paz, Bolivia; Poder Joven in Medellin, Colombia and Villa Maria in Lima, Peru.

We funded three new education projects in 2022; Mano Vuelta and Fondo Guadalupe Musalem (FGM) in Mexico and Education for the Children in Guatemala. More details of these projects can be found below.

Our projects

Amantani



Education

Grant in 2022: £4000

Location: Peru

Partner since: 2014

Beneficiaries: 100

Amantani's Transitions Project was developed in response to the growing need for support for school leavers in rural communities. Residents of

rural Cusco are 75% less likely to enter further education than their urban peers and studies show that people who study after secondary school can access better job opportunities than those who don't.

The project facilitates access to further education for over 100 indigenous young women and men from two rural communities in the southern Andes near Cusco, Peru. It has three phases that help young people prepare for further education, support them throughout their studies and facilitate access to fair and formal employment.

When the project started in 2016, only 7 residents in the District of Ccorca had accessed further education. Since then, Amantani's work has expanded to the district of Huanquite, and 130 young people from these communities have had the opportunity to study after secondary school. Today, 83 young people – over half of them women – are studying at further education institutions, with Amantani's support. 36 young people have completed further education courses so far, and of these graduates, 19 are currently employed in jobs with fair working conditions, 12 with formal contracts.

La Vida's support enables young people to access high-quality further education, through the provision of financial scholarships, as well as academic and psychosocial support. Further education enables indigenous young people to access fair employment and earn better wages, empowering them to break the poverty cycle for their families.

For more information about the project, please visit [Amantani's website](#).

Educate.



Education

Grant in 2022: £5334

Location: Honduras

Partner since: 2021

Beneficiaries: 330

In 2022 we funded the educate. Youth Centre computer lab which is located in a newly renovated municipal library building in Trinidad and will be the base for their scholarship programme, workshops, and community events going forward. This computer lab provides public access to computers, printers, and a projector for community events. It will also be used to organise weekly classes on computer literacy for primary and secondary school students, including their high school scholarship students. These will be run by one of their current university scholars, Javier Reyes, who is in his 3rd year of Computer Science and who himself proposed this idea. The Computer Lab will strengthen educate.'s contribution to the local community by providing a space where Trinidad's youth can develop their IT skills and be inspired towards pursuing their education in this area.

La Vida also started sponsoring high school students in 2022. educate. works to empower children and youth in Honduras through community-driven educational initiatives. In 2017 they started a university scholarship programme, which has been running since then. However, through conversations with families, local educators and young people, a clear need emerged for greater support towards access to high school as well.

In the "zonas cafetaleras" (coffee zones) of Trinidad, Santa Barbara, most schools only go up to 6th grade. After primary school, the majority of students from these communities start to work. According to the World Bank, only 43% of students in Honduras finish 9th grade, let alone their "bachillerato" (12th grade) diploma. In rural areas like Trinidad, this percentage is even lower. The greatest barrier impeding students from the mountain villages in accessing high school is distance: the high schools in Trinidad centre are too far away to walk to, and transport is too expensive. By hiring a minibus, they are able to collect and drop off students each day so that they can attend classes. They also provide uniforms (a requirement in Honduran public schools) and essential school materials.

Aside from a passion to continue their formal education, educate. seek out students who are also driven to give back to their communities. The scholars therefore also act as community leaders and role models. Each Saturday, they gather at the Trinidad Youth Centre for workshops and community engagement activities focused on arts, literacy and environmental protection. Ultimately, the goal of this programme is to provide opportunities for young people to pursue their passions, and to catalyse a community of youth who are engaged in driving long-lasting change in their communities.

Education for the Children



Education – New Project

Grant in 2022: £2430

Location: Guatemala

Partner since: 2022

Beneficiaries: 9

This year, La Vida introduced a new project in Guatemala. Education For The Children runs the School of Hope: 'La Esperanza' in the Jocotenango region. Jocotenango is an urban area with one of the lowest literacy

rates in the western hemisphere. The school's admissions process ensures that those children accepted would not have had access to an education otherwise, and ensures that students are fed, clothed, have safe water to drink and any medical and mental health issues identified. The school has a holistic approach - while it follows the Guatemalan curriculum, they also focus on wellbeing, health and entrepreneurial skills.

EFTC's School of Hope has more than 400 students ranging in age from 5 - 15 years with the ultimate aim of accessing employment in jobs readily available to those with qualifications in neighbouring cities.

La Vida provided funding for 9 students from June 2022 to May 2023 covering all the student's classroom materials, two nutritious school meals daily, and a small proportion of the teacher's salary.

El Rio Foundation



Education

Grant in 2022: £4020

Location: Colombia

Partner since: 2021

Beneficiaries: 69 children/teenagers and their families

In 2022, the Academic Tutoring programme we supported with the Lata Foundation and is now the flagship programme of the El Rio Foundation. They provided 300 Tutoring

sessions across four communities. Excluding holidays and the worst of the rainy season,

they provided 24 hours of teaching each week with an average of 17 children attending every session. Overall they had 5,116 attendances at Tutoring.

Their Academic tutoring programme was designed in response to a request by local parents and community leaders to help provide educational opportunities for local children, who as a result of the Covid pandemic, didn't go to school for nearly two years and still have huge gaps in their education.

They are delighted to report that children have improved skills across the board, not only in core subjects like Spanish, Maths and English but also in the soft skills they identified as most important through their community consultation: concentration, team-work, problem solving, empathy, confidence and communication.

FGM Mexico



Education – New Project

Grant in 2022: £3100

Location: Oaxaca, Mexico

Partner since: 2022

Beneficiaries: 2 bursaries

Fondo Guadalupe Musalem ("FGM") supports disadvantaged young women, mainly from rural, indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in Oaxaca, so that they can carry out their studies and achieve personal development grounded on ethical values. 62% of the population of the state of Oaxaca live in poverty and 21% in extreme poverty. Oaxaca is the entity with the largest indigenous population in Mexico representing almost 44% and located mainly in rural localities. Access to education, particularly secondary education is limited for the indigenous population and takes on worrying dimensions when it comes to women.

By providing educational bursaries and one-on-one support to bursary recipients, FGM supports talented girls from indigenous backgrounds so that they can complete secondary and university education. In the 2021 – 2022 school cycle, FGM supported 25 high school and 16 university students. From 1996 to 2022, the Guadalupe Musalem A. C. Fund has awarded a total of 173 scholarships for high school studies and has supported 56 of these young women into university.

Helping Hands



Education

Grant in 2022: £1757

Location: La Paz, Bolivia

Partner since: 2009

Beneficiaries: 4 students

Beneficiaries since 2009: 52 students

Helping Hands provides tailored financial support, mentoring and an enrichment programme to help disadvantaged young people in La Paz, Bolivia, complete their studies and take their first steps into the world of work. Originally focused on teenagers leaving care, Helping Hands has expanded its activities, supporting more than 300 students since its foundation in 2004.

In 2022, Helping Hands supported 122 students of which 79 are female. Of the 122 students supported in 2022, 46 were in elementary and high school, 30% are in high school, 32% were in technical careers, and 38% in university.

In 2022, Helping Hands was able to resume normal activities after the Covid-19 pandemic. At the core of these activities is an enrichment programme for all students delivered monthly. Helping Hands encourages its students to volunteer in their community. In 2022, students donated blood, gave presentations on the environment in schools, cleaned streets, gave food to the homeless, tutored younger students and much more. This effort receives very positive feedback from the students.

During the year, Helping Hands worked more closely with former students who are now well established in their careers and are able and willing to provide internship opportunities for current students and other forms of support for the Foundation.

In 2022, La Vida funded support for four students, two of which are in university and two are in high school. One of the students who received support from La Vida is a young single mother in the process of completing a university degree.

Mano Vuelta



Education

Grant in 2022: £4517

Location: Oaxaca, Mexico

Partner since: 2020

Beneficiaries: 30 camp participants

Led by a multidisciplinary team of indigenous and Afro-Mexican professional women from Oaxaca, Mano Vuelta's mission is to promote an equitable life and rights for children, youth and women through research,

training and community and educational initiatives with a focus on gender, cultural and ethnic diversity.

In 2022, La Vida supported Mano Vuelta by sponsoring an annual summer camp for girls and young women focused on gender equity. Issues addressed include human rights, domestic violence and family planning. Mano Vuelta applies a holistic approach incorporating drama and arts to raise awareness and promote self-confidence in young women creating a positive impact in their lives and in their communities.

Poder Joven



Education

Grant in 2022: £12,609

Location: Medellin, Colombia

Partner since: 2010

Beneficiaries: 75 children and their families, 61 teenagers on vocational training course.

We continue to support this pre and after hours school facility in a deprived area in the outskirts of Medellin which provides children with food,

educational, medical and psychological support on a daily basis.

In 2022, we also funded vocational training courses for 61 teenagers who had finished school and wanted to learn beauty therapy or to be a barber. 24% of these found employment in these professions immediately following the completion of the courses.

Villa Maria



Education

Grant in 2022: £6530

Location: Lima, Peru

Partner since: 2007

Beneficiaries: 100 Primary school children and their families, school staff. 33 sponsorships in 2022.

In 2022, face to face teaching resumed in Peru. For Villa Maria, 2022 was a year of transition and reflection with the aim of incorporating the learnings from the pandemic and addressing student needs' arising from the return to the classroom. The use of technology which became an imperative during the pandemic has been incorporated into classroom teacher as a tool to enhance the teaching and maintain engagement with the students outside of the classroom.

In addition, the school has aimed to maintain the strong ties and collaboration with the students' families which was established during the pandemic and which enables the school to understand and address the specific needs resulting from each student's circumstances. This has been particularly important for certain students who required emotional support as they transitioned back to in-person schooling.

Financial statements and notes

Financial review

Policy on reserves: For 2022, La Vida kept 6 months of our ongoing commitments to projects as reserves. We will continue to do this in 2023.

For the period from January 2022 to December 2022

Section A: Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)	Total Funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Donations	33,043	4,130		37,173	57,757
Fundraising events					
Interest on Deposit	79			79	
Sub total (Gross Income AR)	33,121	4,130		37,251	57,757

A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub Total					

Total receipts	33,121	4,130		37,251	57,757
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A3 Payments					
Cost of fundraising events	750			750	
Internet costs					
Grants to Latam projects	37,767	6,530		44,297	55,639
FX and bank charges	81			81	96
Sub Total	38,598	6,530		45,128	55,735

A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Sub Total					

Total payments	38,598	6,530		45,128	55,735
-----------------------	--------	-------	--	--------	--------

Net of receipts/ (payments)	-5,476	-2400		-7,876	2,022
A5 Transfer between funds					
A6 Cash Funds last year end	70,500	17,814		88,314	86,291
Cash funds this year end	65,024	15,414		80,438	88,313

Section B: Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of period

B1 Cash donations	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)
CAF cash funds	65,024	15,414	
Total Cash Funds	65,024	15,414	

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all trustees:

Helen Ilsley, date of approval

Katy Vatis, date of approval

Independent examiner's report

**Report to the
trustees/
members of**

LA VIDA Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2022

Charity no.

1115796

**Set out on
pages**

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**Responsibilities
and basis of
report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022.**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

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Signed:



Date:

07/09/23

Name:

Tracey Falero

**Relevant
professional
qualification(s)
or body (if any):**

Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA)

Address:

c/o LA VIDA

Gordon House, Gordon Ave, London SW14 8DZ. UK.

Administrative details

Charity name: La Vida - Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

Charity Number: 1115796

Registered Address: GORDON HOUSE
GORDON AVENUE
LONDON
SW14 8DZ

Trustees: Ana Beatriz Alencar
Ivonne Cantu
Zarela Feeney
Helen Ilsley
Katy Vatis

Independent Examiner: Tracey Falero (ACA)

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Trustee selection methods: Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

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LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1115796

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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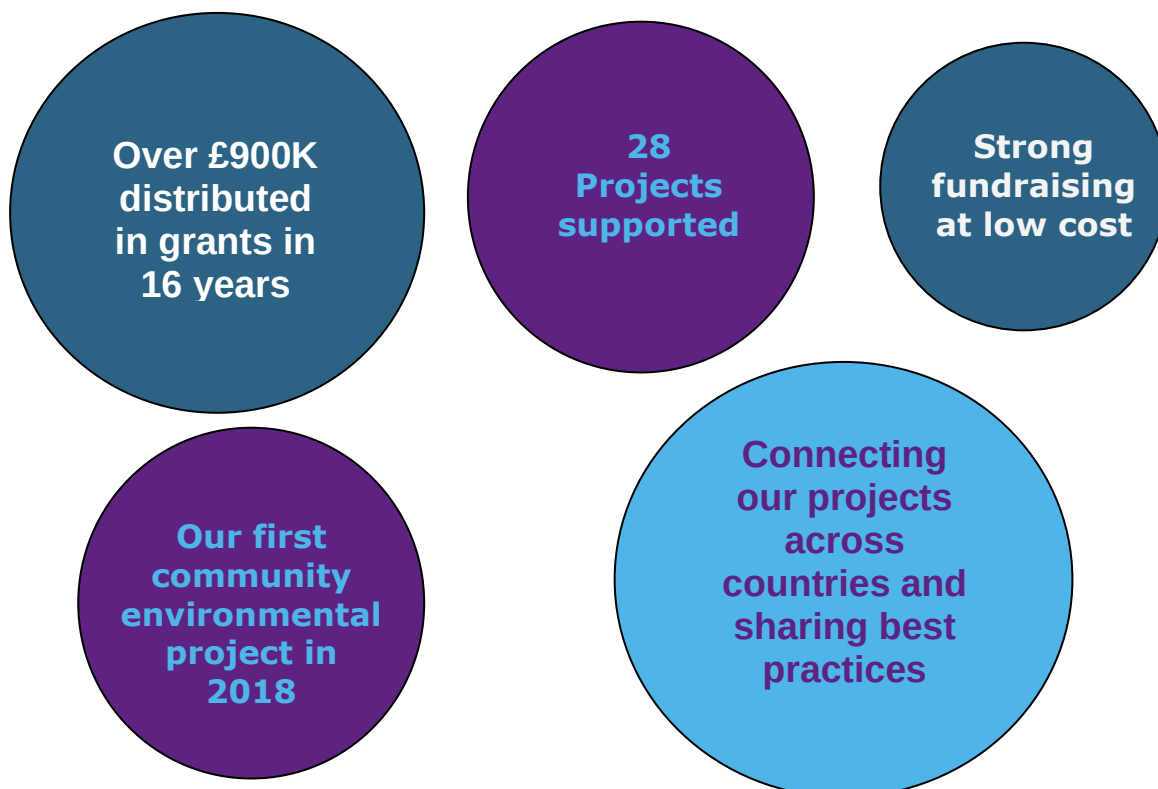
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Vatis**
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**Rosie
Bichard**

Rosie has a degree in French and Spanish from St John's

College, Cambridge and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She has worked in finance since 1990, and was involved with Latin America for 12 years. She currently works as a Senior Analyst at Lofoten Asset Management. Rosie has travelled extensively in Latin America and speaks Spanish and Portuguese. She became a La Vida trustee in 2008 and is also a board member of Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme.



**Ivonne
Cantu**

Ivonne grew up in Mexico and has been living in

London since 1996. Currently she is head of Investor Relations at Benchmark plc, a global aquaculture business, and a Director of Creo Medical plc, a medical devices technology company. Prior to joining Benchmark, Ivonne was a corporate finance adviser for 20 years at Merrill Lynch and at Cenkos Securities. She has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BSc Engineering. Since 2016 she has been advising small UK charities as a member of Pilotlight, a charity that connects professionals with charitable organisations.



**Ana
Beatriz
Alencar**

Ana Beatriz is Brazilian and has been

living in London since 1997. Ana Beatriz has a background in digital development and project management. She has a degree in Electrical Engineering from PUC-Rio, an MBA from Cass Business School and an MSc in Management of Innovation. She works at the Ministry of Justice Digital & Technology. She has previously volunteered for Cancer Research UK, Task Brazil, CAFOD and London 2012. She joined La Vida in 2013 as she strongly believes in fundraising for good projects in Latin America.



**Zary
Feeney**

Zary joined La Vida in December 2012. She

began her career with Ernst & Young's Financial Advisory Team in Washington DC where she focused on Latin America. She moved to London to join Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's M&A team. She has subsequently become involved in the non-profit sector and serves on the boards of foundations that are having a significant social impact in the areas of the arts, health, education and the environment in Latin America. She has a MBA from George Washington University. She is fluent in English and Spanish, with conversational Portuguese.

Summary of 2021 projects

In 2021, despite the effects of the Covid pandemic we had decent fundraising year, receiving £57,757 through donations. We did not have a fundraising event due to the Covid restrictions.

This year we had significant donations from the Royal Bank of Canada and Generation Asset Management. We also had a number of large donations from private individuals and our usual supporters continued to 'sponsor a child's education'.

Due to Covid restrictions, we have not been able to visit the projects in person in 2021, but we have continued to keep in regular contact over video calls and we have provided additional help to certain projects throughout the Covid crisis by granting extra funds for food etc. where needed. Many of our projects have had to adapt their activities to the current situation and we are working with them to see how they can best be supported going forward.

Summary of the year

During 2021, we granted £55,639 to causes throughout Latin America. We continued to support the following projects: Amantani, Peru; The Corcovado Foundation, Costa Rica; Helping Hands in La Paz, Bolivia; Poder Joven in Medellin, Colombia; Fundesoc in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Maya Midwifery, Guatemala; and Villa Maria in Lima, Peru. More details can be found below.

We funded two new projects in 2021; new health project for pregnancy prevention in Brazil called Nosso Instituto and El Rio Foundation in Colombia, providing after school academic tutoring to kids who have fallen behind in the pandemic.

Our projects

Amantani



Education

Grant in 2021: £3000

Location: Peru

Partner since: 2014

Beneficiaries: 100

This project was developed out of the need for transitional support for young school leavers in Ccorca and Huanquite due to the lack of access to higher education. Since 2016 La Vida has been supporting young people through Amantani from indigenous communities in the Andes to access education and employment opportunities. The Transitions Project provides access to ICT literacy, mentoring and psychological sessions and gives students access to a fully equipped youth club. In addition, parents take part in workshops to support their children's higher education goals. www.amantani.org.uk

Corcovado Foundation



Environmental Education

Grant in 2021: £4400

Location: Costa Rica

Partner since: 2020

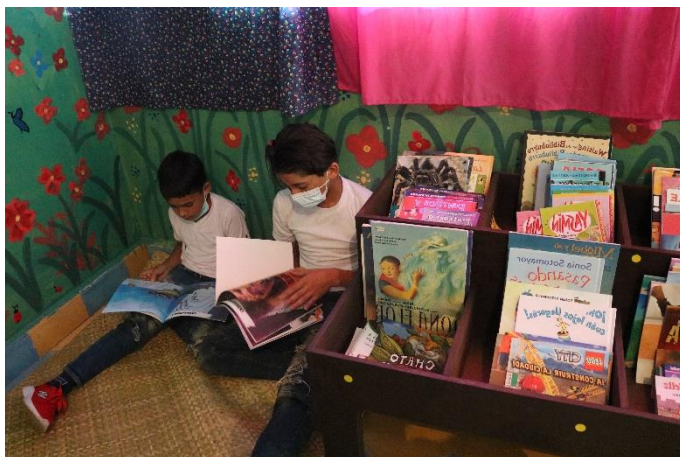
Beneficiaries: 30 families

The regenerative agriculture programme started out in 2020 as a way of addressing food scarcity experienced in the Drake Bay community during the Covid pandemic. The Corcovado Foundation, with the support of La Vida, established a programme to promote sustainable use of their natural land and resources which benefits over 120 persons/30 local families. These practices promote self-sufficiency and

food independence by allowing families to have the food needed for their subsistence; promotes the reduction of use of dangerous pollutants, and encourage practices that allow soil restoration, carbon capture and reduce the production of greenhouse gases. Regenerative farmers have transformed their land showing improvements in soil health and fertility, evidenced by healthier crops and improved yields. These results have changed livelihoods and attitudes, making life better for people, farms, and the environment in the Drake Bay area.



Educate.



Education – New Project

Grant in 2021: £3000

Location: Honduras

Partner since: 2021

Beneficiaries: 60 children, their families and community

We funded a new community library at a primary school in Las Delicias, Santa Barbara, Trinidad, Honduras. After consultation with the community, they renovated an existing room in the school, bespoke bookshelves and reed mats and cushions where made by local artisans, and we provided 300 books. <https://educate-ngo.com/>

Las Delicias, located in Santa Barbara, is a primary school on the outskirts of the village of Trinidad with 60 students and two teachers as well as a director and a volunteer Kindergarten teacher. The school, a public institution, is operated by municipal and regional authorities. Much of the population of Las Delicias lives along the nearby riverbanks and works in agriculture and construction, as well as in shoemaking, but is low income. Most women stay home to take care of the household. As many families in Las Delicias could not complete their schooling, the school has focused on ensuring that their students dedicate as much time as possible while in class to their educational development, with language arts being a main focus of their curriculum.

The school's curriculum, following the national guidelines, is designed to ensure that students can develop the competencies needed to participate fully in society and in the next level of education. As such, the curriculum also encompasses communications, math, natural sciences, social sciences, civics, art, and physical education. Las Delicias also is part of the USAID sponsored program, "From Readers to Leaders", which supports school staff with training, book purchasing, and in applying a new mode of direct teaching for Spanish language arts. One hour of class time is dedicated to library usage, with the objective of improving the student's ease of reading and enriches their vocabulary, stimulating their ability to be great thinkers.

El Rio Foundation



Education – New Project

Grant in 2021: £3650

Location: Colombia

Partner since: 2021

Beneficiaries: 69 children/teenagers and their families

We funded a new project in 2021 through the Rio Foundation academic tutoring programme. Their goal is to improve the education of 24+ school children in the remote town of Buritaca. However, the project exceeded expectations and on average 69 children participated in the tutoring sessions each week. Each child was given over 16 hours of academic tutoring

every week as many of these children had not been to school for over 21 months and have suffered great setbacks in their school education from Covid closures in March 2020. Many children were unable to follow virtual lessons due to poor internet connection and a very limited number devices.

The impact report carried out shows that the participants improved in all the skills they worked on during the six month period. This included reading, writing, listening, communication, maths, concentration, team-work, confidence and problem solving.

Fundesoc



Environmental Education

Grant in 2021: £11,000

Location: Bolivia

Partner since: 2018

Beneficiaries: 736,000

This new project addressed the critical and repetitive forest fire situation in the fragile and unique Pantanal region of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where FUNDESOC had been working previously. The project aimed to contribute to environmental awareness and strengthen local capacity to prevent and mitigate forest fires that threaten both biodiversity and local livelihoods in this ecoregion through the dissemination of messages using local mass media (radio slots, videos), and by strengthening the capacity of the local community group of Volunteer Firefighters “Saviors Pantaneros”. La Vida funded basic equipment and inputs for training sessions in environmental and biodiversity protection, forest fire prevention and for forest firefighting for the volunteer firefighters and their new local training centre in Puerto Quijarro.

Twenty members of the local community-based group of Volunteer Firefighters “Saviors Pantaneros” received training, these young, local men and women voluntarily organized themselves to fight forest fires, including people of Chiquitano ethnic origin as well as migrants from other parts of the country who now live in the area. Indirectly this project has benefits 36,000 people in local communities where the volunteer firefighters have replicated training sessions, including those reached through the messages disseminated through local and regional media.

Helping Hands



Education

Grant in 2021: £1607

Location: La Paz, Bolivia

Partner since: 2009

Beneficiaries: 4 students

Beneficiaries since 2009: 48 students

Helping Hands provides tailored financial support, mentoring and an enrichment programme to help disadvantaged young people in La Paz, Bolivia, complete their studies and take their first steps into the world of work. Originally focused on teenage boys leaving care, Helping Hands has expanded its activities, supporting more than 300 students since its foundation in 2004. In 2021 Helping Hands supported 117 students of which 73 were girls. Of the 117 students supported in 2021, 46 were in elementary and high school, 27 were in technical careers and 44 in university.

Like in many countries around the world, Covid-19 created enormous challenges for students and their families in Bolivia. With limited access to internet or to mobile devices, continuing education was challenging and compounded by financial difficulties and illness in many of the students' families. Helping Hands reached out with monthly food baskets for 22 students and their families and extra support for 3 families suffering unemployment. During the pandemic, Helping Hands, with the contribution of a local pharmaceutical company, was able to put together COVID kits for families affected by COVID 19. Through the use of online tools, the Helping Hands team was able to continue to monitor and support students and their families through this difficult period.

In 2021, La Vida funded support for four students, two of which are in university and two are in high school. Through La Vida support a young single mother was able to continue her university studies and is now in her last year and excelling.



Maya Midwifery



Health

Grant in 2021: £5000

Location: Guatemala

Partner since: 2020

Beneficiaries: 71 midwives

The Maya Midwives Project in Guatemala aims to improve reproductive, maternal and newborn health by preparing and sustaining indigenous midwives in the Mam speaking areas of

Guatemala.

Within Maya communities in Guatemala, midwives are highly respected health care providers and integral community members. This puts them in a unique position to influence and support health-related decisions and empower Maya women and their communities through midwifery care. The midwives speak the Mam language of their communities and understand local cultural practices, helping to ensure provision of culturally appropriate, quality services. In 2021, La Vida provided £5,000 (\$6,515) for the purchase of medical equipment and PPE items (including nasal aspirators, sling scales, head lamps, nursing shoes, blood pressure cuffs, oximeters, infrared thermometers, foetal stethoscopes, medical gloves, antibacterial soap, and waterproof gowns) for these midwives. The midwives are excited to continue to develop their skills, now that they have comprehensive birth kits.

Nosso Instituto



Health – New Project

Grant in 2021: £5000

Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Partner since: 2020

Beneficiaries: 11 health professionals

Nosso Instituto's main focus is the sexual and reproductive rights of the individual. They work in collaboration with schools, hospitals and health centres.

There are three main initiatives involved in Nosso Instituto's projects:

- 1- Education - lectures to educate about contraception, sexually transmitted infections, situations of violence, consent, responsible exercise of sexuality.
- 2- Health interventions - Consultations with health professionals where the contraceptive method is discussed and insertions of IUDs and implants are offered. There are Whats App support groups for follow ups and questions.
- 3- Training of health professionals - Training and certifying health professionals for the management and insertion of LARCs - IUD and Implanon NXT. These professionals work daily in the Public Health Service are able then able to perform the insertions with Nosso Instituto and via SUS (the Brazilian health service).

La Vida has sponsored during the month of March 2022 one training course for 11 health professionals focused on handling and insertion of Implanon NXT, 22 gynecological appointments for insertion of the subdermal implants. We have also sponsored cytology tests for the patients. The monitoring of activities to evaluate the method for 6 months will continue during the next financial year.

Poder Joven



Education

Grant in 2021: £10,000

Location: Medellin, Colombia

Partner since: 2010

Beneficiaries: 75 children and their families

We continue to support this pre and after hours school facility in a deprived area in the outskirts of Medellin which provides

children with food, educational, medical and psychological support on a daily basis. In 2021, we sent extra funds for emergency food parcels for the families struggling to put food on the table as they were not able to work during the pandemic.

Due to school closures in Colombia because of the pandemic, Poder Joven prioritised helping the kids with the worksheets they were set by the school with a particular focus on Spanish language. In addition, they continued to run workshops throughout the year on different topics including alcoholism, drug use, mental health issues and health problems. Their aim is to prevent problems by discussing these issue with the kids and their families.



Villa Maria



Education

Grant in 2021: £7300

Location: Lima, Peru

Partner since: 2007

Beneficiaries: 100 Primary school children and their families, school staff. 33 sponsorships in 2021.

2021 was another very hard year in Peru, particularly in impoverished communities such as Villa Maria del Triunfo where Villa Maria school is located. Education continued to be delivered remotely for a second year in a row, creating significant challenges - from constraints in the delivery of lessons due to the limited availability of computers, to the impact of limited social interaction on the children, to the additional pressure that home schooling places on families.

Against this backdrop, Villa Maria's commitment and ability to adapt was remarkable. In addition to moving teaching online, Villa Maria's teachers adjusted their programmes and teaching methods to make the best use of the technology available, while creating opportunities for social interaction in ways that enhanced learning and engagement both with the children and their families. Remote teaching had a significant impact on absenteeism and drop-out rates in Peru as in the rest of Latin America. As such, Villa Maria saw a reduction in the number of children enrolled, with a consequent reduction in income. To cope, teachers took a salary cut while in some cases working even longer hours.

Going into 2022, teaching will be delivered progressively through a hybrid model, hopefully returning to in-person teaching before the year. This will require work and further funding to refresh the school's installations, and the ongoing support of La Vida will play an important role in providing continuity of education for children in this disadvantaged community.

Financial statements and notes

Financial review

Policy on reserves: For 2021, La Vida kept 6 months of our ongoing commitments to projects as reserves. We will continue to do this in 2022.

For the period from January 2021 to December 2021

Section A: Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)	Total Funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Donations	48,347	9,410		57,757	76,044
Fundraising events					14,827
Interest on Deposit					
Sub total (Gross Income AR)	48,347	9,410		57,757	90,871

A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub Total					

Total receipts	48,347	9,410		57,757	90,871
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A3 Payments					
Cost of fundraising events					3,688
Internet costs					
Grants to Latam projects	45,079	10,560		55,639	67,139
FX and bank charges	96			96	116
Sub Total	45,175	10,560		55,735	70,943

A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Sub Total					

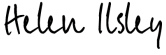
Total payments	45,175	10,560		55,735	70,943
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Net of receipts/ (payments)	3,172	-1150		2,022	19,928
A5 Transfer between funds					
A6 Cash Funds last year end	67,327	18,964		86,291	66,363
Cash funds this year end	70,499	17,814		88,313	86,291

Section B: Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of period

B1 Cash donations	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)
CAF cash funds	70,499	17,814	
Total Cash Funds	70,499	17,814	

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all trustees:

DocuSigned by: 9/24/2022

 83235F345F86410...
 Helen Ilsley , date of approval

DocuSigned by: 9/24/2022

 EC96AEA3EEAF452...
 Katy Vatis, date of approval

Independent examiner's report

**Report to the
trustees/
members of**

LA VIDA Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2021

Charity no.

1115796

**Set out on
pages**

15 - 16

**Responsibilities
and basis of
report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2021.**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

16 Sep 2022

Name:

Tracey Falero

**Relevant
professional
qualification(s)
or body (if any):**

Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA)

Address:

c/o LA VIDA

Gordon House, Gordon Ave, London SW14 8DZ. UK.

Administrative details

Charity name: La Vida - Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

Charity Number: 1115796

Registered Address: GORDON HOUSE
GORDON AVENUE
LONDON
SW14 8DZ

Trustees: Ana Beatriz Alencar
Rosie Bichard
Ivonne Cantu
Zarela Feeney
Helen Ilsley
Katy Vatis

Independent Examiner: Tracey Falero (ACA)

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document: Trust deed

How the charity is constituted: Trust

Trustee selection methods: Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

La Vida - Trustee Selection Process Statement

- Interest in the Latin American region and improving the conditions of its people.
 - Skills and experience that add value to the board such as good relationships with potential sponsors and strong marketing skills for fundraising.
 - Good character
 - Nomination by one of the Trustees
 - Unanimous approval by current Trustees
-

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in this governing document

To further any charitable purpose for the benefit of disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America. In particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty and advancing education.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

Provide funding for specific health, education and environment projects identified in any country in Latin America.

La Vida is 100% volunteer run. All of the Trustees and Executive Committee work on a voluntary basis and aim to keep expenses to a minimum so the money raised goes directly to the project beneficiaries.

Donations and fundraising have allowed us to improve and directly benefit the lives of over 60,000 children and their families across Latin America.

We continue to fund health, education and environment projects throughout the region. In 2021, we continued to support our existing ongoing projects in Costa Rica, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru. We funded new projects in Colombia and Honduras.

Additional details of objective and activities

Policy on grant making:

The Trustees of La Vida endeavour to directly grant funding to specific projects that relieve sickness and /or improve education in any Latin American country. Preference will be given to independent projects, but trustees could also look to partner with local organisations that will see through the success and completion of compelling projects in health, education and the environment in Latin America.

The project committee meets every 3-6 months to discuss and approve new project proposals. We assess our projects in depth and have a rigorous selection process. Each grant application has to complete our project proposal form and give proof of identity of their organisation and the people running it, plus 2 years of bank statements. Every project we support has a partnership agreement signed by La Vida and the organisation receiving the project funding which includes all of our reporting requirements. The agreement sets out the timeline of the project with final goals to be reached, all of our reporting requirements such as photos of the project, receipts for items purchased etc.

The executive committee, all of whom are volunteers, continues to help organise fundraising events, develop the website, publish newsletters and broaden the reach of the charity.

LA VIDA VITAL INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID IN LATIN AMERICA

England & Wales - Charity number 1115796

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT



2020

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About La Vida

La Vida was co-founded in 2006 by Katy Vatis and Helen Ilsley following a business trip to Brazil in February that year, when they met Dr. Monica Nogueira, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon trying to raise funds to train her peers in the non-surgical 'Ponseti Technique' of treating children with clubfoot. La Vida raised the funds needed in the UK, and the project was a success; just in 2008, 556 doctors were trained who helped 5,000 children. Many more thousands have been successfully treated using this technique over the subsequent years.

La Vida has since supported highly effective grassroots projects in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, some of which we support on a continuing basis and some which are now complete. The grants were for projects in areas such as youth development, supporting primary and secondary education initiatives and school expansions, as well as community health and environmental programmes.

Although La Vida is a relatively small charity, so far we have raised over £850,000 through sponsorship, our annual La Vida fundraising events, direct donations and partnerships with other foundations. The funding we have deployed we estimate will have directly impacted the lives of over 60,000 disadvantaged children and their families in Latin America.

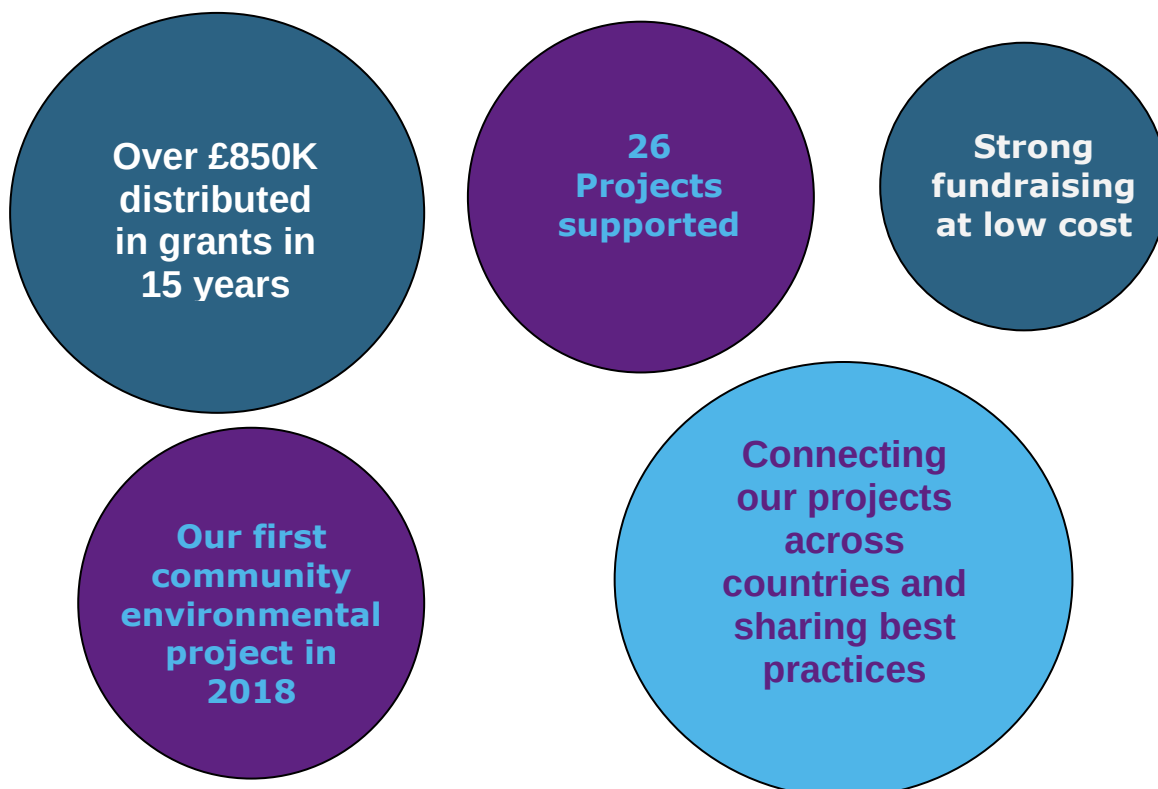
Our mission

La Vida raises funds to support community health, education and environment projects throughout Latin America. The charity is registered in the UK and has been established to help disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America, in particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty, advancing education and raising environmental awareness.

Why La Vida?

- We focus exclusively on projects supporting communities' health, environment and education – our targeted support has a positive impact in some of the world's poorest countries.
- We have a rigorous governance process – we go to great lengths to ensure funds are properly allocated and well-monitored and have a significant, long-term local impact.
- Everyone working for La Vida does so on a voluntary basis – we have an impressively low cost base with over 98% of funds raised going directly to our projects.
- We connect our projects so they can share best practice and learn from each other.

Our Achievements



Our trustees



**Katy
Vatis**

Founder

Katy has a degree in Economics with Spanish. She most recently worked at Fullerton Fund Management as a Senior Analyst in the Emerging Markets team and has spent most of her career as a Fund Manager covering Latin American equity markets. Her work has involved a lot of travel to the region where she has experienced first hand the extreme levels of poverty and the need for improvements in health and education.



**Helen
Ilsley**

Founder

Helen spent 15 years as a stockbroker in the Latin American investment community. Having left the City in 2012 and set up her own property asset business, Helen is now an executive coach, heading up Business Development for the Executive Coaching Consultancy, specialising in helping businesses retain and develop their talented women. Helen has a Business Economics degree and is an accredited member of the Association of Coaching.



**Rosie
Bichard**

Rosie has a degree in French and Spanish from St John's

College, Cambridge and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She has worked in finance since 1990, and was involved with Latin America for 12 years. She currently works as a Senior Analyst at Lofoten Asset Management. Rosie has travelled extensively in Latin America and speaks Spanish and Portuguese. She became a La Vida trustee in 2008 and is also a board member of Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme.



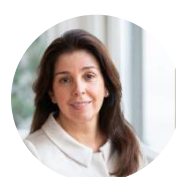
**Ivonne
Cantu**

Ivonne grew up in Mexico and has been living in London since 1996. Currently she is head of Investor Relations at Benchmark plc, a global aquaculture business, and a Director of Creo Medical plc, a medical devices technology company. Prior to joining Benchmark, Ivonne was a corporate finance adviser for 20 years at Merrill Lynch and at Cenkos Securities. She has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BSc Engineering. Since 2016 she has been advising small UK charities as a member of Pilotlight, a charity that connects professionals with charitable organisations to provide strategic support.



**Ana
Beatriz
Alencar**

Ana Beatriz is Brazilian and has been living in London since 1997. Ana Beatriz has a background in digital development and project management. She has a degree in Electrical Engineering from PUC-Rio, an MBA from Cass Business School and an MSc in Management of Innovation. She works at the Ministry of Justice Digital & Technology. She has previously volunteered for Cancer Research UK, Task Brazil, CAFOD and London 2012. She joined La Vida in 2013 as she strongly believes in fundraising for good projects in Latin America.



**Zary
Feeney**

Zary joined La Vida in

December 2012. She began her career with Ernst & Young's Financial Advisory Team in Washington DC where she focused on Latin America. She moved to London to join Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's M&A team. She has subsequently become involved in the non-profit sector and serves on the boards of foundations that are having a significant social impact in the areas of the arts, health, education and the environment in Latin America. She has a MBA from George Washington University. She is fluent in English and Spanish, with conversational Portuguese.

Summary of 2020 projects

In 2020, we had another very strong fundraising year, receiving £90,871 mostly through donations and our main fundraising event. In early February, we held our 14th Anniversary Fundraiser in London, raising over £15,000 through ticket sales, a live and silent auction and a raffle.

This year we had significant donations from the Royal Bank of Canada, Mercia Asset Management, Generation Asset Management, Genesis Asset Management and EM Funding. We also had a number of large donations from private individuals.

Due to Covid restrictions, we have not been able to visit the projects in person in 2020, but we have continued to keep in regular contact over video calls and we have provided additional help to our projects throughout the Covid crisis by granting extra funds for food, medical equipment etc. We funded this through a specific Covid appeal we launched in May 2020. This raised over £8,000 and combined with La Vida's existing funds we were able to send over £12,000 to several Covid relief projects throughout Latin America. Many of our projects have had to adapt their activities to the current situation and we are working with them to see how they can best be supported going forward.

Summary of the year

During 2020, we granted £67,139 to causes throughout Latin America. We continued to support the following projects: Cuca Legal in Angra do Reis, Brazil; Helping Hands in La Paz, Bolivia; Poder Joven in Medellin, Colombia; Fundesoc in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Viva a Vida in Camacari, Brazil and Villa Maria in Lima, Peru. More details can be found below.

In 2020, we funded a new environmental project, the Corcovado Foundation, in Costa Rica and Maya Midwifery, a project providing essential medical equipment to rural midwives in Guatemala.

In May we launched a direct appeal for Covid relief funds and we raised almost £9,000 which we sent in June to our existing projects Poder Joven in Colombia, Cuca Legal in Brazil and Villa Maria in Peru. In addition, we approved the change of use of existing funds for Fundesoc in Bolivia and Corcovado in Costa Rica both of whom had to adapt their projects to the change in circumstances due to Covid. We also sent Covid Relief to Children Change Colombia, Healing Venezuela, Fundación para la Asistencia Educativa (F.A.E.) in Mexico and the Rotary Club Sirari in Bolivia. More details on each of these are provided below.

Our projects

Covid Relief Appeal



Emergency Relief

Grants in 2020: £12,710

Locations: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela

Bolivia:

Fundesoc – provided essential PPE to over 200 health professionals and medical supplies serving 35,000 people in the Chiquitano region

Rotary Club Sirari Santa Cruz, Bolivia – provided essential PPE to 3 hospitals in Santa Cruz city and province

Brazil:

Nucleo de Referencia - Cuca Legal - We funded 180 basic baskets to the Frade community in Angra dos Reis. Each basket had 22 kg of food and cleaning products for a family of 4 to last 20 days on average.

Colombia:

Children Change Colombia – Provided food packages, toiletries, housing support and psychosocial support in Bogota and Quibdo.

Poder Joven - Community kitchens set up for 180 children to have 2 meals a day and 112 bags of food and hygiene supplies for 56 vulnerable families in Medellin.

Guatemala:

Maya Midwifery – provided 6 months supply of food for 71 midwives and 30 families, and raincoats to protect the midwives in the rainy season.

Mexico:

Fundación para la Asistencia Educativa I.A.P. (FAE), Mexico City – distributed 400 relief packs to the disadvantaged community of Escalerillas in the state of Mexico City.

Peru:

Quest Overseas/VillaMaria, Lima – distributed food relief packages to vulnerable families in Villa Maria, particularly affected by the lack of informal work.

Venezuela:

Healing Venezuela - funded 10 PPE kits, which included 500 pairs of gloves and 500 masks, 10 litres of antibacterial gel and 10 gallons of disinfectant.

Corcovado Foundation



Environmental Education

Grant in 2020: £9,806

Location: Costa Rica

Partner since: 2020

Beneficiaries: 30 families

The Family Ecological Garden Workshop has been a training process in which local families from Drake Bay have developed basic knowledge of regenerative agriculture. This practice will allow them to abandon the use of agrochemicals on their farms and restore the natural components of the soil by reincorporating organic waste as compost to create more fertile lands.

Regenerative agriculture is a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems. It focuses on: topsoil regeneration, increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing ecosystem services, supporting biosequestration, increasing resilience to climate change and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil.

Practices include recycling as much farm waste as possible and adding composted material from sources outside the farm. As soil health improves, input requirements may decrease, and crop yields may increase as soils are more resilient against extreme weather and harbour fewer pests and pathogens.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, they started a process with the community in which they began creating awareness among 30 families. The workshop was carried out partly remotely, which consisted of both theory and practice. The theoretical part was carried out through workshops provided by video calls, in which the educators transmitted knowledge to the families through presentations and videos. The practical part was carried out through visits by the instructors to the participants' farms, where they worked in groups and used their knowledge to learn, shared their successes and their limitations.

Additionally, participants that completed their process received US\$200 in materials such as plastic to build plant nurseries, wood, tools and seeds.

The process was highly successful, and the timing was perfect, especially given that during the pandemic people not only had more time on their hands, but also because they struggled to bring food to the table, in particular, good, healthy food. The vegetables in Osa are brought from San Jose or Cartago, are expensive and also full of chemicals, so to start this new culture is an important effort to:

1. change the mindset of many families towards agriculture,
2. teach how to recycle organic waste and the importance of compost
3. and recognize their own capacity to produce their own food.



Cuca Legal



Education

Grant in 2020: £4,500

Location: Brazil

Partner since: 2018

Beneficiaries: 60 children/teenagers and their families

At the beginning of 2020, Cuca Legal had a record number of children (116) enrolled in their workshops. This was due to strong partnerships the project established with La Vida and other local organisations, which allowed for an enticing programme of activities. A military intervention that jailed drug lords and inhibited drug dealing activities in the area also meant that families were walking more freely and participating in community activities. However, on 13th April, all schools and community activities were prohibited by the local government because of the pandemic.

Part of La Vida's funds had already been used to buy materials for the workshops and to pay for the tutors' salaries during the first semester. La Vida also helped to buy a new computer for the project, and hand sanitiser and cleaning products for the community. Cuca Legal was not able to fully open their doors and restart the workshops for the rest of 2020.

Many of the families in the community lost their income and the project saw a need to help the families by distributing food and basic hygiene and cleaning products. Keeping the project's doors open was fundamental to distribute the packs and also as a safe haven for members of the community.

La Vida's funds for the second semester paid for electricity bills and the salary of a full time employee that ensured the project's house was open for the community. It also contributed to renewing the project's community library. With children losing so much of their education, the project aims to intensify support lessons for children as soon as activities are back to normal.

Fundesoc



Environmental Education

Grant in 2020: £8,242

Location: Bolivia

Partner since: 2018

Beneficiaries: 450 students

In July 2020, we decided to conclude the Project "Youth in Action for the Environment 2020" in Santa Cruz since schools were closed in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it was no longer

possible for FUNDESOC to continue implementing the project as planned. Instead, we decided to assign remaining funds to respond to requests for emergency assistance received by both La Vida & FUNDESOC from rural municipalities in the Chiquitano region of Santa Cruz department in their battle against the Covid-19 pandemic. FUNDESOC proposed to redirect efforts and funds to this Covid solidarity initiative to 5 rural municipalities that La Vida trustees approved.

That initiative provided support to vulnerable populations in the Chiquitano region, in their response to the Covid-19 crisis, through the donation of medical and biosecurity supplies for frontline health staff, according to their requests for help. Support was made effective by Fundación Boliviana para el Desarrollo Social (FUNDESOC) that joined this voluntary campaign without charging staff, administrative or operating costs, coordinated with local medical and municipal authorities to establish priority needs, found best purchase options and coordinated with other organizations (NGOs & indigenous organizations) to avoid duplication, join forces and reduce transport costs. The provision of supplies included PPE for health staff, medical oxygen bottles, bed linen to equip rooms for patients, infrared thermometers and oximeters.

Helping Hands



Education

Grant in 2020: £6,321

Location: La Paz, Bolivia

Partner since: 2009

Beneficiaries: 4 students

Beneficiaries since 2009: 44 students

Helping Hands provides financial support and mentoring to help disadvantaged young people in La Paz, Bolivia, complete their studies and take their first steps into the world of work. Originally focused on teenage boys leaving care, Helping Hands has expanded its activities, supporting more than 300 boys and girls since its foundation in 2004. In 2020 Helping Hands supported 100 students (65% female) between 13 and 28 years old.

Like in many countries around the world, Covid-19 created enormous challenges for students and their families in Bolivia. With limited access to internet or to mobile devices, continuing education was challenging and compounded by financial difficulties and illness in many of the students' families. Helping Hands owes its success in outcomes over the years to its personalised, consistent follow-up and mentoring, and it was this which enabled it to maintain close contact with its students through the lockdown, and to identify and meet their specific needs which in some cases meant sourcing medicines, providing internet access cards or indeed basic sustenance.

In 2020, La Vida funded support for four students, two of which are in high school with the other two pursuing university degrees.



Maya Midwifery



Health

Grant in 2020: £4,996

Location: Guatemala

Partner since: 2020

Beneficiaries: 71 midwives

Our Maya Midwifery Project provided funding for an association of 71 midwives who serve indigenous Mam communities in Guatemala. This is essential as many communities do not speak any Spanish and are

so remote that women would not otherwise see a doctor or any health visitor/midwife throughout their pregnancy and birth - thus resulting in a high death rate of both mother and baby.

Working out in the rural communities is a hard vocation; most of the midwives work without electricity, running water or basic health accessories. The midwives are wives and mothers first before being midwives and have family commitments to meet daily in addition to their work. They all come from very modest backgrounds living in houses with dirt floors and very limited financial resources.

La Vida helped to fund basic equipment for the midwives to be able to do their work safely and effectively.



Poder Joven



Education

Grant in 2020: £7,267

Location: Medellin, Colombia

Partner since: 2010

Beneficiaries: 75 children and their families

We continue to support the Poder Joven Foundation who work within areas of Medellin, Colombia where street kids have a great need for a healthy, safe and nurturing environment. Poder Joven uses its resources with care and focus and achieves positive changes for many at-risk children with a long-term impact on their life chances. The children are given access to doctors, dentists and psychologists, practise yoga and meditation and are helped with homework whenever required. The children come from very poor families of which around 70% are subjected to violence in the home. There is a two year waiting list to join the Poder Joven programme, which runs weekly sessions on different topics such as prevention of drug use and violence, communication, how to behave in society etc. Our funding continues to provide food, medical and school supplies for 75 children at Casa Maren.

During the Covid crisis they managed to secure local government funding to keep them operational, which allowed them to feed 70 kids twice a day (as well as their siblings). Schooling went online but most of the kids had no access to computers or phones so Poder Joven liaised with the school and they were sent the work which they printed off as worksheets for the kids, and then helped them with the school work when they were at the centre. Many of the parents have struggled to work (a lot of the mums are cleaners in the wealthy areas and those houses did not let them clean due to fear of catching Covid). In addition, La Vida provided 112 bags of food and hygiene supplies to help these families get through some difficult months.



Viva a Vida



Education

Grant in 2020: £5000

Location: Camacari, Brazil

Partner since: 2015

Beneficiaries: over 1700 students and their families

Viva a Vida reinvented themselves during the pandemic. They ran online workshops and talks reaching an even larger number of people than before. Hundreds of people took part in Viva a Vida's online sessions, whilst the Viva a Vida house continued to be a safe space for the local community. They also produced a documentary called 'Ascending ideas - for a new policy on drugs'.

La Vida's donations paid for the salary of a key youth worker in addition to costs associated with Zoom and producing videos. Below is a summary of what the sessions entailed.

SUMMARY:

- 942 young people listened, discussed, or learned about Human Rights, Racism, and Youth.
- 320 people listened, discussed, or learned about sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 245 people listened, discussed or learned about Preventing Child Labour.
- 180 people joined drawing sessions which included discussions about the impact of art in advocacy.
- 16 families were assisted by therapy sessions.

Work directly related to pandemic relief distributed in the community:

- 300 face masks
- 300 menstrual kits
- 100 basic baskets (essential food and hygiene supplies)
- 1000 informative leaflets

Villa Maria



Education

Grant in 2020: £8296

Location: Lima, Peru

Partner since: 2007

Beneficiaries: 100 Primary school children and their families, school staff.

In Peru, the schools closed in early March last year and remained shut the whole year. In these difficult circumstances the primary school in Villa Maria, which La Vida supports, has done a remarkable job in enabling its students to continue to learn as best it can. In many cases they report the students' results are actually better as they had more support from their families. Unfortunately, however, 40 of the 140 students had to leave the school as they could not afford the fees and had to switch to using the public system, educating their kids through local tv channels.

The Villa Maria school managed to teach the remaining 100 children remotely in very difficult conditions, using Zoom and Whats App video calls, delivering worksheets weekly to parents and using a Google drive with photographs of their work for teacher evaluation. The commitment from the staff has been phenomenal with a reduction in teacher salaries and increased working hours, using the utilities in their homes and improving internet capacity at their own expense to be able to have adequate communication with their students. During the pandemic, the school has also served as a hub for distribution of food parcels and other aid for the most needy, cementing its role within the local area.

Last year, La Vida supported 32 children's education at the school. Together, we have been supporting the school since 2008, during which it has developed and grown significantly. One of our aims in 2021 is to continue to seek ways for it to gain more local funding, something which was obviously hard to achieve in 2020.

Financial statements and notes

Financial review

Policy on reserves: For 2020, La Vida kept 6 months of our ongoing commitments to projects as reserves. We will continue to do this in 2021.

For the period from January 2020 to December 2020

Section A: Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)	Total Funds (nearest £)	Last year (nearest £)
Donations	60,678	15,367		76,044	58,928
Fundraising events	14,827			14,827	2,793
Interest on Deposit					
Sub total (Gross Income AR)	75,505	15,367		90,871	61,720

A2 Asset and investment sales					
Sub Total					

Total receipts	75,505	15,367		90,871	61,720
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A3 Payments					
Cost of fundraising events	3,688			3,688	553
Internet costs					
Grants to Latam projects	34,886	32,253		67,139	36,538
FX and bank charges	116			116	170
Sub Total	38,690	32,253		70,943	37,261

A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Sub Total					

Total payments	38,690	32,253		70,943	37,261
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Net of receipts/ (payments)	36,814	-16,886		19,928	24,459
A5 Transfer between funds					
A6 Cash Funds last year end	30,513	35,850		66,363	41,904
Cash funds this year end	67,327	18,964		86,291	66,363

Section B: Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of period

B1 Cash donations	Unrestricted Funds (nearest £)	Restricted Funds (nearest £)	Endowment Funds (nearest £)
CAF cash funds	67,327	18,964	
Total Cash Funds	67,327	18,964	

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all trustees:

Helen Ilsley , date of approval

Katy Vatis, date of approval

Independent examiner's report

**Report to the
trustees/
members of**

LA VIDA Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 December 2020

Charity no.

1115796

**Set out on
pages**

15 - 16

**Responsibilities
and basis of
report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020.**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

10 Aug 2021

Name:

Tracey Falero

**Relevant
professional
qualification(s)
or body (if any):**

Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA)

Address:

c/o LA VIDA

Gordon House, Gordon Ave, London SW14 8DZ. UK.

Administrative details

Charity name: La Vida - Vital Investment for Development Aid in Latin America

Charity Number: 1115796

Registered Address: GORDON HOUSE
GORDON AVENUE
LONDON
SW14 8DZ

Trustees: Ana Beatriz Alencar
Rosie Bichard
Ivonne Cantu
Zarela Feeney
Helen Ilsley
Katy Vatis

Independent Examiner: Tracey Falero (ACA)

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document: Trust deed

How the charity is constituted: Trust

Trustee selection methods: Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues

La Vida - Trustee Selection Process Statement

- Interest in the Latin American region and improving the conditions of its people.
 - Skills and experience that add value to the board such as good relationships with potential sponsors and strong marketing skills for fundraising.
 - Good character
 - Nomination by one of the Trustees
 - Unanimous approval by current Trustees
-

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in this governing document

To further any charitable purpose for the benefit of disadvantaged people residing permanently in Latin America. In particular, by preserving and protecting health, relieving sickness, relieving poverty and advancing education.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

Provide funding for specific health, education and environment projects identified in any country in Latin America.

La Vida is 100% volunteer run. All of the Trustees and Executive Committee work on a voluntary basis and aim to keep expenses to a minimum so the money raised goes directly to the project beneficiaries.

Donations and fundraising have allowed us to improve and directly benefit the lives of over 60,000 children and their families across Latin America.

We continue to fund health, education and environment projects throughout the region. In 2020, we continued to support our existing ongoing projects in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. We funded new projects in Costa Rica and Guatemala. We also funded specific Covid relief projects in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

Additional details of objective and activities

Policy on grant making:

The Trustees of La Vida endeavour to directly grant funding to specific projects that relieve sickness and /or improve education in any Latin American country. Preference will be given to independent projects, but trustees could also look to partner with local organisations that will see through the success and completion of compelling projects in health, education and the environment in Latin America.

The project committee meets every 3-6 months to discuss and approve new project proposals. We assess our projects in depth and have a rigorous selection process. Each grant application has to complete our project proposal form and give proof of identity of their organisation and the people running it, plus 2 years of bank statements. Every project we support has a partnership agreement signed by La Vida and the organisation receiving the project funding which includes all of our reporting requirements. The agreement sets out the timeline of the project with final goals to be reached, all of our reporting requirements such as photos of the project, receipts for items purchased etc.

The executive committee, all of whom are volunteers, continues to help organise fundraising events, develop the website, publish newsletters and broaden the reach of the charity.