Impact Report 2020

Floating Doctors

Thank You

A message from our Executive Director in Panama

2020 was an especially difficult and tumultuous time for us here at Floating Doctors, as well as for many people across the globe. It has been a year like no other in our lifetime. There is not one part of this year that we could have anticipated, and each and every one of us had at least one moment where we doubted ourselves and our ability to work under these circumstances.

Although we had many disappointing setbacks and were without in-country volunteers for the majority of the year, we also had substantial achievements. This challenging year has helped grow our relationships in Panama and we are now closer than ever with the Ministry of Health, as well as our patients. There was a post floating around the internet with this quote, "May the tears you cried in 2020, grow the seeds you plant in 2021" and we are ready to embrace that. There were lessons learned this year in compassion, understanding, and growth that are invaluable, and we are carrying them into 2021.

The compassion and generosity our supporters demonstrated are the reasons Floating Doctors was able to remain doing the work that is so important to us. We were able to deliver nearly half a million servings of food, while still ensuring that all of our chronic patients had access to their medication, and for that we owe you our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

While we reflect on the difficult year behind us, we also focus on the potential of 2021. The lessons we learned will further our focus and dedication to the work ahead of us. We committed to welcoming back volunteers once we can establish international travel is safe, as well as continue our emergency food support.

There will no doubt be long-lasting detrimental effects of the pandemic outside the disease itself, but we also know that this trial has resulted in so many positive changes to our programs, our relationships, and our outlooks. Thank you for joining us on this ride.

Our 2020 Goals

At the start of 2020, we were on track to serve a record number of patients, add new programs and partnerships, and host more volunteers than in any prior year.

As COVID shut down our typical clinical operations and, indeed, the entire country of Panama, our plans for the year changed entirely. No longer able to to deliver direct medical, dental, and veterinary clinics, we shifted our objectives while still aligning with our mission.

1

Keep Our Team and Patients Safe

Ensuring our remaining staff and fellows- all of whom remained quarantined on our base when not delivering critical care, was of utmost importance. Additionally, we disseminated key information about COVID, dispelled myths surrounding the disease and vaccinations that circulated within our communities, and facilitated mental health interventions for all.

2

Ensure Chronic Care Patients Receive Treatment

Communities were quarantining, but people with chronic conditions like diabetes and epilepsy still need treatment. We coordinated with each community to deliver the necessary treatments to our chronic patients while maintaining appropriate distance.

3

Combat Malnutrition In Our Communities

The isolation that afforded our patients some protection from COVID also cut them off completely from critical food items. We shifted from delivering thousands of doses of medications to hundreds of thousands of therapeutic foods and meal staples.

You Filled our Hearts...

At the end of March 2020, the breaking point of the COVID-19 pandemic, when fear and uncertainty had the world in its grip and isolation seemed the only safeguard, our remaining skeleton crew visited one of our island communities a couple of hours away by boat. Although all the communities were also closed, we knew we still needed to deliver medications to patients requiring chronic care.

Three months later, the team returned and was greeted by the community president, Eduardo*, who was noticeably thinner. Other community stakeholders indicated that people were running out of food and resorting to skipping meals. The isolation that was hopefully providing some level of protection against the virus, was harming them in ways we hadn't envisioned- people were beginning to STARVE.

Our crew, devastated by what they had just seen, returned to base that night, sat down to dinner, and could barely look at their own full plates. How could they hope to care for pregnant patients or those with chronic diseases like diabetes without first focusing on emergency food supplementation?

...and Filled their Bellies!

We sent out our plea for help, and you responded with waves and waves of support. Because of you, our team was able to deliver calorie and nutrient dense meals throughout all of our communities. Our original hope was modest- receive enough funds to supply 500 bags of food, each feeding a family of 5 for a week.

Your generosity was breathtaking, and filled both our hearts and the bellies of our beloved community members. Your support lifted our team's spirits and strengthened their resolve. We were able to attend to our patients' chronic health needs without concern that they weren't receiving enough to eat. Because of you, patients could focus on staying safe and taking care of their families during a challenging and uncertain time.

445,482

Servings of nutrient-dense food delivered

Over $40,000

Raised in our COVID Food Support Campaign

316

Individual donor and service groups supported this campaign!

83%

Individual donors helped us continue our mission with an 83% increase in giving in 2020!

13

Over 600 donors from 13 countries supported our work this year!

Revenue

Total Revenue: $470, 269

Direct Public Support: $276,027

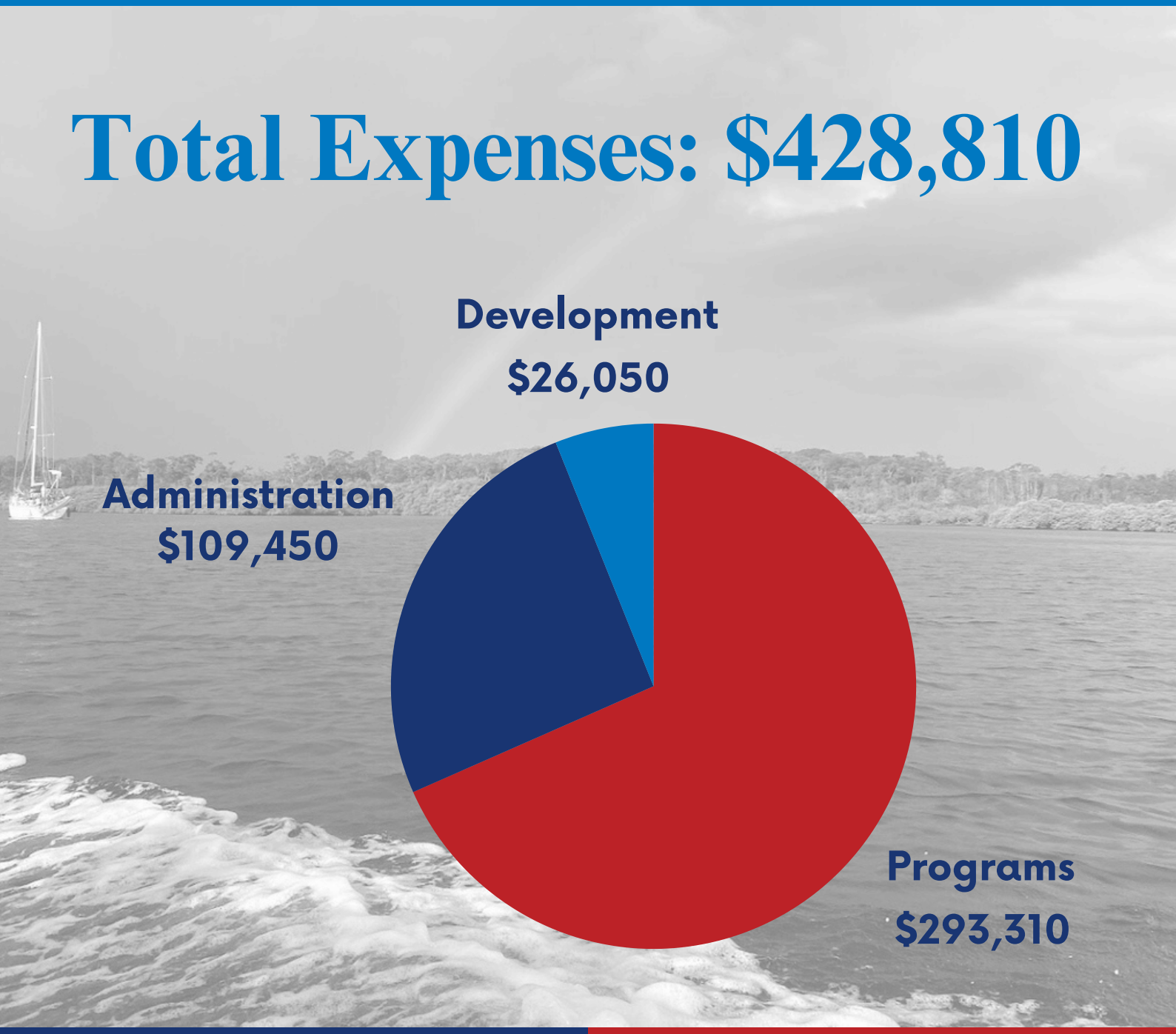
Foundations: $76,034

Board Support: $30,444

Volunteer Support: $87,764

Expenditures

Total Expenses: $428,810



We so are grateful for the directed support that enabled us to continue financially supporting our Panamanian staff during lockdown.

Thousands of dollars worth of in-kind support kept our program costs less than half of our expected budget, in spite of increased need!

Acknowledgements

Despite great strain on everyone- physically, emotionally, and financially- you showed us what generosity, spirit, and support can accomplish. Thank you for being one of the hands keeping us afloat through this storm.

Fair Winds!

Floating Doctors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit medical relief organization.

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