



ENLACES

Annual Report 2022





Dear friends:

We are condemned to optimism. An optimism that does not make us blind to the structural challenges faced by our students: the resurgence of violence in our neighborhoods, the educational crisis deepened by the pandemic and the social crisis of 2022, the poverty and hunger that threaten those who were already vulnerable before the arrival of the pandemic.

Through art, education, and culture, we try every day to transmit to our students that revolutionary attitude proposed by Viktor Frankl: a tragic optimism. A perspective that, without failing to recognize the existence of conflict, pain, and suffering, finds meaning and hope that these realities can change.

A tragic optimism, but also stubborn. Because transforming our reality and refusing to resign ourselves to what we believe is unjust is an act that requires the deepest determination, firmness, constancy, and conviction.

Our students, work team, volunteers, and partners work day by day driven by that optimism and hope that better days are yet to come, but that they will not come alone. There is hard work to be assumed for this to happen, and we are committed to that task.

Today we share with you a year of achievements by our students. We celebrate their artistic development, but also their human and civic growth. They, with their strength and determination, are our engine and main source of hope.

Enlace Team

Fundación Espacio Creativo



ENLACES

is a preventive proposal that seeks to transform the lives of children and adolescents in vulnerable situations, through the practice of contemporary dance, strengthening their academic development and psychosocial and family support, developing skills that allow them to improve their quality of life, and to grow as agents of change and responsible citizens.



2022 *in a nutshell*

360

children and teenagers impacted

37 in Intensive Program

36 in Semi-Intensive Program

162 in School Program

115 in community program

96% retention of students in the Intensive Program

84% retention of students in the Semi-Intensive Program

4000 people reached as public

AWARDS TO FUNDACIÓN ESPACIO CREATIVO - 2022

Analida Galindo - Co-Director of FEC
Afield fellowship 2022 for Cultural Agents

To the Enlaces Program, for the defense of Human Rights
Ombudsman's Office

To the Sandbox Program for their commitment to youth employability

Alianza por los Jóvenes Panameños / Sumarse

**To the Enlaces Artistic Program,
for Excellence in Contemporary Dance**
Danza Activa International Competition

We are proud to be a safe, belonging, protection and discrimination-free space for children and adolescents, without any kind of distinction.



Opening opportunities

through dance, education and culture



Dance for the soul

22 artistic presentations

11 contestants in the Danza Activa International Competition

6 diamond medals - solo category

4 gold medals - solo category

3 international scholarships obtained

3 students studied dance programs in Costa Rica and the US.

90%

of students reported that these classes generate a positive impact on their sense of emotional well-being.



I have a goal with myself: Overcome my problems and manage my emotions through dance. Today I feel that the people around me make my life turn a different color.

Lindsay - 17 years old

*Dancing keeps me active,
makes me forget about things
that stress me out. I stay cheerful
and happy.*
Jean Pierre, 15 años



Art as an exercise of citizenship and cultural democracy

8 free presentations in public spaces.

3 schools on
Yo No me llamo Mami tour,
thanks to the Canada Fund
for Local Initiatives.

Canada

2500

boys, girls and
teenagers from
vulnerable
communities have
access to art and
culture offers.



*The projects allow us to explore situations that
other people experience, for example refugees,
and find similarities with the ones we
experience. With dance we transmit ideas and
feelings that are difficult to express. Dancing
we can express ourselves without using words.*
Claudia - 16 years old

1 piece in Commemoration of World
Refugee Day, with enthusiastic refugee
dancers, together with the



Art to create

synergies



1 photographic exhibition focused on Climate Change together with the Sandbox Program and UNHCR

1 training cycle and an art gallery in up-recycling thanks to the OEI

1 tour to prevent sexual harassment on the street through **Yo no me llamo Mami** with the support of the Canadian Embassy.

2 production cycles of short films focused on Human Rights together with the Sandbox Program, SUMARSE and Fundamorgan

1 music video together with Fundación Huellas de Ángel

172 dance and body language classes for boys and girls from CEBG Nuestra Señora de la Merced

2 nights of community cinema together with Ecocinema, Fundamorgan and UNHCR

Healthy boys and girls:

Healthy community

Mental health

Monthly monitoring
of social work to all families

100% of the children received
preventive individual care.

100% of boys and girls with
high-risk psychosocial indicators
receive individual psychological care.



60% fewer violent
incidents compared to 2021.

13

boys and girls
received
**104 individual
psychotherapy
sessions**

61

individual
counseling sessions
for children in
psychosocial
stress.

150

sessions of
psychosocial
workshops

*Enlaces has helped me improve
as a person, to think about myself
and how to act when anything
happens, be it good or bad. I feel like
I can be myself regardless of other
people's opinions.
Ana, 15 years old.*



Integral Health

100%

of the children in the intensive and trampoline programs receive a comprehensive physical evaluation.

of adolescents receive specialized care and guidance in Sexual Health and Reproductive Health.

of the students received dental and nutritional evaluation.

22 students with specific health needs received them.

90% were evaluated by ophthalmology and optometry.

30% required and received glasses.



90% were evaluated by speech therapy.

3 students required and received additional evaluation or attention.





Relationship with families and protection



5 parent club sessions focused on health promotion and positive parenting.

94% of fathers, mothers and caregivers attend their children's presentations.

96% of parents attended one or more parent club sessions.


94% of parents feel satisfied with their children's participation in the program.

My daughter found a passion in dance. But in addition to dance, I highly value the academic support and health issues they give them. In the health days we received first-rate care: laboratory tests, talks [with the] nutritionist where she suggested the correct way of feeding children who are developing, and excellent care from the family doctor...

I am grateful because the training of our children is not only in dance and academics, but also in health.

- Mrs. R.

Student caretaker

 **100%** of our staff, volunteers and interns, have received training in safeguarding the rights of children and adolescents.

Education to open *opportunities*



115 reading comprehension strengthening sessions

114 tutoring sessions in math and science

82 monitoring visits to schools

56 sessions of individual and group psycho-pedagogical attention

27 hours of English thanks to **Fundación Gabriel Lewis Galindo**

91% of our students improved their reading comprehension skills.

98% of the children were promoted to the following school year.

100% of children with suspected Special Educational Needs are evaluated and receive adjustments.



The academic support helped me a lot to raise my grades, to be more responsible and disciplined. The academic space is a place where one feels comfortable and there is peace of mind to do our homework. I learned that I don't have to leave things to the last minute, but rather take advantage of my free time and organize myself more.
Aldair, 15 years old



What to do with the boys and girls who were left behind?



Our strategy had **3 steps**

- 1 **43%** presented significant deficiencies in learning to read.
- 2 Recovery plans and group leveling, through weekly reading comprehension workshops.
- 3 Individual or small group literacy for children who had not learned to read.



Scholarships obtained in 2022

Technical and Higher Education

Jaime Ruíz. *Area Program. Barcelona, Spain*

Primary and secondary education

Enaén Rodríguez. *Instituto Técnico Don Bosco. Fundación San Juan Pablo II*

Derielis Arenas. *Instituto Técnico Don Bosco. Fundación San Juan Pablo II*

Yarelis Bonilla. *Instituto Técnico Don Bosco. Fundación San Juan Pablo II*

Luceidith Kirton. *Instituto Cultural. Jaguar Scholarship Program*

Artistic formation

Joseph Petit, *STEPS Dance Academy. Contemporary dance*

Elías Estrada, *STEPS Dance Academy. Contemporary dance*

Rafael Caicedo, *STEPS Dance Academy. Contemporary dance*

Maikeelis Earle, *STEPS Dance Academy. Contemporary dance*



With a firm step towards the world of work



- **11** high school students received orientation for the selection of the baccalaureate.
- **16** students on average received vocational guidance for admission to the University.
- **5** students received individual coaching sessions by ICF volunteers.
- **1** training cycle for job placement together with *Dell's Black Networking Alliance*
- **1** training cycle in soft skills together with Voces Futuras of LLYC
- **8** students complete training in technical skills in the Sandbox Program.

**During the year 2022,
our graduates:**

43% worked

28% worked and studied

29% studied

43% are inserted in the artistic area

57% are inserted in other fields
(commerce, health and care)

Being part of the vocational workshops has allowed me to learn how to write a resume, and today I know how to tell my story when I have to go to a job interview. Through the Sandbox internships I have learned what a job is like, the importance of being punctual, that I must be attentive to my responsibilities at work, to fulfill what I have been entrusted with.

Luis K



We work for a generation of young people committed to changing their worlds.

Enlaces is also a platform for adolescent participation. During the year 2022 our children and adolescents actively participated in:

- U-Reporters Platform (UNICEF)
- Panama Protectora Project (Save the Children)
- Back to School Campaign (All of Panama)
- Declaration of children and adolescents and climate action (UNICEF)
- Project "Four steps to prevent gender-based violence" (UNFPA)
- Mini Reporters Project (UNICEF - MEDCOM)
- Panel for the effective participation of children and adolescents (Ombudsman's Office)

10 students give back to the community, serving as volunteers in open classes and special projects.

Participating in these spaces has helped me a lot to trust myself and my abilities more, and to realize that I can be an agent of change for society and help many young people my age to inform and guide them on issues they are not familiar with.

Stephanie S.,
16 years



Luis:

*An extraordinary
young man*

Luis is the living image of willpower and the power of youth participation. Originally from Barraza, he joined Enlaces 5 years ago when he was 10 years old. Since then, he has been an example of commitment, dedication and passion for service.

For Luis there is no challenge, project, artistic or community initiative that he cannot face. He takes on each new challenge with his usual energy and contagious enthusiasm. Luis has not only contributed significantly to the completion of our projects, but has also inspired other students to do the same: give back to their community.

In addition to being an excellent dancer, a committed student, a great son and friend, Luis is a leader who shines with his own light in our organization.

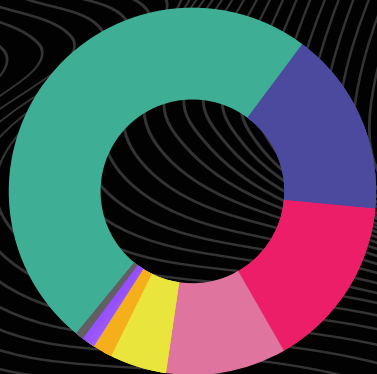
In 2022, his big break came. Luis was invited by UNICEF to offer a few words at an event focused on children and adolescents, together with the President of the Republic! This achievement not only filled his mother, teachers, and classmates with pride, but also reminded us of the immense talent, strength, and potential found within the children and adolescents of our neighborhoods.

Luis is clear proof of the maxim that motivates us at Enlaces: **when opportunity and talent meet, wonderful things happen.** We are grateful to be able to accompany boys and girls who, like Luis, dream of transforming their communities.

Thank you, Luis, for being a leader, star volunteer, and role model to all of us!



What are the resources we collect used for?



- **49.3%** PROGRAMS (Artistic, Emotional and Academic Development)
- **16.3%** ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
- **15.2%** RENT, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING EXPENSES
- **10.6%** EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
- **5%** DIRECT AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES
- **1.7%** TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BENEFICIARIES (National and international)
- **1.2%** VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHY AND VISIBILITY
- **0.7%** TEAM TRAINING

Photo credits:

Alegre Saporta, Givanna Aranguren, José Leonardo Amaya y Laila Rodríguez.

Platinum Partners 2022

UNHCR
Inter-American Development Bank
Dekel Holdings
Embassy of Canada in Panama
Galindo Family
Fundación Sus Buenos Vecinos
Eastrock Foundation

Diamond Partners 2022

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Focus Central America
Senacyt
The Global Fund for Children

Gold Partners 2022

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Fundación Causa Nuestra
Fundación Heurtematte
Fundación ProBienestar
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¡Trabajamos en alianzas!

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Aliados por la Niñez y la Adolescencia
Amor - Fiesta
CAPADESO
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Cuarto Rojo
Cumple con Causa
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Fundación Llorente y Cuenca
Fundación Pasos
Fundación Prisma Danza
Fundación Relaciones Sanas
Fundación Valórate
Fundamorgan
Fundación Banco de Alimentos de Panamá

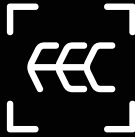
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MEDCOM
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Social Development
Ministry of Government
Movimiento Nueva Generación
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo
Museo del Canal
Museo de la Mola
Norwegian Refugee Council
OEI
Panamanian Red Cross
Programa Las Claras - Voces Vitales
Propel
Ret International
Ellas Magazine
Santa Ana Health Center
SUMARSE
The Theatre Guild of Ancon
TVN
Universidad de las Américas
Universidad de las Artes CODARTS
Universidad Santa María La Antigua
Voluntarios de Panamá

THANK YOU

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Ángela Flores
Ameth Rivas
Betzy Arosemena
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9 Musas



ABOUT FUNDACIÓN ESPACIO CREATIVO

Fundación Espacio Creativo is a Panamanian NPO that creates opportunities through dance, education, and culture, through programs that directly impact more than 500 boys, girls, adolescents, and youth annually through its Enlaces and Sandbox programs.

ENLACES is a program aimed at transforming the lives of children and adolescents in vulnerable situations through the practice of contemporary dance, strengthening their academic development and psychosocial and family support, developing skills that allow them to improve their quality of life, grow as agents of change and responsible citizens.

We offer an emotionally supportive and enriched space, which allows bonding with significant adults and mentors, and which actively and affectively empowers the children's family of origin by offering them tools for positive, affective discipline and supervision. Enlaces is a warm, loving, belonging space, but demanding.

FEC is part of the Panamanian Chamber of Social Development, Allies for Children and Adolescents and the Alliance for Panamanian youth of SUMARSE.



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