

FRIENDS OF ANGELS GERMANY E. V.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FRIENDS OF ANGELS GERMANY E. V.

 [FRIENDSOFANGELS.DE](https://www.friendsofangels.de)

 VERWALTUNG@FRIENDSOFANGELS.DE

DEAR SUPPORTERS OF FRIENDS OF ANGELS GERMANY, DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

An eventful year 2023 lies behind us. Among other things, we took part in three events in Berlin. The Karneval der Kulturen (Carnival of Cultures) was certainly a special highlight, but the Kiezfest in September was also a complete success. It was a great opportunity to present the work of Friends of Angels to others.

A very special milestone in 2023 was the successful implementation of our project "Families move on", financed by EZ-Kleinprojektefonds. A total of 24 children, adolescents and young adults were able to benefit from the therapy and rehabilitation program. You can read more about the progress made by the participants in the chapter "Project progress" of this report.

We are also very proud of the advances made in the construction of the Hogar Amparo last year. The first three construction phases have been completed and the first children moved in at Easter 2023, filling the rooms with life. Consequently, we start confidently into the fourth construction phase in 2024.

We would like to thank all donors and supporters for their trust in our association and for their motivation to improve healthcare for children with disabilities in Colombia and for giving the children of Fundación Proyecto Unión a new home!

We would be happy to hear from you - be it praise, criticism or questions about our work!
Have fun reading!

Das Team von Friends of Angels Germany e.V.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS	3 - 7
2	PROJECT PROGRESS	8- 16
	<i>HOGAR AMPARO</i>	8 - 12
	<i>PROJECT: FAMILIES MOVE FORWARD</i>	13 - 16
3	NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF ANGELS	17 - 19
4	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	20 - 21



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

RAIN DAMAGE AT HOGAR SANTA RITA

In March 2023, Bogotá experienced **heavy rainfall, hail and flooding**. The Chapinero district, where the Hogar Santa Rita de Cascia is located, was particularly affected. The day after the storm, we received the news that the **roof had been badly damaged** and that it had mainly harmed the children's rooms and the inner courtyard.

Consequently, we quickly launched an emergency fundraising campaign with the aim of helping Fundación Proyecto Unión to repair the roof so that the children could return to their rooms as soon as possible. Within a week, we collected 500 euros through the emergency fundraising campaign and **transferred a total of 2.505 euros to Fundación Proyecto Unión**.

Together with donations from Colombian sponsors, the **entire roof was completely renewed within ten days**, and the children were able to enter their rooms again.



HOGAR SANTA RITA

The care facility is located in the Chapinero district in the center of Bogotá. It looks after **50 children and young people aged between 0 and 20**. They all have mental and/or physical disabilities. The children are under the state guardianship of the **Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF)** - the family welfare institute - because their families are unable to care for them for various reasons.

As a cooperation partner of the ICBF, **Fundación Proyecto Unión** takes in the children and provides them with **comprehensive and multidisciplinary care and support**. The aim is to improve the child's state of health and restore their rights (e.g. medical care, food and support).



BERLIN WOMEN'S RUN

On May 13, 2023, Sarah took part in the **Berlin Women's Run** for the second time and completed the 10 km distance. After just over an hour, she reached the finish line and was not only delighted with the moral support from the spectators along the course, but especially with the success of the fundraising campaign. Thanks to the proceeds of **840 euros**, together with donations from last year, we were able to make the **down payment for another children's room at Hogar Amparo!**

CARNIVAL OF CULTURES 2023

Four days of celebrating diversity and post-migrant culture at the Carnival of Cultures and we were right in the middle of it!

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, over a million visitors celebrated the return of the legendary street festival. As in previous years, the carnival had plenty to offer in terms of food and culture. Where else can you enjoy Turkish mezze, South African BBQ, Bratwurst and caipirinhas together?

Our **information stand** was very well placed in the Latin American corner, surrounded by Colombian arepas, Argentinian empanadas and Brazilian coxinhas. We enjoyed presenting our project work for the children of Proyecto Unión to all the interested visitors. Many people also tried their luck at our **raffle** and at the end of the four-day event, all the main prizes found a new owner. The event was a complete success for us. **We raised a total of €1.623,63 for the construction of the Hogar Amparo** through the raffle and other donations!

But none of this would have been possible without the help of: Juan, Sarah, Claudia, Christa, Jessi, Leon, Iris, Nele, Chiara and Marina! A very big THANK YOU to all of you!

IMPRESSIONS OF CARNIVAL OF CULTURES BERLIN



Above: Chiara with winners at the raffle

Bottom left: Nele and Sarah handing out the raffle prizes at the information stand

Bottom right: Dancers from the group "Canoafolk", a Colombian dance group with whom we organized a benefit concert in summer 2022. The group won the prize for the best costumes for their choreography about the Río Atrato



CREATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

Colorful, sunny and cheerful - that's how you can describe the neighborhood festival in the Berlin district of Moabit on September 16. The neighborhood festival right next to our association's headquarters was a welcome opportunity for us to present our work and projects in Colombia to our "neighbors". Children and adults from the neighborhood were able to paint our own Friends- jute bags as a **creative hands-on donation campaign**. The result: 23 colorful unique pieces and an additional donation of 174,30 euros, which were donated to Hogar Amparo in Colombia.

CALENDAR SALE 2023

With more than 1.930 bird species and more than 70 spoken languages, our project country represents ecological diversity and cultural diversity like no other. The images in our 2024 calendar provide an insight into the country's unique and fascinating fauna and flora.

Between **October 2023 and January 2024, we sold a total of 88 of 100 printed calendars**, generating proceeds of **1.255,22 euros**. In addition to the sales through our donation store, we would also like to thank Charlotte Prass and Alejandro Novoa, who sold our calendars at the "Weihnacht to go" event in the Kranoldkiez district of Berlin and at the "Feria Dicembrina" in Hamburg.

As in previous years, we will invest the sales revenues in the next construction phase of Hogar Amparo in 2024.



NOVENA IN HOGAR SANTA RITA

Colombia is known worldwide for its exuberant celebrations, music and joy of life. This is most noticeable at Christmas time and also captivated our friends at Hogar Santa Rita. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the staff and children lovingly decorate the hogar for the Novenas.

For the first time, we from Friends of Angels were also able to prepare a **novena on 18th of December for the children** and experience it with them in person. The day's prayers were said and songs sung together before everyone was served delicious, traditional Christmas snacks. Additionally, Sarah brought some **products for everyday needs worth 600 Euro**, which were purchased from **donations generated in Germany**.

One particularly nice detail was the **Christmas decorations** to decorate the children's rooms, which were handmade by our team from Germany.



PROJECT PROGRESS

HOGAR AMPARO



"Water heater" project successfully completed

It has been in use since January 2023: the **new solar system for supplying hot water to Hogar Amparo!** It consists of four solar panels and four water tanks, each with a capacity of 300 liters. During the hours of sunshine, the thermal energy is used to **heat 1.200 liters of service water**, which is stored in the tanks. In this way, the supply of the **kitchen and the bathrooms** is guaranteed throughout the whole first three construction phases.

The project, which has **cost a total of 9.946 euros, was financed 100% by donations from Germany.** In this context, we would like to thank our donors - without them, this project would not have been possible!

Moving into the Hogar Amparo



Just in time for Easter, there was a very special surprise for the children of Proyecto Unión: **the first part of the Hogar Amparo was opened with a celebration!**

With colorful costumes and music, they were warmly welcomed by the Doctora Clown team and staff as well as volunteers from Fundación Proyecto Unión. Of course, the founder and director of Proyecto Unión, Dr. Fernando Quintero, and Diego Torres, project manager of the cooperation partner Parque Jaime Duque, were also present to greet all the children in front of the Hogar.

Alejo* had the honor of cutting the symbolic ribbon. Lina* could hardly wait to see her new room and immediately tried out her new bed. From there, she has a view of the Ecoparque Jaime Duque and the nature of the Sabana Centro region. The **proximity to nature will certainly help the first 12 young residents**, who have so far only known life in the big city of Bogotá, to settle into their new home quickly.

We are very proud and happy that the Hogar is now filling with life, and we are working to ensure that the other 54 children can also move in as soon as possible!

**the names have been changed to protect the personal rights of the children*



Above: Dr. Fernando Quintero, founder of Fundación Proyecto Unión
Center left: Lina* in her new room
Center right: Alejo* cuts the ribbon
Below: Carers use the garden for new games and activities

The 4th construction phase has started!

Shortly after the big move-in ceremony at Easter, **construction work in Hogar Amparo entered the fourth of seven phases. This construction stage offers** space for 44 children and comprises 12 rooms and 5 bathrooms on an area of 723m².

Thanks to the generous donations from the second half of 2022 and the first half of 2023, Friends of Angels was able to finance a children's room (27m²) and a bathroom (17m²) at a cost of **15.227 euros**. We transferred the **first payment of 6.500 euros** at the beginning of June.



PREVIEW 2024

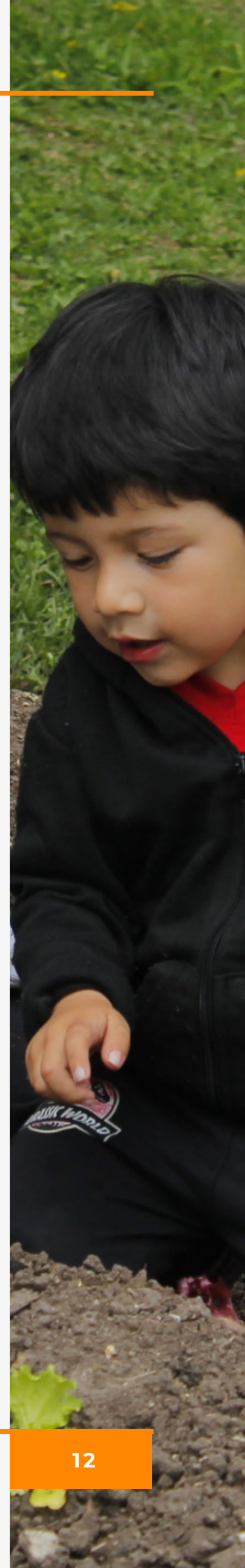
As a first step towards our long-term goal of covering all the Hogar Amparo Quin's electricity needs with solar energy, we are planning to **install a photovoltaic system** on the roof of the facility's dining room in 2024.

The installation of solar panels to generate electricity for the Hogar Amparo Quin has three important advantages. Firstly, the **medium-term savings in electricity costs** due to the reduced use of energy from national power generators, which means that the financial resources freed up by FPU can be used to improve the care of children with disabilities, e.g. in the form of investments in aids such as care beds or modern wheelchairs. Secondly, we are promoting the national economy with the project, as we will be working **exclusively with local companies**. The company Renueva Green, which works exclusively with local construction companies, will be commissioned with the planning and implementation.

Due to the previous successful cooperation with Renueva Green in the solar-powered water heater project, we have great confidence in the success of the "photovoltaic system" project. In addition, the conversion to solar energy complements the goal of the Reserva Natural Ecoparque Sabana, on whose grounds the Hogar Amparo Quin is located, to **establish sustainable practices and conservation in the community of Tocancipá and beyond**.

The **total costs** of the project amount to **59.700 euros**. We were able to secure funding from the company Cubico Sustainable Investments (20.000 euros), VRD Stiftung für Erneuerbare Energien (5.000 euros) and FimShare e. V. (12.000 euros), the company Finance in Motion. Friends of Angels Germany will contribute 8.000 euros to the project. Fundación Proyecto Unión's own contribution is 5.000 euros.

We hope for the approval of a further funding application, which we submitted to the Heidehof Stiftung in February 2024 (requested funding amount: 10.000 euros), in order to be able to implement the project in the second half of 2024.



PROJECT PROGRESS

FAMILIES MOVE FORWARD *Familias siguen adelante*

More than **170.000 Colombian children under the age of 18 live with a disability**. Each of these children needs special attention, medical care, nursing care and therapeutic measures for their individual development. However, the healthcare system in Colombia has a number of deficits when it comes to providing care for people with disabilities. There are administrative hurdles, a lack of medical professionals and logistical difficulties. The **lack of access to adequate rehabilitation measures**, such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy, has **serious consequences for the physical and mental development** as well as the general quality of life of the children affected.

For this reason, we have launched the project **"Familias siguen adelante - Families move forward"** together with our partner organization Fundación Proyecto Unión. This is an easily accessible and free therapy and rehabilitation program for **children, adolescents and young adults aged between 2 and 28** with physical and mental disabilities who live in the communities of Tocancipá and Sopó in the state of Cundinamarca and villages in the surrounding area and would otherwise have no access to comparable therapy options.



Between **March 2023 and January 2024**, a total of 24 children, adolescents and young adults received **individual physiotherapy sessions** twice a week over a period of three months. All participants live with one or more physical and/or mental disabilities and are in need of care to varying degrees. The most frequently identified pathologies include epilepsy (3 participants), neuromotor developmental delays due to premature birth (4 participants), autism spectrum disorder (2 participants) and (spastic) cerebral palsy (5 participants). In addition, one participant each with Down syndrome, Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome, multiple sclerosis and imperfect osteogenesis were included in the project.

One parent or primary caregiver actively participated in each of the 576 therapy sessions and learned how to train the exercises - initially performed by the physiotherapist - independently with the child, adolescent and (young) adult at home.

The training at home was supported by **therapy kits** with aids and personalized training plans. In order to ensure regular participation in the therapy sessions despite the families' usually difficult financial situation, we **covered the transportation costs**. The **total costs** of the project amounted to **13.700 euros**.



Familias siguen adelante - Families move forward was financed with a grant of 10.000 euros from EZ-Kleinprojektefonds, which is administered by the foundation Nord-Süd-Brücken.



BMZ

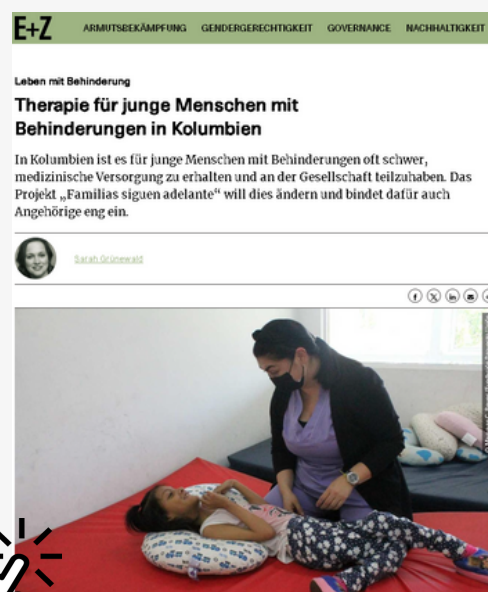


Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung

The physiotherapy treatment, supported by regular repetition of the exercises at home, had a **very positive impact on the physical and psychosocial development of the participants**. Insights into the individual stories and progress of Luna, Gisele and José can be found on the following pages.

In October 2023, we also published the moving story of Tania and her mother Patricia in the magazine **Development + Cooperation**.

[Click here, to read the article in English!](#)



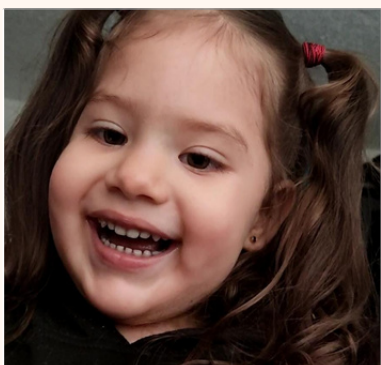
Our physiotherapist **Aura Lilian Beltrán Guacaneme** played a major role in the great success of the project, as her great empathy and professionalism immediately won the trust of the participants and their parents.

Thanks to her creativity, she constantly came up with new, playful methods to motivate the participants and boost their self-confidence.

We would also like to thank Juan David Marin Vargas, Coordinator of Hogar Amparo, Jackeline Otálora Farieta, Project Coordinator, and Nidia Baron, Finance, for their administrative support.

Due to its great success, we will **continue to fund the project from April 2024** and hope to be able to provide further support services such as play therapy, phonoaudiology or speech therapy with the help of funding applications.

PARTICIPANT'S REPORTS:

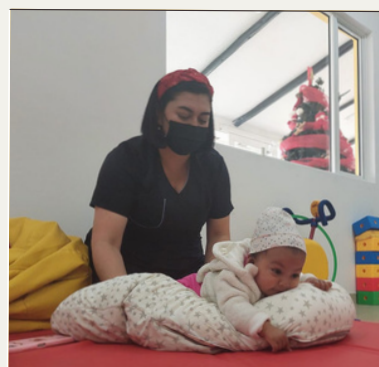


Luna (3 years)

Luna was born with a rare genetic defect that severely **delays her motoric and neurological development**. When she came for her initial examination with her mother Yenni in June 2023, she could only move with difficulty by crawling on her own and her motor and neurological development was at the level of a four-month-old baby.

After three months of intensive therapy, she has now learned to turn to both sides and sit unaided. Luna can **now stand on both legs** for short periods of time, and she has also started to **pronounce monosyllables!**

Gisele was born **extremely prematurely at 28 weeks and suffered several brain haemorrhages**, which is why her motor and cognitive development is not age-appropriate. During her first therapy session, she was unable to hold her head up independently when lying or sitting and was also unable to change her body position on her own. Today, Gisele can turn herself from a supine to a prone position and can hold unknown positions independently for longer periods of time. For her mother Geraldine, this is a real relief in everyday routines, such as changing diapers or getting dressed. For Gisele, the **increase in mobility means a considerable improvement in her quality of life** and many more opportunities to discover new things around her through play.



Gisele (8 months)



José (5 years)

José was born with Down syndrome and has weak skeletal muscle function, which affects his mobility and balance. Lilian had to come up with lots of playful methods for the bright boy, such as running wheel races with weights on his ankles.

And the training has worked, as **José can now climb stairs independently and his movements are more controlled**. His reaction speed when falling has also improved, so hopefully he won't have any more serious accidents when playing in the garden in future!

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF ANGELS

FIRST TEAM MEETING IN BERLIN

Many of you may know the familiar but unfamiliar feeling when you've only seen a person in a small square on the computer for almost two years of the pandemic, and then suddenly you're standing in front of them in "real life". You know each other, but you're meeting for the first time!

That's roughly how you could describe our **first team meeting** in Berlin - almost two and a half years after Friends of Angels Germany was founded. On April 15, Chiara, Luisa, Leon, Sandra, Sven, Juan and Sarah met in the morning for a long breakfast in Sarah's kitchen aka our "clubhouse". From there, we made our way to the meeting point for the city rally. But if you're thinking of red umbrellas and hordes of tourists, you are way off the mark. Instead of hearing dry facts about historical events, we put on a spontaneous rock performance - including three guest musicians from Poland - and practiced our bottle flip skills. In the evening, we ended the day with delicious food, beer and cocktails and shared travel stories and experiences from Colombia and other parts of the world.

After this first meeting, we are already planning the next one and look forward to another reunion.



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

	DECEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2023
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS	22	22
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY 5 STUDENTS, TRAINEES	13	13
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY 2 ADULTS OVER 18 YEARS	9	9
INCOME THROUGH MEMBERSHIP FEES	490 EURO*	530 EURO

**two membership fees were not deducted until February 2023 due to the late entry at the end of November 2022*

GENERAL MEETING

AThe third virtual general meeting took place on October 8, 2023. A total of 7 members with voting rights, including the Executive Board, were present. The general meeting accepted the annual report for the 2022 financial year and approved the actions of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board also presented the preliminary annual report for 2023 and made three investment proposals for the use of donations. Following a decision by the General Assembly, the **donations will be used in 2024 to partially finance a solar power system** for the Hogar Amparo Quin and to continue **financial support for the "Families move forward"** physiotherapy program. Also, **Laura Sedlbauer was re-elected as treasurer** with 6 votes in favor and one abstention.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

	DECEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2023	DEVELOPMENT
INSTAGRAM	341	350	+9
FACEBOOK	195	196	+1
NEWSLETTER	40	78	+38

We are also delighted to welcome a new member to our Social Media and Communications team!

After **Johanna Reim** returned to Germany from her voluntary social year at Fundación Proyecto Unión, she supports us in the creation of videos and reels for publications on our Instagram profile. We warmly welcome Johanna and look forward to working with her!

From June 2023 to March 2024, **Joshua Reiner** also helped us with the creation of publications. He found out about Friends of Angels Germany via the Go Volunteer platform and applied as a volunteer. Due to a lack of time resources, Joshua decided not to continue his involvement with us. We thank Joshua for his support and wish him all the best!

FINANCIAL OVERVIEWS

Accounting period (01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023)

Donations over 1.000 Euro

NAME	AMOUNT	TYPE OF DONATION
FUNDACIÓN NORD-SÜD-BRÜCKEN	10.000 €	PROJECT FUNDING
PRIVATE DONOR*	1.420 €	INDIVIDUAL DONATION
PRIVATE DONOR*	10.000 €	INDIVIDUAL DONATION
PRIVATE DONOR*	1.200 €	COLLECTIVE DONATION


**donors have asked us to remain anonymous*

REVENUE	2023	2022
MEMBERSHIP FEES	530,00 €	490,00 €
PRIVATE DONATIONS	17.595,04 €	22.426,94 €
INSTITUTIONAL DONATIONS	10.000 €	----
REVENUE ONLINE SHOP	1.078,05 €	1.899,55 €
TOTAL REVENUE	29.173,09 €	24.816,49 €
PROJECT INVESTMENTS IN COLOMBIA	24.240,49 €	29.115,93 €
MEMBER SERVICES	1.195,60 €	----
PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENDITURE	----	47,54 €
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	85,86 €	310,26 €
OPERATIVE COSTS / BANKING FEES	1.071,71 €	985,86 €
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	26.593,66 €	30.459,59 €
BALANCE	2.579,43 €	-5.643,10 €

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND
DONORS!**



FRIENDS OF ANGELS GERMANY E. V.

 [FRIENDSOFANGELS.DE](https://www.friendsofangels.de)

 VERWALTUNG@FRIENDSOFANGELS.DE