

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



A Year of Community Leadership





Dear friends and partners,

We are closing yet another year, and while I could do a usual rundown of our achievements, I would rather highlight one: Peruvian leadership.

Health Bridges International (HBI) is steadily evolving to become an institution run by Peruvian community leaders and team members, and it has resulted in transformative impacts to Peruvian children and families needing access to healthcare and welfare services.

I am proud to share this space with **Dr. Tito**, HBI's president in Perú, as he shares more about our work and impact with Peruvians.

Dr. Wayne Centrone

Founder and Executive Director

Vice President, Board of Directors (Perú)

Saludos queridos amigos y socios,

In 2023, as we grew into an organization driven by Peruvian minds and hearts, we continued to **focus, build, and evolve**. Guided by our “sum of all parts” philosophy, community leaders translated your support into encouraging outcomes that are reshaping child welfare services in Perú. To name a few: we are continuously operating two residential centers for boys, expanding support for those of whom have finished our program, and growing our training programs for local partners.

Through this report, we would love for you to know more about the impact we are making together, and we cannot wait to put our plans for 2024 and beyond in action.

Gracias por su continuo apoyo en nuestra organización (Thank you for your continuous support to our organization),

Dr. Roberto “Tito” H. Tarazona Ponte

Director of Comunidad Girasoles

President, Board of Directors (Perú)



Our Mission

We collaborate with local experts, advocates, and organizations to build evidence-based models that protect and empower vulnerable children.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where every child, youth, and young adult has access to a life built on health, hope, home, and purpose.

Our model ensures that children and families across Perú will have access to quality caregiving and medical treatment through our Communities of Excellence (CoE)—community-driven and replicable frameworks for healthcare and welfare providers like NGOs, government agencies, educational institutions, and youth organizations.





Peruvian Leadership in Action

The HBI community demonstrated their leadership as they strengthened our integrated health systems and served even more children and their families toward lives full of health, hope, home, and purpose.

With presence, partnerships, and infrastructure expanding in Perú, the communities have become a base of research and programming that is opening new possibilities and best practices for child-caring institutions nationwide.



Our Centers of Excellence model has been renamed **Communities of Excellence (CoE)**, signifying the growth in our mindset:

(1) As our community continues to champion children at risk, we must reflect the truth about societal transformation: it happens through the dedication and power of people taking action together – not buildings or other physical structures (“Centers”).

We recognize the people in our communities, and the skills, knowledge, and strengths they bring through the Communities of Excellence.

(2) We have reached a milestone in merging child welfare-focused research and resources under a unified portfolio. With this portfolio made available to our private and public partners, our CoE model will facilitate the rise of people-led, collaborative, and replicable childcare systems across Perú to support children and families facing marginalization.



The **Newborn Resuscitation Training Program (NRTP)** has been a beacon of hope for underserved families with new babies. By expanding the reach of our training program, our partner nurses and midwives are now reaching more communities, saving more lives and nurturing healthier families.



1,347 *medical practitioners trained*



76 *new nurse trainers recruited*



48 *training workshops conducted across 14 cities*

Our renewed Memorandum of Agreement with **Universidad Catolica Santa Maria (UCSM)** in Arequipa last April 2023 marked a historic collaboration where research, cultural exchange, and inter-professional development take center stage, not just for HBI staff and communities, but for all of the university's faculty.



After three years, we were thrilled to return to Portland, Oregon's famous Andina Restaurant, where we held our **sold-out fundraising** event called **A Bridge to Change**. We were also able to bring this over to the other side of the coast— in Connecticut's top restaurant, Coracora! Because of the generosity of our donors, we successfully raised **over \$90,000** to ensure health, hope, home, and purpose for children in Perú. What an honor to be in the presence of people who truly see HBI as partners in the Peruvian community toward the change we want to see in our world today.

These milestones were possible only because of the indomitable spirit of community leaders in Perú and the generosity of our partners and donors. We are so grateful for your support.

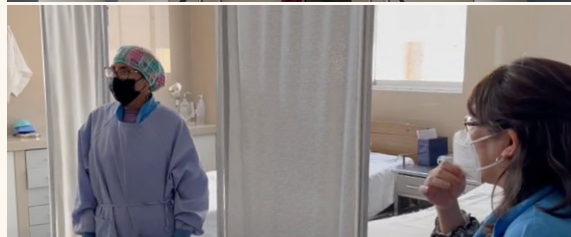


Caring for **78 young boys**, the **Casa Girasoles** and **Comunidad Girasoles** programs champion the right of the youth to live in stable homes and caring family environments. The boys are accessing scholarships and immersing themselves in technical training to unlock their talents and increase their employability as they transition toward independent living. We have also strengthened the Girasoles team with **14 new staff members**, led by Dr. Roberto Tarazona's compassionate leadership.

A highlight of this year was a boy from Casa Girasoles Urubamba placing 3rd in the Cross Country Cusco to Urubamba mountain bike race. His achievement brought immense pride to our community and testified to the potential of the young lives we are nurturing.



After three years of planning and fundraising, the new **Alto Cayma Mission Clinic and Health Center** was officially inaugurated in March 2023. **Father Alex Busuttil** and the Missionary Society of St. Paul have built a state-of-the-art community health center that offers healthcare ranging from general medicine and ophthalmology to dentistry and gynecology. The health center attends to an average of **800 to 1,000 patients** per month and primarily serves the Cayma District with a population of approximately **35,000 people**. People from other districts in Arequipa, Perú's second-largest city, also receive care from the clinic.



Watch our video blog of the exciting new mission clinic and health center [here](#).



*The children residing in Casa Girasoles stand on the strong shoulders of warm and nurturing leaders like **Sra. Maritza Altamirano Aldazabal**, co-director and house parent at Casa Girasoles in the Sacred Valley of Cusco. Get to know her and why we celebrate community leaders like her!*



What led you to work with children in residential care?

I personally had a difficult childhood, and it led me from a very young age to be passionate about helping, giving love and time to people in need, especially children and adolescents. For me and my husband, this isn't just our jobs, our work in Casa Girasoles nourishes our spirits.

What is the hardest part of working with children at Casa Girasoles?

The children in Casa Girasoles come to us [having experienced] many difficulties in their lives, so it can be challenging to witness the personalities, emotions, and behaviors that arise as a result of their experiences.



What is the best part of working with children at Casa Girasoles?

The opportunity to make a positive difference [in the lives] of children and adolescents who are and were under my care. The best part is how I can be part of their lives and help them overcome their difficulties and traumas, and see them grow professionally as good people who can achieve their goals.

How is your work with the HBI community helping you?

I learn a lot from the training, teaching materials, workshops, and projects for the welfare of children and adolescents. I learned to be more compassionate, patient, and empathetic in order to have a more meaningful connection with my surroundings. I understand the reasons for the behavioral attitudes of children and adolescents with trauma, and I now have the knowledge and skills to provide better care for [them], better administrative organization within the home, and be part of [supporting] the holistic wellbeing of children and adolescents at Casa Girasoles.



Statement of Financial Position

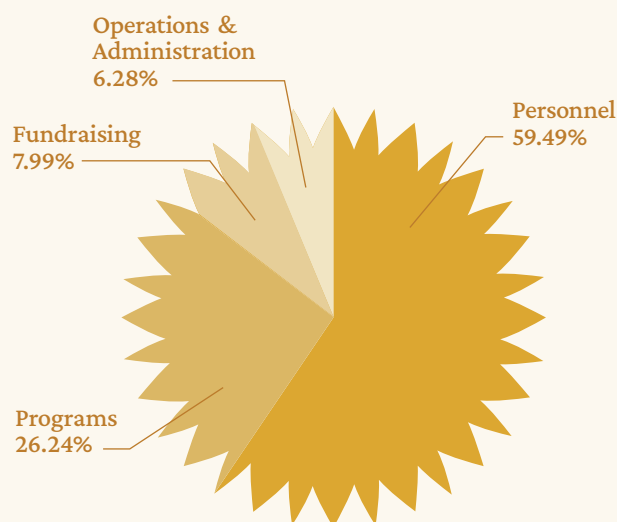
as of December 31, 2023 | in USD

Total Assets	\$121,221.23
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	\$115,896.97
<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>	\$5,324.26
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$121,221.23
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	\$3,186.85
<i>Unrestricted Net Assets</i>	\$487,994.66
<i>Restricted Net Assets</i>	-\$230,208.10
<i>Net Revenue</i>	-\$139,752.18
<i>Total Equity</i>	\$118,034.38

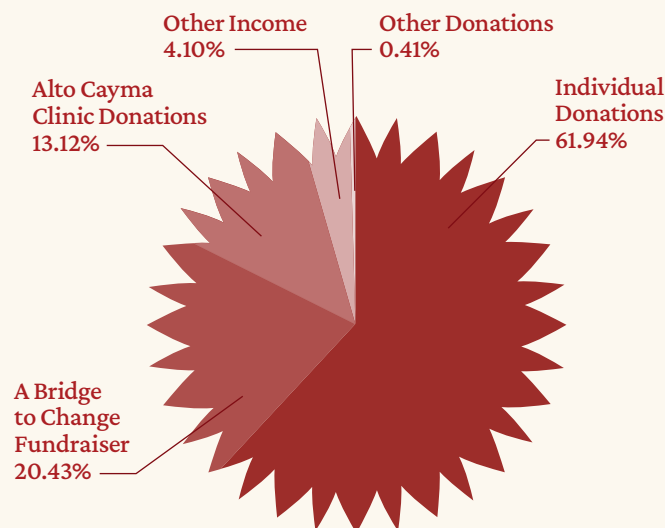
Statement of Activity

January–December 2023

Use of Funds



Sources of Funds



Total Funds Used	\$536,744.74
<i>Personnel</i>	\$319,323.91
<i>Programs</i>	\$140,846.48
<i>Fundraising</i>	\$42,863.54
<i>Operations & Administration</i>	\$33,710.81

Total Funds Sourced	\$456,956.12
<i>Individual Donations</i>	\$283,024.82
<i>A Bridge to Change Fundraiser</i>	\$93,358.00
<i>Alto Cayma Clinic Donations</i>	\$59,963.96
<i>Other Income</i>	\$18,727.80
<i>Church, University, and Corporate Donations</i>	\$1,881.54



Envisioning Tomorrow

HBI communities and partners are preparing to deepen impact in three programming pillars:



Communities of Excellence

In working toward replicable and evidence-based childcare systems, vibrant Peruvian communities will be a force for transformation. We aim to:

- Distill key insights from Phases I and II of the CoE to **prioritize equipping Casa Girasoles directors and house parents** with the foundational understanding of their roles as primary intervention specialists.
- Set the stage for Phase III, using rigorous evaluation and research methodologies to **build a community framed around the core concepts of mindfulness, connection, and empowerment.**
- **Launch a beta website for the community** to have a unified platform for training, professional development, and community resources.



Casa Girasoles & Comunidad Girasoles

To deepen the impact of HBI's cornerstone programs, the Casa Girasoles and Comunidad Girasoles programs aim to:

- **Streamline the process** of capturing and sharing crucial operational information with house directors and staff.
- **Guarantee that every boy entering Casa Girasoles receives a life development plan** within 14 days, connected with opportunities from the Comunidad Graduates Program.
- **Expand the mentorship program** to operate at both houses under the guidance of the Comunidad Girasoles team.



Newborn Resuscitation Training Program

With our partners such as the Peruvian College of Nurses, we will work closely with medical trainers and staff from a full-time training center to:

- Expand our Thinkific Learning Management System to **provide a web portal combining synchronous and asynchronous learning** with 3 stand-alone learning modules and access to a community of learning for personal and professional development.
- Support HBI's Medical Director by hiring a Master Trainer who will **enhance the “train-the-trainer” model across Peruvian universities** to cultivate impact nationwide.
- Finalize the pilot test with ten (10) College of Nursing programs and strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plans to **improve national healthcare standards.**

Take action with HBI communities in 2024!

As we look towards the coming year, we're excited to boost our digital competence. Whether it's software programming, web content management, database development, or IT infrastructure support, [contact us](#) to share your gifts and talents, or consider other key ways to take action:

◇ [Support Peruvian children](#)

◇ [Partner with us](#)

◇ [Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

◇ [Work with us](#)

◇ [Learn more about HBI](#)      

Be on the lookout for dates for future A Bridge to Change events for an evening of hope, along with a nice spread of Peruvian cuisine and silent auction items. More than a night of solidarity, these events put forward a brighter future that Perú's children will continue to create and chart for themselves.

We are confident about the future because we've seen the transformative power of Peruvian leadership. Our profound gratitude go to you, our dedicated donors, and our HBI communities, leaders, and staff.

Thank you for changing the landscape of institutional childcare in Perú with us.