

A baby is lying in a ball pit, surrounded by many colorful plastic balls in shades of blue, green, yellow, red, orange, pink, and purple. The baby is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and is smiling, with one hand reaching up towards a blue ball.

# Annual report 2020

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*Friends of Angels Germany*



**Friends of Angels**  
FOUNDATION

Dear readers,

2020 was a challenging and difficult year for everyone. But it has also made us reflect on and realize what really counts: **love, solidarity, and community**. And especially people who listen and are there when we need help. Friends of Angels Germany acts according to these principles. We want to change the lives of children in need and their families and give them new hope.

This year has been a great effort for everyone and has been filled with many worries. When the **Corona pandemic reached** Colombia in March 2020, our cooperation partner Fundación Proyecto Unión faced great challenges. The children and young people with chronic diseases and the homeless people supported by the foundation are part of the high-risk group. In addition, the pandemic **worsened the already tense economic situation** in the country. Regular food and cash donations, which form the foundation's funding base, plummeted. For more than nine months, a greatly reduced team of nine nurses and doctors has been working to care for the 62 children of the Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia. **Strict hygiene regulations** protect the children from the coronavirus, but at the same time **increase the costs for protective clothing and disinfectants**.



Together the two teams of Fundación Proyecto Unión and Friends of Angels Germany have mastered this great challenge. With the help of a **COVID-19 emergency aid campaign** and other fundraising activities, we were able to **stabilize the financial situation** of the foundation in Bogotá. In total, Friends of Angels Germany collected the high donation sum of 11.281,11 € for the projects of Fundación Proyecto Unión in Colombia this year. In addition, 8,000.00 € were donated by the Rotary Club Düsseldorf Schlossturm and a contribution of 500.00 € was given by the association Helge Helping Hands e.V.. Furthermore, we received 400.00 € from private donors. After deducting the costs of 651.58 €, we reached a **donation revenue for the year 2020 of 19,529.53 €**.

Thanks to the great success of the campaigns and the generous donations, it was not only possible to cover the costs of daily necessities such as food or operating costs. It was also possible to purchase materials for the construction of the new care facility **Hogar Amparo de Ángeles**, thus making important progress in the construction process. After a six-month construction freeze during the lockdown in Colombia, **construction progressed rapidly as of September 2020**. It



is expected that the kitchen, dining room and separate laundry building will be completed in the first quarter of 2021 and the next phase of construction can begin.

The financial success this year is a blessing for our cooperation partner and the beneficiaries of our projects. However, the great humanity, warmth, and dedication of the on-site care staff is the real reason for gratitude and optimism. Every day they care deeply for the children of Hogar Santa Rita. The nurses, therapists, and doctors are the children's closest confidants, playmates, and caregivers. The Proyecto Unión team lives together in love, solidarity, and gratitude every day, as one family. Our team is deeply impressed by this and thanks all the local staff from the bottom of our hearts for their great work.



This great success amid an international crisis and pandemic, allows us to look strengthened and optimistic into the year 2021. Together with our partner Fundación Proyecto Unión, we will continue our work to change the lives of vulnerable children and their families, giving them new hope and confidence.

For this year, our team wishes you all much confidence, optimism, and good health and we are looking forward to new projects and challenges ahead!

S. Gr̄newald  
Sarah Gr̄newald  
1<sup>st</sup> chairwoman

A. Buscher  
Alina Buscher  
2<sup>nd</sup> chairwoman

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## Fundraising

Despite the difficult circumstances last year, our team succeeded in carrying out fundraising activities for our partner organization Fundación Proyecto Unión. With a lot of ingenuity, creativity, and commitment we defied the crisis and important progress could be achieved for the Fundación and in the project "Hogar Amparo de Ángeles". Of course, all this would not be possible without the great commitment and support of our donors. Therefore, we would like to thank all our supporters and donors for their solidarity and help in this extraordinary year!

### “We pack our suitcase for... Santa Rita!”



In February 2020, we started our first fundraising campaign for the children of the **Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia**. The occasion was the one-month trip of our team member Sarah to Colombia to visit our project partner and the construction site of the "Hogar Amparo de Ángeles". Under the motto "**We pack our suitcase for Santa Rita**", a call for donations was launched via social media to collect money for daily necessities (food, hygiene items, diapers) and new strollers.

The campaign lasted from **February 3 to February 25, 2020** and raised a total of **2,811.33 €**. The donations were collected on the crowdfunding platform GoFundMe and transferred to Fundación Proyecto Unión on March

20, 2020. In consultation with the project managers of Fundación Proyecto Unión for Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia, the donations were used for **renovation work and urgently needed purchases**. Thus, the **electric circuit and the emergency generator** were renewed, and a grease separator was installed in the kitchen. In addition, a special, non-slip floor covering for the bathroom, as well as new diaper pails and recycling stations could be purchased.

### COVID-19 emergency aid campaign: appeal for donations

Due to the increasing number of infections with the **COVID-19 virus**, the Colombian government ordered a strict **lockdown with curfews on March 25, 2020** which had a very drastic and negative impact on the donations of our project partner. Within a very short period, **donations, especially donations in kind and food, to Proyecto Unión dropped by 80 percent**.

The founder and director of Fundación Proyecto Unión, **Dr. Fernando Quintero**, then sent a video message to all supporters in Colombia and abroad to draw attention to these financial difficulties of his social foundation and to ask for help. Friends of Angels Germany also participated in this appeal for donations. The entire team sent video messages and countless messages to private contacts, work colleagues, and relatives.

Through our team member Sarah Grünwald, we were also able to be invited twice to the virtual "Humanitarian Happy Hour" of the International Rescue Committee Deutschland gGmbH. At this event, social initiatives are regularly presented by IRC employees, and donations are collected for these projects.

Since the donors from Germany donated directly to Fundación Proyecto Unión via the PayPal platform, Friends of Angels Germany was not directly involved in the donation process. However, we were informed by the financial administration of Proyecto Unión that the **donations from Germany** amounted to a total of **5,326.25 €**. Thus, after the donations from Colombia, donors from Germany had the largest share in the great success of the COVID-19 emergency aid campaign. With the donations from the emergency aid campaign, daily necessities, food, incidental expenses, and the salaries of some employees of Fundación Proyecto Unión for the months of March to June could be paid.

## COVID-19 emergency aid campaign: face masks

Parallel to the online appeal for donations, the **sale of face masks** began in mid-April. The first masks were bought from **Mrs. Anette Stahlhofen** given to our supporters for a donation of 10 €. In only six weeks more masks were produced by the volunteer seamstresses **Katharina, Anne, and Christiana**, three acquaintances of our team members, partly with **material donations of Mrs. Claudia Grünewald**. The masks were offered at a price of 7 to 10 € depending on the model and were sent by our team members to donors all over Germany. The total amount raised through sales and additional voluntary donations was **1,529.26 €**. The proceeds of this fundraising campaign were forwarded to Fundación Proyecto Unión at the end of May and used for food, everyday necessities, and disinfectants.



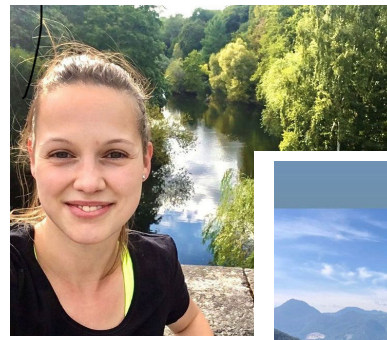
Without the tireless commitment and helpfulness of our seamstresses **Katharina, Anne, Christiana and Mrs. Stahlhofen** and the material donations of **Mrs. Claudia Grünewald** we would not have been able to carry out this campaign. Therefore, we would like to express our sincere thanks for their commitment and support!

## Angel's Run 2020

Thanks to the great solidarity and the successful COVID-19 emergency fundraising campaign, in the second half of the year we were able to dedicate ourselves again to the financing of the project "Hogar Amparo de Ángeles". Together with the CEO of Friends of Angels Foundation Inc. Lyda Ortega, who is in office since May 2020, we organized again this year the **charity run "Angel's Run"**.

Due to lockdowns and contact restrictions, the run took the form of an online challenge. Athletes were asked to cover at least 5km, donate 5 € or 5 US-\$ to the Angel's Run 2020 campaign on the GoFundMe platform, and then nominate 5 friends via social media to motivate them to join the campaign. Over a period of eight weeks, a **donation amount of 688.35 €** was reached. The money was used for the first of seven construction phases of the **Hogar Amparo de Ángeles**.





## Photo calendar 2021 "A journey through Colombia"



Directly after the Angel's Run 2020, our **Christmas fundraiser** started with the sale of the Friends of Angels Germany **photo calendar for the year 2021**. The idea for the motto of the calendar "**A Journey through Colombia**" came up within our team, as some of us had to cancel their trips to Colombia early or at short notice due to the Corona pandemic. Inspired by wanderlust, the photo calendar was created with private photos from previous trips to Colombia by our team members.

A total of **71 calendars** were purchased for a donation of **12 €** each. Less the production

and shipping costs and plus voluntary additional donations, a donation amount of **925.92 €** was reached. This money will also be invested in the construction of the "Hogar Amparo de Ángeles".

## Private donations

Apart from the great support we received from our donors for the fundraising campaigns, we received throughout the year **400.00 € in total from private donors**. We want to express our deepest gratitude to our donors for their commitment with our projects and the trust they have in our organization. Your help is very much needed and appreciated by our team and our cooperation partner Fundación Proyecto Unión!

## Donations from other organizations and associations from Germany

Right at the beginning of the year, Friends of Angels Germany received the happy news that the **Rotary Club Düsseldorf Schlossturm** would support the construction of the Hogar Amparo de Ángeles with a donation of **3,000.00 €**. Previously, Alina Buscher was able to promote the project during her personal presentation in November 2019 and convince the general assembly of the Rotary Club of Düsseldorf Schlossturm of the project. The money was transferred to Fundación Proyecto Unión at the end of January and used for the purchase of **steel girders for the basic framework of the new building**. With the financial support of the Rotary Club, an important step in the construction process of the Hogar Amparo de Ángeles was thus successfully completed.

During the COVID-19 emergency fundraising campaign, the **Rotarians of the Club Schlossturm in Düsseldorf** became active again and donated the generous sum of **5,000.00 €** to avert a financial crisis of our partner organization Fundación Proyecto Unión. This donation was also transferred to Friends of Angels Foundation Inc. in May and directly forwarded to Fundación Proyecto Unión. From the equivalent of 20,661,390.00 Colombian pesos, it was possible to purchase food, special tube feeding, hygiene items and other daily necessities for several weeks. With this donation, a significant part of Fundación Proyecto Unión's maintenance was covered, and the foundation was saved from a serious financial crisis.

Through our team member Milène Bruns Morin, the association **Helge Helping Hands e.V.** also became aware of the financial plight of our partner organization and donated **500.00 €** to Fundación Proyecto Unión. This money was also used for food and daily necessities within the COVID-19 emergency aid campaign.

## The project: Hogar Amparo de Ángeles

The idea for the project "**Hogar Amparo de Ángeles**" was developed by the founder and director of our partner organization Fundación Proyecto Unión, **Dr. Fernando Quintero**, in 2015, as an extension of the already existing shelter Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia. The care facility, located in the Chapinero district of the capital Bogotá, currently houses **62 children and adolescents with mental and physical disabilities, as well as illnesses that are difficult to treat**. Most of these children are under the protection of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (Instituto de Bienestar Familiar, ICBF), as their parents are unable to care for them due to lack of financial resources or other family problems. However, the building in which the children of the Hogar Santa Rita are currently housed does not offer enough space and is not fully equipped to meet the needs of the young residents.

The construction of the Hogar Amparo de Ángeles is intended to solve this problem. With a total **arial of 3,623 m²**, on the grounds of **Ecoparque Jaime Duque in Tocancipá, Cundinamarca**, the new building will provide space for **100 children and adolescents** with disabilities and difficult-to-treat diseases. Thus, the capacity of permanent care places will be expanded by almost 100%. In addition, children and adolescents with increased care needs from the municipality of Tocancipá will also be cared for there during the day. Thanks to the **multidisciplinary and**

**professional team** consisting of experienced doctors, nurses, and educators, as well as physiotherapists, respiratory therapists and occupational therapists, all children are cared for and supported according to their needs.



## Progress of the construction work since June 2019

The **total cost** of the construction project is **881,868.00 €**. The entire project was divided into seven construction phases. The first phase of the shell construction includes the completion of the **kitchen, dining area** and the **external small building of the laundry**. The total cost of this phase of construction is **36,267.00 €**.

The ambitious construction project "Hogar Amparo de Ángeles" began in June 2019 on the site of the Jaime Duque Ecopark in Tocancipá, in the state of Cundinamarca, about 45 km north of the capital Bogotá. In the following months, the site was first leveled, and the building of an old milk bottling plant located on it was demolished. It was not until November 2019 that work began on the foundation and the basic structure. At the beginning of March 2020, Sarah Grünwald was able to visit the construction site as a member of Friends of Angels Germany. At that time, the basic framework, as well as the outer walls and the first intermediate walls had been completed, as well as the foundation walls of the laundry.



*Dining room and hallway to the rooms, visit of the construction site in March 2020 .*



*Kitchen and dining room, visit of the construction site in March 2020.*

*Outside area and way to the laundry building (on the right), visit of the construction site in March 2020.*



Due to the lockdown that followed shortly after the visit, construction work had to be suspended from end-March to early September. After the government lifted the strict lockdown, construction work resumed at the beginning of October.

Since then, interior work has continued with the kitchen and dining areas, as well as construction work on the laundry. **Gas, water, and electrical connections** have been installed, exterior walls have been drawn and plastered, floor tiles have been laid, and interior walls throughout the kitchen have been built and plastered. Tile was installed in the large dining area and the steel structure was painted.

Due to this rapid progress after the resumption of construction, it is expected that the **first phase of construction** will be **completed** no later than the **end of February 2021**.



*Walls in the kitchen have been plastered and floor tiles were laid.*

*(December 2020)*

*The hatch from the kitchen to the dining area was built, plastered, and lined with tiles.*

*(December 2020)*





*The exterior walls of the entire building are plastered, and the window frames are finished.*

*(December 2020)*

## Social media and communication

The communication and public relations work of Friends of Angels Germany mainly takes place via social media, especially Instagram and Facebook. Regularly, news from the projects of Fundación Proyecto Unión is published there, donation campaigns are spread and information about the progress of the project Hogar Amparo de Ángeles is published. Furthermore, information is provided about the situation of people with disabilities in Colombia and Latin America. In April 2020, we reached a first major milestone with the completion of our own website.

Building on the communication strategy developed by Cuora Consulting, we modernized the layout and design of our posts on social media and optimized the preparation of publications.

Compared to the previous year, we gained a total of **124 new subscribers** to our Instagram and Facebook pages. With 179 posts on Instagram and 138 Facebook publications, we achieved a maximum reach of 397 (Instagram) and 1,100 people (Facebook), respectively, without any commercial promotion of the posts. In the coming year, we want to further optimize our communication strategy and focus more on audio-visual content, as well as standardize and modernize the appearance of our social media.

We reached a major and important milestone for our future association work in April 2020 with the **launch of our own website** [www.friendsofangers.de](http://www.friendsofangers.de). In October 2019, we applied with our project for the creation of a website on the engagement platform for creatives Youvo. There we were put in contact with **web designer Lisa End**, who was immediately excited about our project and our actions for children with disabilities and illnesses.

From January to March 2020, Lisa created a modern, responsive, and user-friendly website for us with a lot of creativity and eye for clear design and innovative details. She donated her skills and time to us free of charge and performed the web design on a volunteer basis. We would like to



**express our sincere thanks to Lisa** for her great, professional work and volunteer commitment. Thanks to the new website, we can now report in detail about our organization and our projects and gain the trust of new supporters through the professional internet presence.

### At a glance\*

	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter
<b>Follower</b>	163	183	4
<b>Publications</b>	318	318	47
<b>Most successful publication (clicks)</b>	243	46	4
<b>Following</b>	-	506	11

*\*numbers refer the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

## Organization and foundation of the association

**A good six months after we started with Friends of Angels Germany in March 2019, we decided to establish a non-profit association with our four-member team at that time. Due to the corona pandemic, the examination of the association's statutes by the tax office Berlin-Charlottenburg was delayed by several months, so that the founding meeting could not take place until November.**

In February, the completed statutes of the association were sent to the tax office Berlin-Charlottenburg for a preliminary examination of the requirements for non-profit status. After the first assessment of the tax office in April, minor changes were made and the statutes were sent for a second review. Due to the Corona pandemic and the resulting reduced capacities in the offices and shortened working hours, there was a considerably longer processing time. Finally, a positive inspection notice from the tax office reached us at the end of September 2020. Finally, the **founding meeting** with our nine founding members took place in virtual form on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020**.

The founding meeting elected the chairperson, the treasurer and the cash auditor determined. Elected were:

**Sarah Grünewald**, 1<sup>st</sup> chairwoman  
**Alina Buscher**, 2<sup>nd</sup> chairwoman  
**Milène Bruns Morin**, treasurer  
**Laura Sedlbauer**, cash auditor

The notarization of the founding documents was done on December 14, 2020 and the application for inclusion in the register of associations was sent to the Berlin-Charlottenburg District Court on December 18, 2020. We are optimistic that the application can be completed quickly and that we will be able to operate as a registered, non-profit association from the second quarter of 2021.

We are especially happy about the addition to our team! After they both worked as volunteers for seven months in the Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia of Fundación Proyecto Unión, **Nele Bieser** and **Chiara Karas** are part of our team since April 2020. They unfortunately had to leave the project prematurely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and both wanted to continue their volunteer work for the foundation's beneficiaries from Germany. In July, **Luisa Moser** joined us as a volunteer. She has since used her free time to manage Friends of Angels Germany's social media alongside her studies. In October 2020, **Dominique Kayser** joined the team. She was also a volunteer at Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia and as an experienced occupational therapist she was able to use her skills and knowledge very well for the therapies of the children. Now she supports the fundraising activities of Friends of Angels Germany and thus helps our partner organization and the local children from afar. Another team member is **Juan Pablo Gaviria Bedoya**, who helps us as an artist and illustrator with the design of publications and flyers. Juan himself comes from Colombia and wants to support social projects in his home country that fight the great social inequality in the region.

## Financial overview

Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of Angels Germany managed to collect an unexpectedly high amount of donations for the social projects for children and young people with disabilities in Colombia. In total, we reached a donation sum of 20.181,11 €. After deducting the expenses of 651,58 €, this results in a pure donation revenue of 19.529,53 €, which was fully and directly used for the projects of Fundación Proyecto Unión that we support.

### At a glance\*

<b>Fundraisers</b>	11.281,11 €
<b>Donations from other organizations and associations from Germany</b>	8.900,00 €
<b>Expenses</b>	651,58 € (3.3% of donations raised)
<b>Donation revenue 2020</b>	<b>19.529,53 €</b>

*\*last update on January 6, 2020*

## Revenues

### Fundraiser

Fundraiser	Time period	Total amount Euro	Total amount USD	Total amount COP	Plattform	Invested in
Suitcase for Santa Rita	03.02.2020-25.02.2020	2.811,33	3.035,00	11.989,90	GoFundMe	Renovation works Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia (grease separator, electric circuit).
COVID-19 emergency aid campaign ( <i>u.a. IRC Humanitarian Happy Hour</i> )	30.03.2020-07.06.2020	5.326,25	6.013,44	21.434.900,00	PayPal	Daily necessities & food supplies
Sale face masks	15.04.2020-26.05.2020	1.529,26	1.605,00	5.977.450,00	PayPal	Daily necessities & food supplies
Angels Run 2020	28.08.2020-31.10.2020	688,35	803,10	3.100.370,00	GoFundMe	Hogar Amparo de Ángeles
Photo calendar 2021	01.11.2020-24.12.2020	925,92	1.137,26	3.919.280,00	PayPal	Hogar Amparo de Ángeles
<b>Total</b>		<b>11.281,11</b>	<b>12.593,80</b>	<b>34.443.989,90</b>		

## Donations from other organizations and associations from Germany

Organization	Time period	Total amount Euro	Total amount USD	Total amount COP	Plattform	Invested in
Rotary Club Düsseldorf Schlossturm	22.01.2020	3.000,00	3.240,70	10.172.200,00	Direct transaction to Friends of Angels Foundation Inc.	Steel girders for Hogar Amparo de Ángeles



Rotary Club Düsseldorf Schlosssturm	09.04.2020	5.000,00	5.263,50	20.661.390,00	Direct transaction to Friends of Angels Foundation Inc.	Daily necessities & food supplies
Helge Helping Hands e.V.	05.05.2020	500,00	498,90	1.978.820,00	Direct transaction to Friends of Angels Foundation Inc.	Daily necessities & food supplies
Private donations	01.01.2020- 31.12.2020	400,00	491,30	1.693.140,00	Direct transaction to Friends of Angels Foundation Inc.	Daily necessities & food supplies
<b>Total</b>		<b>8.900,00</b>	<b>9.494,40</b>	<b>34.505.550,00</b>		

## Expenses

Item	Product	Invoice date	Costs Euro
<b>Fundraisers</b>			
Masken Anette Stahlhofen	10 x face masks	15.04.2020	185,50
Print photo calendar 2021	Wall calendar Flyeralarm	09.10.2020	155,87
Postage calendars	DHL postage of calendars to team members	22.10.2020 28.10.2020 02.11.2020 23.12.2020	59,11
<b>Foundation of association</b>			
Legal advice foundation	1 x legal advice association statutes	21.02.2020	226,10
Notary certification	1 x appointment for certification of the founding protocol	14.12.2020	25,00
<b>Total</b>			<b>651,58</b>

## Summary

	Total amount Euro	Total amount USD	Total amount COP
Fundraisers	11.281,11	12.593,80	34.443.989,90
Donations from other organizations from Germany	8.900,00	9.494,40	34.505.550,00
Expenses	651,58	799,59	2.772.974,60
<b>Donation revenue 2020</b>	<b>19.529,53</b>	<b>21.288,61</b>	<b>66.176.565,30</b>