



FUNDACIÓN CAMINO DE EMAÚS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLOMBIA

2024 Annual Report



CORE VALUES

- * Education
- * Leadership
- * Generosity



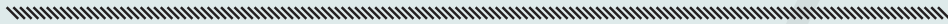


Beloved Mission Friend(s):

As we reflect in specific mission outcomes which God has accomplished thanks to your trust and generosity, gratitude is indeed what fills our hearts. In this ever-new spirit of heartfelt gratitude, we joyfully share our 2024 Annual Report.

This year 2024 we were blessed with the visit of Bishop Regina Hassanally and Kathy Chatelaine from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, a Companion Synod of the Lutheran Church of Colombia and Fiscal Agent for Fundacion Camino de Emaus. Our mission relationships with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod span 30 fruitful years. Thank you for walking with us in mutually transformative mission! Our gratitude is also extended to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission for their generosity in support of formal education in Colombia. **Thank you in the name of Christ!**

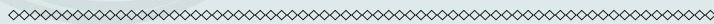
Besides the mission outcomes shared in this report, we are passionately engaged in cultivating a culture of mission generosity within Colombia. Thanks to this intentional commitment, we gratefully acknowledge a generous response by congregations and national ministries of the Lutheran Church of Colombia. The same is true regarding professional students who have graduated thanks to the support of the Foundation. As the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia, we also celebrate the significant mission impacts we had in other vital ministry areas such as the CELCO Lutheran Schools, The National Senior Ministry and the National Evangelism Ministry. **Yes! It all happened thanks to your generosity! From our home to yours, Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons!**



From our Board President: With ever-new joy & thanksgiving, we share the mission outcomes which your trust and generosity made possible in the areas of formal education, Christian leadership, strategic communications and senior ministries. Having transitioned into our brand-new logo, we are passionate about our Christian identity and fully committed to mission sustainability and environmental responsibility. As Board of Directors, we celebrate our logo's core values of **EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & GENEROSITY!**

We are equally passionate about securing sustainable initiatives for the Foundation's ongoing mission. One specific initiative is the LIZWAN ENDOWMENT FUND which is administered by the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. Current gifts in any amount may be made to the LIZWAN ENDOWMENT FUND. Please make check payable to Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, noting LIZWAN ENDOWMENT FUND on the memo line and mail it to Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, 103 12th St., Suite 201, Pflugerville, TX, 78660.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the LIZWAN ENDOWMENT FUND is also possible. Such distribution **MUST BE MADE** through the ELCA Foundation. For more information on considering a QCD, please contact (800) 424-0447. The LFSW office will have a gift planner contact you. Your LFSW gift planner will guide you through the entire process. **Secured online and tax-deductible giving is available at www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en.**



Holistic Mission Impacts 2024: Entrusted with your generosity, Fundacion Camino de Emaus positively impacted opportunities for formal education in 21 communities throughout Colombia where the Lutheran Church of Colombia is present. This colorful kaleidoscope of mission outcomes happens because of you.

Formal Education Scholarship Program: 287 students, ranging from elementary school to university, were blessed with formal education in 2024. Your life-giving generosity as mission companions in Colombia and outside Colombia, made it possible the graduation of 44 elementary and high school students. A female indigenous student from the Kogui Community in northern Colombia graduated with a Degree in Education being one of the first to lead the way in her own community. Two other university students graduated with Degrees in Tourism and Hotel Administration and Graphic Design.

Training Seminars on Life Skills: Training seminars on self-knowledge, emotional intelligence, assertive communication, interpersonal relationships and creative thinking were offered to 162 high school students and their parents. Through these seminars we strengthen leadership skills, one of our new logo's core values.

Support to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia: as Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, besides the area of formal education, Fundacion Camino de Emaus shares strategic alliances which impact other ministries and four Lutheran Schools. This year 2024, your generosity made it possible to financially support the True Vine Project, a community of 20 cognitively challenged people who received training in motor and working skills. Working with leather and synthetic materials, this community developed small enterprises to support their families.



Our gratitude to **GIVOLOGY** (New York) and **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** (New Braunfels, TX) for their grants for the CELCO Lutheran School in El Cocuy. Thanks to these grants and the strong leadership of the local community in El Cocuy, the school is making significant progress toward sustainability. 33 students were blessed with high quality education as well as with practical training to be environmental agents.

Senior Ministry Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia: Working collaboratively with a Coordinating Team of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, Fundacion Camino de Emaus continues to be instrumental in this recently established National Ministry. From its very beginning, we are committed to laying solid foundations for its sustainability. The fruits of this collaboration will allow the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia to serve holistic needs of seniors within its congregations and missions.

Bilingual Communication - Good Shepherd Senior Center: Thanks to the generosity of the Synod of Alberta & the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, 40 vulnerable seniors in Soacha enjoy holistic services such as nutrition, recreation, home visits and spiritual support. Fundacion Camino de Emaus facilitates bilingual communication between the Lutheran Church of Colombia, the USA and Canada.

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, Austin TX: Our heartfelt gratitude to Triumphant Love Lutheran Church for their joy in sharing English school books with the Lutheran Schools of Colombia. Thank you, Pastor Natanael, for transporting them to Colombia in such a heavy suitcase! Fundacion Camino de Emaus is so excited and passionate about the Lutheran Schools gradually becoming bilingual schools.

Global Voices Virtual Broadcasts: These broadcasts involve voices by our network of supporters in USA and Canada. These broadcasts celebrate the empowering generosity of our mission companions.

Growing National Sustainability: Our 3rd National Campaign "Ora y Colabora" (Pray & Give Campaign) aimed at socializing the work of the Foundation and to invite national generosity toward scholarships for 10 new elementary school students in 2024. Our gratitude to individuals, families and Churches in Colombia who donated precious resources to make possible elementary education for children.

Endowment for Formal Education in Colombia: We are grateful to IELCO-Finland Scholarship Program for its foundational gifts to this growing endowment in Colombia. The more this endowment grows, the more sustainability it will provide for the mission of Fundación Camino de Emaús.

LIZWAN Endowment Fund in the USA: This growing endowment administered by the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest welcome gifts of any amount and at any time, including legacy gifts at the end of life. Specific information about how to give to this Endowment is found on the message from Pastor Natanael. **Heartfelt gratitude to the Okerson Family for the generous legacy of sustainability already made to this Endowment through their Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).**



Tax-deductible ways to give: If giving by check, make it payable to Southeastern Minnesota Synod, include Emmaus Road Foundation in the memo line and mail it in attention of Kathy Chatelaine at 418 Sumner Street East – Suite 200, Northfield, MN 55057. **Secured online giving is available at www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en. Select Fundacion Camino de Emaus for your gift.**



Bishop Atahualpa Hernández

I greet you on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and its ministries. As we celebrate another year of the Foundation's significant outcomes in formal education, leadership formation, evangelizing initiatives, mission relationships, Casa Emaus and Senior Care Ministries. We praise God for all and each one of you our beloved mission companions. These mission outcomes truly are the fruits of your empowering generosity!.

To the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), to the Foundation's network of supporters in the USA, to our Companion Synods in Southeastern Minnesota, South Carolina and Alberta (Canada) our heartfelt gratitude. Working together, we continue to weave the rich and colorful tapestry of God's mission here in Colombia. Yes! Together! Together we are strengthening the missional and evangelizing capacity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. From our homes to yours, a grace-filled Advent and Christmas Seasons!.



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Beloved friend(s)

Someone has said that “the most beautiful reality in the world is to see someone happy because of you”. **Because of you, joy is very real for families, communities, CELCO Schools, seniors, cognitive challenged people, and hundreds of students. It is in this ever-new spirit of joy that we share our 2024 Annual Report.**

To celebrate the transforming power of mission relationships and generosity, we share the story of Lilia, an Indigenous Kogui woman whose photo is shown on the front page. Lilia belongs to the Indigenous Kogui community, a tribe who lives at the mountaintop of the city of Santa Marta in northern Colombia. Lilia is married to Elias and together they have a one-year-old baby. Lilia and Elías studied Early Childhood Care at the Technical Institute of Santa Marta. To accomplish their education, they needed to travel every Saturday to Santa Marta to attend classes. During the week they attended virtual classes while their little baby was cared for by Lilia's mother.

Having recently graduated, Lilia hopes to work for the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, which is the Colombian entity for the protection of children. Because of you, Lilia scholarship provided necessary resources to pay tuition for her education, transportation expenses, studying materials, a laptop, a backpack, Office software and antivirus.

Lilia's educational accomplishments represent a significant milestone not only for Lilia and her family but also for the whole Kogui tribe. Lilia's personal example and leadership will resonate throughout her own community and inspire other young women to pursue higher education, become agents of social transformation and break the cycle of material poverty.

These empowering outcomes do happen thanks to your generosity and your passionate commitment to formal education as a passport to a dignified and fruitful life. The story of Lilia is only one among hundreds of life-transforming stories which you continue to make possible in Colombia. For additional stories of transformation and leadership please visit our website www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en.
From our home to yours, a Blessed Advent & Christmas Seasons!

With joy and thanksgiving,



Stella Lizarazo, Executive Director



Pr. Natanael Lizarazo, President Board of Directors

Educación - Liderazgo - Generosidad

Celebrating the transforming power of relationships and generosity!

