

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

MONTESSORI **P Ú B L I C O**



**TOWARDS AN
EDUCATION OF
QUALITY AND
EXCELLENCE**



Instituto
Nueva
Escuela

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
ACADEMIC YEAR
2022-2023**

MONTESSORI PUBLIC

**TOWARDS AN EDUCATION
OF QUALITY AND
EXCELLENCE**

MESSAGE FROM: INE'S FOUNDER AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear friends of INE,

It is with profound joy that we present to you our Annual Report 2022-23.

This academic year saw the growth of the Montessori Public Schools family. Over 1000 teachers, principals, assistants, and community leaders have already undergone Montessori training. The number of school communities is increasing, and significant progress is being made within existing schools. Schools reopened by the community in Parguera, Ciales, and Patillas are strengthening and implementing the Montessori project. A new school has opened in Coamo, in the Palmarejo neighborhood.

What does this mean? What are we celebrating with this report? Montessori is an educational philosophy that leads to the social transformation of the place where it is implemented by shaping well-prepared citizens committed to the common good. Love for others and responsibility for the environment are crucial forces in the transformation of a country; Montessori promotes and practices both.

Over the past 30 years, we have witnessed how Montessori, once inaccessible to the public sector, has raised the flag of peace in the community. It has contributed to economic and social development through a comprehensive and excellent educational project. Community mothers and fathers join the educational project, starting as volunteers and later joining the workforce as Montessori guide assistants. Graduates go to university, find employment, and contribute to their environment in various disciplines. Around 300 people have been hired this academic year, becoming part of the community transformation project. Montessori joins the community in its history of resistance and survival, in its economic and social development. In a sense, it fulfills the Hostosian dream and mandate—the duty of the school as an entity that transforms the community it serves. What we saw in the Juan Domingo community at the end of the 20th century, we are now seeing in 50 communities across the archipelago: schools eradicating dropout rates, academic failures, and the division between community and school. The Montessori school has served and continues to serve in the social reconstruction of the place it inhabits.

The report we present here is a celebration of the access that 50 communities around the island now have to this philosophy and way of life. We celebrate that we have made this globally recognized methodology accessible as an excellent educational and peace-promoting project to communities that would not otherwise have access.

Montessori philosophy and methodology foster thoughtful, well-prepared citizens who ask key questions for the social and economic transformation that our Puerto Rico requires. It is not a light contribution. It is a concrete contribution to the formation of a new citizen who will transform the place they inhabit into a better one for everyone. We celebrate that Montessori public education works diligently to offer a quality and excellent experience to thousands of children and young people on the island.

This year, our celebration is joined by the recent appointment of our dear Jennyffer Otero Arroyo as the executive director of INE. Jennyffer Otero Arroyo, co-founder and architect of what INE is today, guides us in this new stage of INE, preparing to serve more schools. Jennyffer was part of the pioneering teachers who, at the beginning of the century, transformed the Juan Ponce de León School in the Juan Domingo neighborhood in 2000. She worked as a Montessori guide for almost a decade and has Montessori training at the Infants, Toddlers, and Elementary levels. For the past 15 years, she has led academic, transformation, and administrative projects at INE. In a sense, Jennyffer has been able to create an environment, as the Montessori guide does, in INE for us to work collectively and serve emerging schools well. Jennyffer builds an organization based on solidarity, collectivity, the common good, order, and freedom. With this annual report, we welcome her.

The annual report tastes of the future and a new time. We leave it to you to enjoy and feel part of this story, of this wonderful work that is collaborating in the construction of a great school for our people.



Ana María García Blanco
INE's Founder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Raúl Aponte Hernández
President

Miguel Blanco Fuertes
Board Member

Sandra Borres Arias
Board Member

Carlos del Río Rodríguez
Board Member

Michelle Carlo Newman
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Carlos Delgado Hernández
Board Member

Lilly Oronoz Rodríguez
Board Member



MESSAGE FROM:

**JENNYFFER
OTERO ARROYO**

INE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Almost 15 years ago, and it feels like it was just yesterday, that we dreamed of a space that could become the "home" for every teacher, where we could fall in love with our vocation again. A place where we could learn about Montessori in our language, practice a new way of education, but above all, a place where we could share ideas to build a new country.

Throughout these years, we learned how to accompany school communities in transforming their environments through peace education and collective work. But in this exchange, beyond helping them, it was the school communities that transformed INE. In our journey as an organization, we have learned and unlearned, visited schools, supported families and principals, build school environments, helped create platforms for dialogue and actions to influence public education policy, certified Montessori guides, inspired change, but we have also been inspired to continue with our proyecto país: the school and social transformation of public education.

These experiences helped us continue with the mission even when we faced stormy times that brought many challenges as an organization. However, we never stopped looking at the possibility. The possibility that is sown from hug to hug, dialogue to dialogue, and encounter to encounter with the communities. With hope and love, we continue to believe that, school by school, we are building a better Puerto Rico.

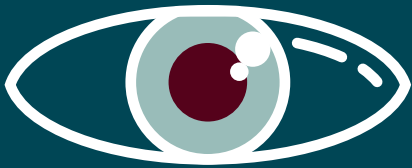
In 2022 - 2023, we continue walking with the flag of our mission and vision held high, filled with deep gratitude to all our teachers, principals, assistants, families, facilitators, fellow travelers, allies, and accomplices in these 15 years of hard work. To you, "the people I like," I can only say...

Thank you for BELIEVING!



MISSION

To accompany, train and serve the communities in Puerto Rico through Montessori public education for the development of prepared beings that contribute to the common good.



VISION

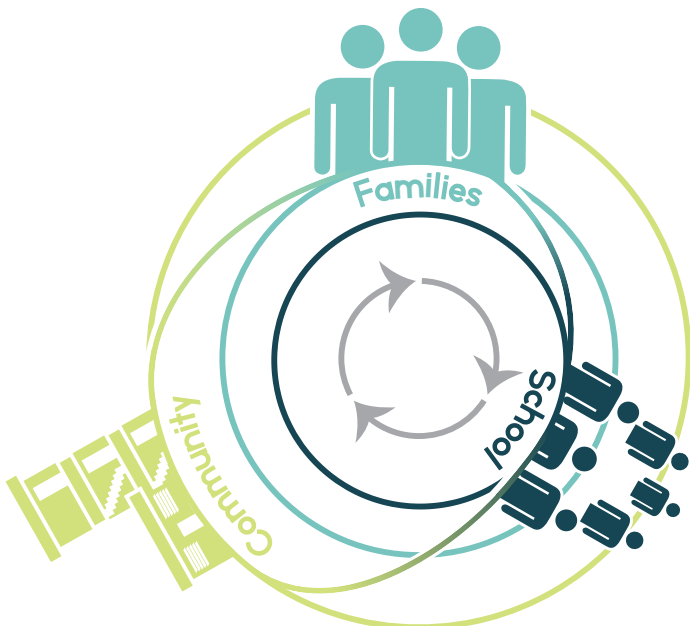
Being in 100 school communities in Puerto Rico that offer a public Montessori education of excellence.



VALUES

Love - Faith - Peace - Truth - Freedom - Justice

OUR TRANSFORMATION MODEL



REACH

2022-2023

50

School communities

297

Prepared environment in public Montessori schools

6,697

Student enrollment in Montessori environments

13,733

General students enrollment

280

Assistants hired

15

Schools with the Enraizando project

14

Schools with Casa Familiar

89%

of family satisfaction

85%

of families consider that a peace culture is promoted in school



MESSAGE FROM:

ANNABEL MARTÍNEZ RIVERA

ACADEMIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR

“

Reconnection

Every academic year, we use a word that guides and propels us in our tasks. This year, the word "reconnection" served as a compass to reclaim methodologies that characterize us as a program and helped us return to full in-person activities. Together, we embraced life in community, nourished each other, and enjoyed the return of hugs and full smiles.

From the Academic Program, we embraced each other, approached our tasks with joy, and brought forth ideas that we had been nurturing for some time, which we are soon to share with you.

To the adult learners, interns and INE's faculty my absolute gratitude and admiration.

”

ACADEMIA INFORMS

INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2022-23

The Academic Program (PA) aims to train Montessori guides, assistants, and directors to serve the children and youth of Puerto Rico. INE offers courses for Montessori Guide Certification at all educational levels: Infants/Toddlers (0 months-3 years), Children's House (3-6 years), Elementary I (6-9 years), Elementary II (9-12 years), Secondary I (12-15 years), and Directors. It also provides courses for Assistants and the Montessori Philosophy Course to support school personnel in Montessori public schools.

INE is affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS) and accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) at the Infants and Toddlers, Children's House, Workshop I, Workshop II, and Secondary I educational levels. The Directors' course is affiliated with AMS.



ADMISSIONS 2022

80 Participants served during the summer of 2023

The PA admitted **60** adult apprentices to the Montessori Guide Training courses, **5** Infants and Toddlers, **11** Early Childhood, **28** Elementary I, **9** Secondary, and **7** Directors. Including adult apprentices from Elementary II and Secondary who continued their academic phase.

CERTIFICATIONS 2022-2023

60 Guides certified

As a conclusion to their internship phase teachers received their certifications from AMS.

INTERNSHIPS 2022-2023

68 Learners in internship phase

The **6** Montessori training courses supported the internship phase in educational centers and public Montessori schools. These teachers received at least **3** visits during the year.

ASSISTANTS COURSES

126 Asistentes de implementación curricular certificadas

During 2022-23 **6** Montessori assistant courses were offered. **2** presential sessions and **4** virtual sessions.

2022-2023 RESULTS

An analysis of the results of the academic assessments conducted by the Evaluation and Research Unit of the courses in the Montessori School Certification Program for the year 2022-2023 revealed that:

95%

Shows mastery of aspects related to Montessori philosophy, Montessori methodology and curricular implementation.

97%

Of the participants in the internship phase completed it successfully, meeting the established requirements.

95%

It indicates that the knowledge acquired allows them to do a good job in their school setting.

96%

Are satisfied with the work of the course moderators and facilitators.

95%

Are satisfied with the materials distributed.

96%

Indicates that would recommend the course to other people.

259

Support and internship visits.

1,554

Hours of accompaniment.

COLECTIVE WORK



ACADEMIC CONSULTANTS MEETINGS:

The consultant team met periodically with each level coordinator to discuss their experiences and best practices in coaching visits.

REACCREDITATION OF SECONDARY:

We initiated the re-accreditation process for the Secondary level with MACTE and AMS. This process led us to review and rethink objectives, purposes, and methodology for adult apprentices in future courses.

ACCREDITATION EXTENSION FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS COURSE:

We celebrated the recognition of the well-done task by the American Montessori Society. AMS acknowledges the hard work and achievements at the Infants and Toddlers level and extends its accreditation to 2025.

COORDINATORS MEETINGS:

The collective of level coordinators held regular meetings where they worked on the methodology of the PA and common practices among the levels.



INICIATIVA
PREESCOLAR

FUNDACIÓN ÁNGEL RAMOS

6 NEW COURSES IN THE INICIATIVA PREESCOLAR VIRTUAL

We joined the Iniciativa Preescolar Virtual of Fundación Ángel Ramos with our online Montessori continuing education component. During the 2022-2023 year, we worked on creating **3 new courses**, namely: **(1)** Environmental Care from the Montessori Curriculum, **(2)** Introduction to Montessori Philosophy, and **(3)** Montessori Curriculum Assistants. All have been available online since September 2023.

“Definitely a rewarding process. Undoubtedly, spectacular facilitators, with a unique desire to show us the passion they carry within, transmitting every detail so that we can continue the legacy.”

-Michelle Camacho
Adult Learner I&T 2023

CONTINUING EDUCATION

174

GUIDES SERVED



12

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS:**

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- CPR and First Aid
- Review of Infants and Toddlers*

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Mathematics in Early Childhood
- Language Conquest in Early Childhood
- Reconnection: the beginning of everything*

ELEMENTARY

- Materials preparation workshop
- Sentence analysis workshop
- Mathematics in Elementary Workshop*

SECONDARY

- Art Seminar Workshop

*Courses offered more than once.

INITIATIVES



“Shadows”: Our facilitator collective is growing! This summer, **9 new facilitator apprentices** joined our team with the aim of expanding the faculty of each academic level. To each and every one of them, THANK YOU for the commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm with which they have embarked on this new journey



Curriculum Development in Secondary: The 2022 cohort of Secondary I completed the Curriculum Development component. This component prepared and supported them in designing the curriculum that will address the needs of adolescents. The community now moves on to its Internship phase.



INE in the west: INE in the west aims to serve members of the communities surrounding the western part of the island and continue supporting schools that have shown interest in enrolling in Montessori courses. As part of the project's strengthening and expansion, this proposal incorporates INE in the west within the Academic Program. In the summer of 2023, the Introduction to Montessori Philosophy course was offered at Juana Rosario School in Aguada.



Montessori Assistant Convention: The convention "Managing Montessori Environments: Assistant Leadership" took place at the Faculty of Education of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus on April 21, 2023. This meeting served as continuing education for all curriculum implementation assistants who are part of public Montessori schools around the island.

The meeting had the participation of **266 assistants** representing all public Montessori schools around the island.

“How beautiful to know that at each level, every summer we meet wonderful guides who are committed to the children of this country, committed to doing things differently, to thinking about what is best for the child.”

-Regina Silva
Elementary I Coordinator

ACADEMIC AGREEMENTS

UPRRP - INE

The **University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus** (UPRRP), and **Instituto Nueva Escuela** (INE) established an agreement for academic collaboration aimed at addressing the growing need for Montessori teacher training on the island, as well as the interest of students and faculty in this pedagogy. During the summer of 2023, personnel from the **Academic Program** of INE offered Montessori teacher preparation courses at the **Infants and Toddlers** (2 months to 3 years) and **Early Childhood** (3 to 6 years) levels. These courses will be held in spaces at the **Eugenio María de Hostos Faculty of Education**. Additionally, INE will promote and guide the Montessori program to students of the Faculty of Education, as well as guide teachers from other related courses to integrate into field experiences in Montessori schools.

Furthermore, in August 2023, the course **EDUC 4009** began, which served as an introductory course to Montessori pedagogy. As part of the course, the professor and students have access to INE's facilities.





MESSAGE FROM:

**KARLA
ORRIOLS RIVERA**

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
PROJECT DIRECTOR**

“

**A year of learning and
inspiration**

The public school has an essential role in the social reconstruction of a country. This is why we feel privileged to accompany each of the communities in the development of the transformation model in their schools. The year 2022-2023 has been one of learning and inspiration. We celebrate the new schools that are integrated into the project, the initiatives that promote community unity, environmental awareness and the arts. We thank each of the teachers, assistants, directors and families who welcomed us and conspired every day to achieve the school that we dream of together.

We are extremely satisfied with a year of achievements and conquests. We look to the future with great optimism and with every desire to continue working for the school that every boy, girl and young person deserves. We will continue participating in initiatives that contribute to the development of educational spaces of peace, trust and unity of purpose.

”

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

THE NEW MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The project **“The New Montessori Community School”** strengthens the School Transformation model in 17 public Montessori schools across 14 municipalities. It addresses the academic and psychosocial needs arising from years of pandemic while making community participation methodology and Montessori pedagogy accessible to school communities.

This transformation is achieved by enriching the curriculum to accomplish four established goals:



- Achieve academic and social improvement through the Montessori Model.
- Extending instructional time through projects and activities.
- Integrating support services to address the psychosocial needs of students and families.
- Strengthening leadership practices and community participation within the school community.

A School Transformation Facilitator integrates into the school community to develop, facilitate, and encourage efforts to make the school the center of community transformation. This includes increased family involvement in school and student education, as well as the integration and strengthening of support services for students, families, and the community.

Thanks to the work of the School Transformation Facilitators, we celebrate the following milestones:



- Development of a long-term school strengthening plan at each school.
- Community meetings to build the school community's dream.
- Creation of a needs assessment study for school communities to support the development of projects, initiatives, and specific activities.
- Establishment of collaborative agreements with partners such as Club 4H, Niños de Nueva Esperanza, PryMed, Caricoos, sports clinics, summer camps, and collaborations with Municipalities.
- 2 health fairs conducted.

SEMBRANDO REGRESAMOS



341

**PARTICIPANTS
OF SEMBRANDO
REGRESAMOS**



15

**SCHOOLS
SERVED**



174

**STUDENTS VISITED
PROTECTED
NATURAL AREAS**



70%

**OF FAMILIES RECEIVED
FOOD PRODUCTS FROM
THE SCHOOL GARDENS**

This year marks the fourth year of the **Nature Immersion Project** that began in 2018, after **Hurricane Maria** and in response to the threat of the closure of Public Montessori schools. The project that was initially called **Sembrando nos quedamos**, “regrew” after the emergency caused by the 2019 earthquakes as **Sembrando regresamos**. Sowing continued the project, thus being an experience that served to develop a model that could be replicated in other schools to reach more students and families. During the year 2022-2023, the project was strengthened by “taking root” with a view to possible future growth.

One of the core elements of this project is to promote relationships with nature. In addition, during this year, nutrition and healthy eating issues were worked on, especially in schools that have a school garden.

The Sembrando Regresamos project exemplifies how, from the school and educational space, not only environmental conservation can be promoted, but also belonging and responsibility towards the community in which we grow. This alliance provided an opportunity to **341 students** from elementary and middle schools in urban and rural areas of **15 communities** in PR so that they had the necessary tools to contribute to their community, promoting community development from a cosmic perspective.

CASA FAMILIAR

Escuelas para la Paz program is an initiative aimed at reducing the incidence of violence, strengthening emotional health and achieving peaceful schools, through the **Casa Familiar** strategy. This is established as a community center in which the family meets to share their parenting task with other fathers, mothers and caregivers, with specialized professionals and members of the school community.

Psychological services (individual and/or family), alternative therapies (yoga therapy, music therapy, art therapy) and recreational activities aimed at participants are offered. For families, psychoeducational workshops and support groups are offered to strengthen positive parenting skills in the family nucleus.

After the services offered to participants in the Casas Familiares, positive changes have been evident in behavior and in their management of emotions. Participants have shown improvement in their responsible decision making and a significant increase in their self-esteem. Through workshops, support groups and Educational Campaigns, families obtained tools for personal and family transformation that allow them to provide their children and/or young people with a healthy and happy upbringing, positively impacting the lives of these participants.

375

**PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS**

1403

**PSYCHOLOGICAL
INTERVENTIONS
TO PARTICIPANTS**

2

**NEW
CASAS
FAMILIARES**



"Casa Familiar has positively impacted my children in managing their emotions efficiently. ."

-Participant



"I think we have improved as a family thanks to the help and support of the program. They have given us tools that we did not have or did not know how to use."

-Participant



INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL

TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOP

The **Introduction to School Transformation workshops** are an initiative that was born this year with the purpose of offering a training program to new schools to promote the cultural change necessary for the Montessori Public Schools project to be born and develop in a healthy way. in order with the mission of the teaching profession and the student as the center. The school director, family members, school council teacher and adult learners enrolled in the INE Academic Program participate in these courses. During this 2023-2024 academic year, **3 new school communities** took part in these workshops. All of these schools will have Montessori transformation environments during the 2023-2024 academic year.



MONTESSORI

MUSIC AND THEATER PROJECT

The Montessori methodology recognizes that the arts should be accessible to all children. Like the Montessori methodology, musical education can be exposed to the child from an early age and develop not only their artistic abilities but also their cognitive skills. Recognizing the great benefits of musical and arts exploration, the INE has developed the **Montessori Music and Theater Project** within its School and Community Transformation Project. During this year, INE collaborated with the theater collective **Y no ha luz** to bring theatrical presentations to school communities. In this way, workshops were offered to teachers and directors using the illustrated book Centinela de Mangó to present various ways of how to integrate the work and the book to the various subjects through exercises and tools of the arts. Through the activities included in the program, students deepened their relationship with nature, raising awareness about identity, solidarity, ecology and the importance of the arts in human development.

21

TEACHERS TRAINED IN MUSICAL NOTATION AND SENSORY EXPLORATION



20

THEATRICAL PRESENTATIONS



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

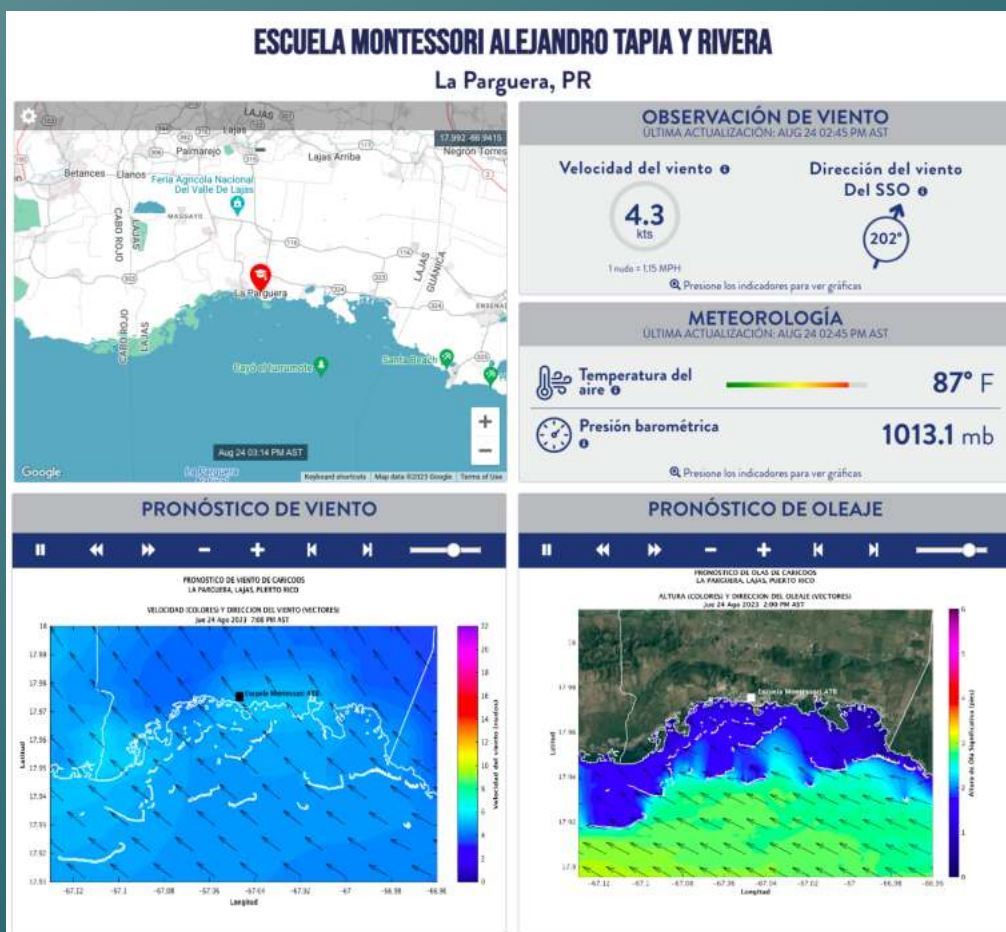
CARICOOS, SEAGRANT AND D.E.PR

While we accompany each school community, our project supports the dream that each community draws, focused on the best for the comprehensive development of the child. As part of this process, we accompanied the Alejandro Tapia y Rivera school of La Parguera to reach a collaboration agreement with the **Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System** (Caricoos) and **SeaGrant Puerto Rico**. This agreement has allowed the school to become the first school with a weather station. We recognize that this agreement has brought together very important wills and knowledge for our country. We are putting at the service of young people the science we need to know to deeply love our island. Through this project, the aim is for students to connect with their environment and understand the influence of climate on their lives.

By scanning the QR Code you can see the data gathered by the Alejandro Tapia y Rivera and presented in school.caricoos.org.



CARICOOS SCHOOL



BUILDING COMMUNITY

HURRICANE FIONA

On September 18, 2022, Puerto Rico was hit again by a hurricane that primarily impacted the southwestern area of the island, causing flooding and a general blackout. Faced with this situation caused by Hurricane Fiona, school communities were in need of basic items to respond to the emergency.

After the hurricane, INE established communication with the directors of the **50 Montessori public schools** it accompanies and compiled the needs faced by the members of each community. In this way, the INE served as a liaison between donors to offer direct support to the most needy families within the communities that suffered the worst consequences of Fiona.

Thanks to the immediate support that INE received from our allies, we were able to support the schools and provide relief to our children and their families. Each food and essential item was received with gratitude by these communities that have had to recover so many times from the adversities that have been presented to them.

785+ PEOPLE IMPACTED



MONTESSORI FEST 2023

After some different times, the **50 schools of the Public Montessori project** gathered in one place. On May 6, 2023, members and allies of the public Montessori Project celebrated together at the Parque Agroturístico at Dorado the first Montessori Fest. This event served to promote meetings between the community for the growth and strengthening of the public Montessori project in Puerto Rico.

This event brought together more than **5,000 people**. There were **21 artistic presentations** on stage with students as protagonists, the schools presented their life lines, exhibited crops, food and crafts produced in their environments and the wonders that occur throughout the school year through the School Transformation Project and Community.

Attendees enjoyed a range of **workshops (25 sessions)** and **informative and interactive tables (6)** among which were the following topics: Knowing the risks of fires in the home to prevent burns, elements of architectural conservation, learn to see the garbage generated in your home in a different way and learn ways to properly handle it, prepare for emergencies and pack your backpack using a pillowcase, learn about bees and the properties of honey, self-defense, among others.

Among the available activities, Para la Naturaleza stands out with the delivery of more than **1,000 native trees** of different species to support their reforestation and conservation efforts, Cristina Rivera Miró in relaxation spaces with yoga, the Don Eloy Farm with rescued animals, story readings and the opportunity to interact with Montessori materials created at the Fabideas cooperative factory.



In the words of the event participants:

"Extraordinary, a wonderful meeting full of vision."

"Congratulations to all the organizers of this beautiful event. Everything was very nice and very well organized. Everyone, especially the children, enjoyed it. Congratulations to all those who gave of their time to delight an audience that demonstrated what a great family they are. Many blessings and success in the future."

In the words of those who took the workshops:

"We loved the activity since we arrived. There were many activities, we took most of the workshops. "The perfect space, lots of people and no one crowded, trees, fresh air..."

FINANCES

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS

The **Finance Office** focuses on maintaining fiscal transparency that strengthens the Public Montessori project. This is achieved by establishing an ethic of financial responsibility, aimed at allocating the majority of the economic resources we receive to services in school communities.



COUNCILORS

We celebrate the work and commitment of the group of organizations that accompany us at strategic tables in favor of strengthening our organization and fulfilling our mission.



FUNDACIÓN
ÁNGEL RAMOS

Fundación Ángel Ramos



**FUNDACIÓN
BANCO POPULAR**

Fundación Banco Popular de PR



Fundación Segarra, Boerman e Hijos



Liberty Foundation



Fundación Colibrí

DONORS

A. Friends Foundation

Fundación Segarra Boerman e Hijos, Inc

Fundación Colibrí

Peter Alfond Foundation

Direct Relief Foundation

Programa Mano Amiga

Donativos Legislativos

Liberty Foundation

Emerson Collective

Para La Naturaleza

Fund. Banco Popular

Mercy Corps

Fund. Flamboyán

Econo

Fundación Ángel Ramos

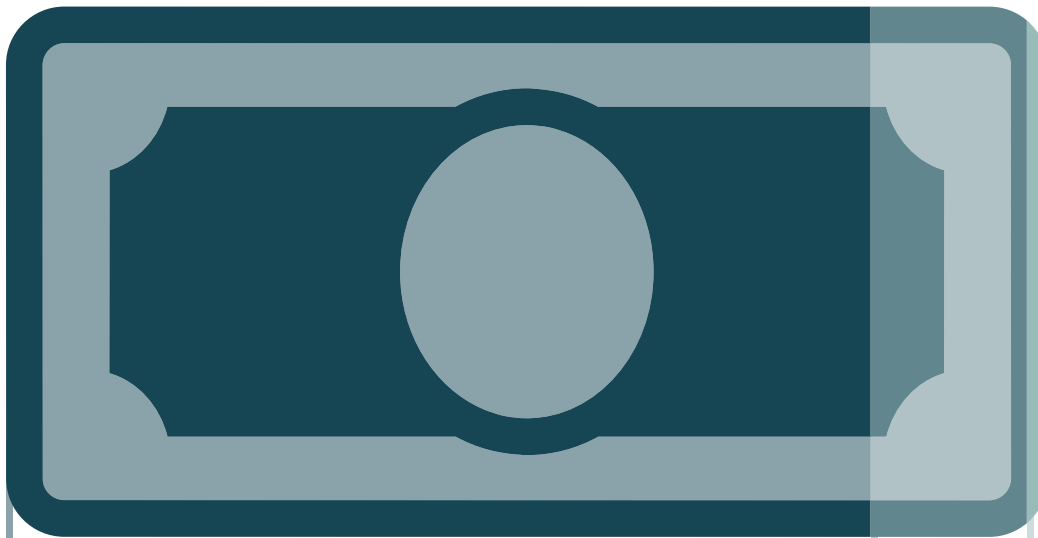
Departamento de Justicia

Oriental



INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME



83%

State and Federal contributions

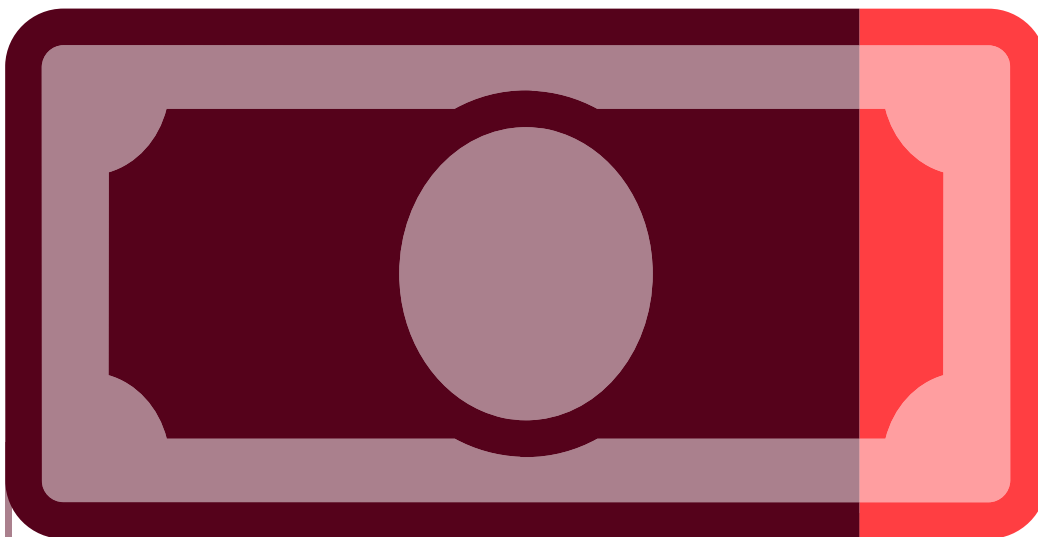
15%

Business, organization
and individual contributions

2%

Programs and
other contributions

EXPENSES

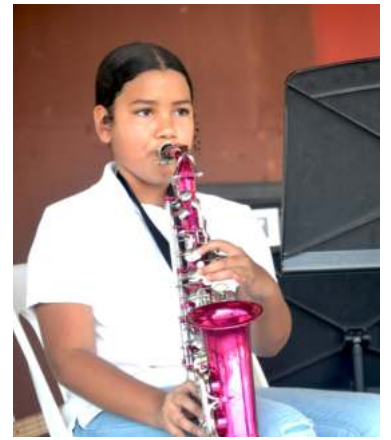


82%

Programatic expenses

18%

Administrative expenses





Informe Anual 2022-2023

Montessori Público: Hacia una educación de excelencia y calidad

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