

# ANNUAL REPORT



<https://fundaorth.org/>

**MARINA**  **ORTH**  
**FOUNDATION**  
EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

**2022**

# Administration

Paula Marín Ortiz  
**Executive Director**

María Isabel Colorado Vargas  
**Director of Administration and Finance**

Estefania Hoyos Guerra  
**Director of Institutional Development**

Salazar Asesores S.A.S  
**Accountants**

Natalia Mazo Agudelo  
**Director of Academics**

Pricewaterhouse Coopers  
**Auditors**

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## Testimonial

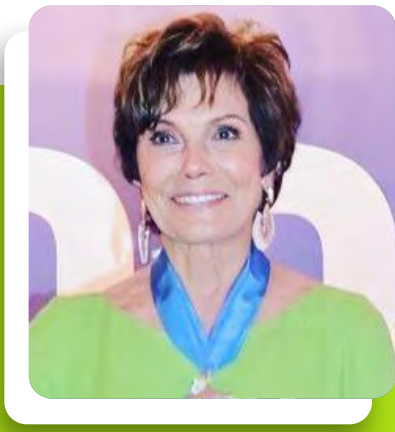
Maureen Orth, through her leadership and tireless work in Medellín since 1964, as part of the Peace Corps program, is an exceptional example and a source of great inspiration for us all.

Seventeen years ago she created the Marina Orth Foundation in Colombia, with the mission to “reduce educational and social inequality through permanent educational innovation.” The foundation operates in several communities in Antioquia and been working for four years in Nuquí, Chocó. These educational programs have given more than 21,475 students the tools they need for academic and workplace success in the twenty-first century through access to computers and teaching technology, English, Robotics, advising, and citizenship. They have taught over 600 teachers in 51 schools and educational centers how to use technology to improve classroom management and to teach STEM.

It is touching to find the classrooms full of smiling students who are proud of their achievements, which show us it is possible and very gratifying to break the cycle of poverty. Maureen and the Marina Orth Foundation richly deserve our recognition and I invite you to offer them ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT! Their programs have been very successful and should be duplicated throughout the country to benefit more students, teachers, and communities.

**Carolina Barco Isakson**  
Former Foreign Minister of Colombia  
Colombian Ambassador to US and Spain





# Our Founder *Maureen Orth*

## Dear Friends and Supporters:

Imagine you are a poorly paid Colombian public school teacher whose students are bored by your rote memorization lectures. Imagine learning robotics and English together in a much more fun and interesting way. In 2022, the MOF created two pioneering programs that can be underwritten to enhance education throughout the region.

We piloted our new TECHLISH program in nine schools for over 200 third to fifth graders. They loved it! Thank you Medellin Rotary Club and Nicolas Jordan Foundation for sponsoring. We got terrific feedback from over 100 public school teachers in six schools who enrolled in our STEM teaching program. Via zoom we created our own "Doctora Orth" who wore a white coat and stethoscope to listen to and diagnose the teacher's symptoms/issues and provided the cure of exciting new ways to present STEM to their students. Thank you underwriter San Blas.

In Nuquí, on Colombia's vulnerable and biodiverse Pacific coast, our mostly Afrocolombian and indigenous students are advancing robotic solutions to capture potable water; we also designed a new school gardens project we are

introducing this year to address their food insecurity.

Our Washington DC fiesta in September was the best ever: we sang along with Mauro Castillo from the cast of Disney's *Encanto* and had a cool silent auction including original art and the artist herself, our former board President Camila Echeverria. Much gratitude to all of you who help support our 29 advanced English and university scholarships.

In April, I received an overwhelming honor: I was made a Colombian citizen at a stunning dinner hosted by Ambassador Juan Carlos Pinzón at the Colombian embassy in Washington. Just a week before, I had been in Colombia, racing around in a Techlish class, firing questions in English, running to write words on the blackboard when a perplexed fifth grader raised his hand to ask, "What planet do you come from?"

Now I can proudly say both the United States and Colombia.

Gracias Colombia,

**Marina**

## Board of Directors

Maureen Orth  
Jaime Eduardo Arteaga De Brigard  
Claudia Restrepo Piedrahita

Henry Eduardo García Gaviria  
Marlon Vargas Patiño

# Our Impact

during  
**2022**



**9,018**  
Students



**23** Schools and  
Education Centers



**118**  
Teachers



**18** University  
Scholarships

**8** Advanced English  
Scholarships



**Where:**  
El Carmen de Viboral  
Medellín  
Nuquí  
La Ceja

## We are closing the digital divide!!

We bring **technological access** to our **children** and their families through our unique programs of **digital literacy**.

**\*Tools + Knowledge\***



**2,100**  
XO Computers



**827**  
Students



**12** Schools and  
Education  
Centers



**26**  
Teachers



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# Techlish®

Our New Innovation!

## Robotics + English



**213**  
Students



**7** Schools and  
Education  
Centers



**60**  
Projects

**4 prize winners**  
in each category focused  
on **solving real community**  
**problems**



La Ceja  
El Carmen de Viboral



**6**  
Teachers

- > Environment
- > Help my community
- > Automation solutions
- > Personal inventions

Designed and implemented by our 2022 volunteers Debbie and Joe



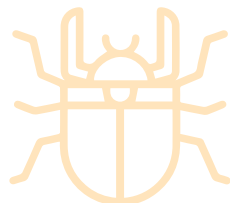
## Winning project in Environmental Solutions Marseños Beetles

### Problem:

Beetle larva eat the roots of local crops.

### Solution:

A light sensor that attracts the beetles to lay their eggs in the light, not the crops.



- > Modern non-toxic way to combat crop pests.

# Our STEM program at:



Medellín  
2022

## 23rd Global Education Summit 2022

We shared experiences of **innovative education** and teacher training.



15,000+  
Attendees in person



74  
Countries



175,000+  
Attended virtually



We were **selected to present our model of teaching STEM** and teacher training in rural communities.

**Our presenters:** Sofia Barrios, MOF Program Coordinator and Lina Castañeda, below, aka Doctora Orth, MOF STEM professional.



## Colombian National STEM Conference 2022

In this conference of private Colombian academic institutions that work in STEM we **presented our model for public schools.**

We modernize traditional **classroom management and discipline practices** to empower public school teachers.



# Teaching the teachers: STEM



Creating more interesting and dynamic classrooms

4 prescriptive categories to refresh classroom routines:

- > Better classroom management
- > Learning zones for STEM
- > Emotional nutrition
- > Tech in the classroom

- We create **innovative learning environments and experiences.**
- We teach **healthy emotional management skills.**
- We **integrate and apply our methods** to real life situations.
- We use **technology to modernize how students learn.**



**2,137**  
Students  
impacted



**6** Schools



**115**  
Teachers  
trained



Morning warmups to wake up mind and body

# We teach how to think and speak

## in English

### Our model:

We answer the need for communication in English



Vocabulary



Interactive  
Games



Cultural  
Exchange

We use **every day elements** for learning

We focus on **oral communication**

We motivate students to **continue studying English**



## English Trivia Contest

A team contest to strengthen students' skills in:

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Thinking in English
- Teamwork

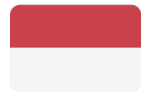


# Teaching English in Colombia!



- Life transforming experiences
- Significant intercultural exchanges
- Support education in rural communities
- Immerse in Colombian culture
- Learn how to teach
- Become a social change agent

In 2022 we had  
**8** International  
Volunteers



## Maya Atwater

“ I chose Colombia because of its natural beauty and diversity. I also heard great things about Colombian people and wanted to learn Spanish. Thanks to the Marina Orth Foundation, I had a great experience living in a rural town outside of Medellín. The students were so eager to learn and showed such gratitude. They loved to ask questions about my home or different English words and they loved to teach me Spanish as well. ”



# Our Robotics

Providing solutions to real life problems!



537  
Students



8 Schools and  
Education Centers



298 (55%)  
Girls participation



30 Prototypes  
created

We are the only ones teaching robotics in Colombian public primary school classrooms!



We are developing abilities focused on the 4th generation industrial revolution:

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Assertive communication
- Teamwork

## Extracurricular Clubs

using the students' free time for **prize winning performances**

## Rural focus

using everyday materials to enhance creativity

## Robokit

Our pandemic invention to continue learning at robotics at home



# Winners



## Girls in Robotics



Constructing and programming robots to develop critical thinking, teamwork and problem solving.



All girls team



Clamber Category

**The Challenge:** Climb a vertical surface of 5 feet in the shortest possible time.



**2nd place**  
qualifying round

Our time:

**1.34 seconds**

## Science Fair Winner El Carmen de Viboral

### Project Spin



El Carmen de Viboral is reknown for its ceramics!

**Category:**  
**Science and Technology**

Learning the science of the local industry: inventing a pottery wheel that functions with bicycle pedals.



# On the ground in the Colombian Pacific!

Rich in biodiversity, poor in educational resources

 Ecotourism School  
Litoral Pacífico

## 4 years in Nuquí



**700+**  
Students



**17**  
Teachers



**440**  
XO Computers

**Creating and adapting  
curricula for:**

- > Unique opportunities and needs of the community
- > Development of eco-tourism



**2023**

We want to **contribute to Nuquí's food security** with our project through **small-scale sustainable production.**

### Technological capacity



Digital  
Kiosk



**13**  
Televisions



Satellite  
Internet



# Our Stars in Nuquí!



ELLA ES  
**ASTRONAUTA**  
VIRTUAL



- Empowering, motivating and inspiring Colombian girls
- Breaking the barriers of poverty
- Being icons and role models for other girls

**1,700+ participants**



## Finalist

**Sara Sofía Gamboa**

From our Nuquí school: finalist in "She Is an Astronaut Program."



## ROBO glam JAM

Creating a **Bristlebot** to move 5 feet in the fastest possible time.



**2** girls  
teams  
6 students



**10th place in  
round 2**

Bristle Race Category  
National Competition



Opportunities in Higher Education

# The "U" in School

## Guiding rural students towards higher education

> Connecting them to scholarships and financial opportunities

**SAPIENCIA**

Agencia de Educación  
Postsecundaria de Medellín



Alcaldía de Medellín



Fundación  
Fraternidad  
Medellín



CORPORACIÓN  
Gilberto  
Echeverri  
Mejía



6 High schools



17 Visits from  
University  
Representatives

## Of our 546 students in 11th grade ...

We had an **increase of 59%**  
in higher education admission

5 universities participating



UNIVERSIDAD<sup>®</sup>  
DE ANTIOQUIA



Institución  
Universitaria  
Reacreditada en Alta Calidad



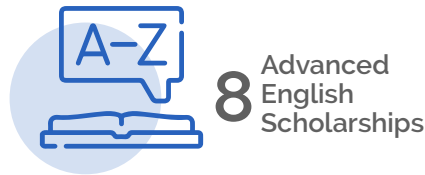
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# Our Scholars



- Opportunities to access a higher education by paying tuition and living expenses.
- Study skills advising.
- Guidance counseling for students and family.
- Admission and tuition counseling.
- Technological support and digital study tools.



Systems Engineering  
Foreign Language Teaching  
Law  
Administrative Sciences  
Nursing and Public Health



## Paulina Cerón

**Graduate of Santa Juana de Lestonnac, Medellín  
Systems Engineering Major, EAFIT University**

“ My time with the foundation has influenced me throughout my life. The MOF began supporting me through robotics clubs winning international championships in primary school and now with my college studies in one of Colombia's best universities. It is very gratifying to be able to count on the foundation to help me become a Systems Engineer. In the future I also want to be able to affect the lives of others the way the foundation has affected mine.



## Allan Arias

**Graduate of Colegio Básico Camino de Paz, Medellín  
Law Student, University Pontificia Bolivariana**

“ The scholarship is very important to my life. It has allowed me to go to college to improve myself as a student and a person, and has definitely affected my life in so many ways. For me it is such a privilege to have the foundation scholarship. I have the luxury of saying I am biligual and that I am studying law. Thanks to these opportunities I have been able to do things like visiting the Colombian Senate and start my own tourism business. I have been able to expand my world.







# We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



## Finances

Thank you to our donors and partners.  
Donations received in 2022:

**\$322,000.00**

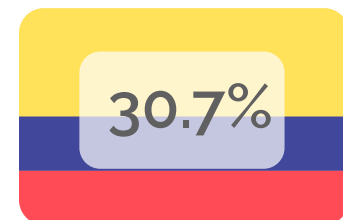
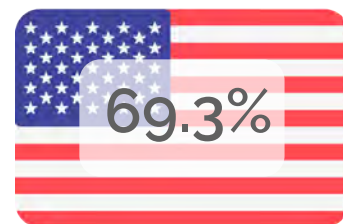
**70.1%**

Projects and programs

**29.9%**

Administrative costs

Funds:





# Thanks to our partners!



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**Join our cause!** <https://fundaorth.org/>