

LIFE-LONG,  
LOCAL,  
LIFE-SAVING



# Doctors for Doctors

## 2024 Annual Report



(above) Clinical case discussion led by Dr. Elsa Dinsdale for all of the DFD medical students and doctors

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## Founder's Message

by Andrew Klarer

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I am proud to say that Doctors for Doctors (DFD) continues to fulfill our mission, our charitable purpose and see the medical students thrive in Nicaragua. In February, the Board Members of DFD traveled to Nicaragua to meet with local partners and students. I thought the trip was very successful because many new relationships were made and new ideas were formed about how to best support the ever evolving needs of the medical doctors we support. We decided to take on another incredible student this year, Osmara, who has proven to be a valuable member of our team.

“Se hace el camino al andar”  
“You make the path by walking on it”  
*-Antonio Machado*

## Introducing Dr. Elsa Dinsdale, DFD's Newest Board Member

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Dr. Dinsdale is a family physician and adjunct professor for the Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University. She completed an undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Guelph and a Masters of Science in Nutritional Science at the University of Toronto. She is passionate about research, rural and remote communities and clinical education. Dr. Dinsdale focuses her clinical work in Northern Canadian remote Indigenous communities and urban health in Toronto. She has previously worked for Critical Care Services Ontario, the Canadian International Development Agency in Malawi, and the Centre for International Health in Cambodia. She aims to improve access to medical education through building partnerships and supporting vulnerable communities.



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### A Personal Message from Dr. Elsa Dinsdale:

In 2024 I had the privilege of joining Doctors for Doctors as the Director of Clinical Development. I had an inspiring journey to Nicaragua to meet the medical students who participate in the DFD program and listen to their passion for pursuing a career in medicine. It was particularly moving to listen to their personal stories and experiences that led them to their goal of becoming a physician. DFD not only supports students financially by covering costs of tuition and living expenses in medical school, but they also focus on encouraging leadership skills through public health and research initiatives. They also enrich their learning experiences by providing mentorship and additional education sessions led by clinicians. It has also been wonderful to engage with students myself by supporting their learning through online education. I'm looking forward to continuing to support these students and hopefully more students excel as physicians and community leaders.

## Student Leaders in the Scholarship Program

### Osmara Rodríguez

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Osmara completed her 5th year of medical school in 2024 and is the newest member of the DFD team. She is so happy to be receiving support from DFD and to be able to join the monthly medical calls as well as connect with the other students. She is from a small town and like her classmate Jimena, is now entering her final two internship years.



### Nohelia Damaris Lopez

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Nohelia has had a great year in 2024. She finished her 2nd year of studies and is getting into more patient care in 2025. She has learned the basics in diagnosis and treatment of the more common diseases like diabetes and malaria. She is also volunteering in small rural communities to help teach how to prevent chronic non-communicable diseases.

## Jimena Lugo Guillen

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Jimena has just completed her fifth year, and is now entering her final two internship years. She found her Gynecology and Obstetrics rotation very hard but also very inspiring. She is heading the organization behind the 'Days for Girls' campaign for her school and ran the program very well in 2024. She also volunteered to give talks on breast cancer screening, treatment and prevention to her local hospital.



## Brandon Vargas

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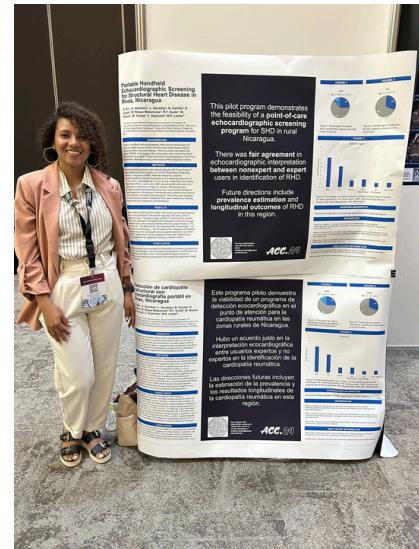


Brandon finished his studies completely in 2024! We are so proud of him and are excited to soon welcome him as the newest member of our DFD Alumni Network along with doctors Bryan and Kimberly (below). He still has to finish up his final requirement, a research project that he chose to do in the field of Gynecology: specifically, Brandon will be researching Gestational Hypertensive Syndrome through the hospital in Jinotepe, Nicaragua. Go Brandon Go!

## Dr. Bryan Carrillo and Dr. Kimberly Lopez

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Bryan and Kimberly are both practicing medical doctors. Kimberly was able to attend a conference to present her and Bryan's research project using the echocardiogram from years previous. She is currently applying for a medical specialty with her top three choices being Dermatology, Radiology, or Psychiatry. Good luck Kimberly! Bryan continues to practice as a medical doctor in Nicaragua and is happy that his research work with Kimberly is making such big waves. We are so proud of Dr. Bryan and Dr. Kimberly for all they are doing for their communities!



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## Project ECHO Online: Monthly Collaborative Medical Workshops

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Doctors for Doctors first implemented Project ECHO with the help of Global Peace Network and Dr. Brian Budgell in 2021. We continue to change and expand the program to suit the needs of our students best. In 2024, we had our first in person ECHO session in February with Dr. Dinsdale and all of our students. Afterwards, we saw new medical doctors from Canada joining the calls and exploring difficult and interesting cases. Although our younger year students feel like they have much to learn, they are absorbing a lot from the way the older students jump in and solve the cases presented. All of our students look forward to the calls and consider it an integral part of the DFD programme.

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## 2024 Photos from Nicaragua!

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(top) A rare whole group shot of DFD. From the left: Denise, Dr. Bryan, Nohelia, Dr. Kimberly, Brandon, Jimena, Dr. Elsa, Dr. Andrew.

(bottom) Brandon's birthday celebration dinner (and medically themed stethoscope cake!).



*(top left) Osmara assisting with an operation at the teaching hospital.*

*(top right) Kimberly's new rural medical clinic and dispensary. Where she treats patients at a small crosspoint between 3 communities that do not have access to consistent healthcare.*

*(bottom left) Osmara and a classmate visiting door to door for malaria prevention outreaches.*



(left) Osmara getting help with putting on her new lab coat for the graduation ceremony.



(above) Jimena and Osmara's graduating class. Now on to their internships! Osmara is 8th from the right and Jimena is 6th from the right.

# Financials

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**In 2024, we raised \$11,520 from public donations.** All of these funds go towards paying for the medical education of amazing young people in medical school (Noellia, Jimena and Brandon for this year) who can't wait to become doctors in their communities.

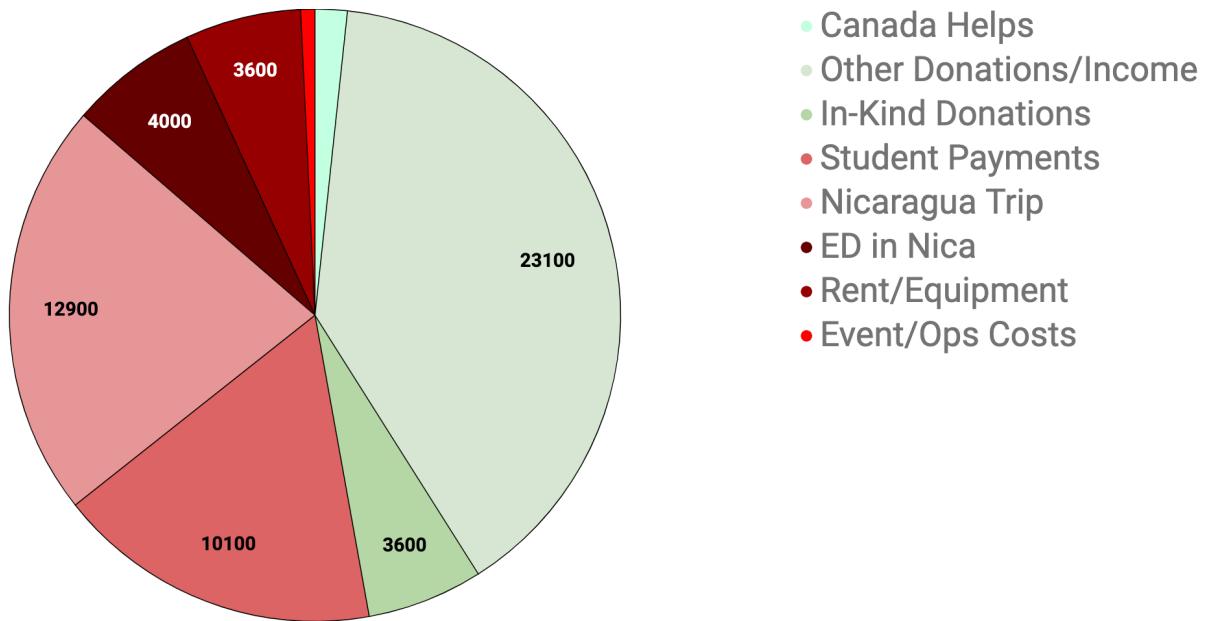
**We spent \$14,540 in 2024: \$14,100 went to empowering local heroes (this includes our Executive Director in Nicaragua) and \$440 for operations.**

All of the money donated from the public in 2024 went directly to supporting our students, Nohelia, Jimena and Brandon, and our Alumni Network, who are at various stages of their medical journey. Our operational costs are covered by the private donations from our Board of Directors, core donors, and gifts in kind.

	REVENUE*	EXPENSES*
Canada Helps	1000	
Student Donations	12,600	
Other Donations / Income	11,500	
In-Kind Donations	3600	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>27,700</b>	
Student Payments		10,200
Nicaragua Trip		12,800
Additional Student Support		0
ED in Nicaragua		4000
Materials + Bank Fees + Event Costs		440
Rent/Equipment (In-Kind)		3600
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>30,100</b>

\*Numbers are rounded approximations and should not be used for legal or tax purposes.

## Cash Flow Summary



## Looking Ahead

by Andrew Wilson

In 2025, we plan to focus on the following five areas in our work:

1. Continue supporting our graduated doctors, Dr. Bryan, Dr. Kimberly and Dr. Brandon in their careers.
2. Support our medical students; Nohelia in her 3rd year, Jimena and Osmara in their 6th year of schooling.
3. With interviews already under way for 2025, we hope to sponsor another new female medical student for the coming year.
4. Facilitate more medical outreach campaigns, such as *Days for Girls*, with our doctors and students to provide consistent health care in rural areas.
5. Coordinate and expand ongoing monthly project ECHO calls with doctors in Nicaragua and Canada for shared learning about patient care.

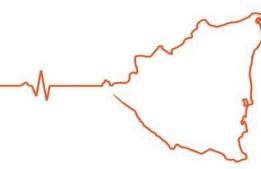
On behalf of our students, alumni, and all of us at Doctors for Doctors, we would like to thank you, our loyal donors, for your continued support throughout another year. Without your generosity, all of these incredible achievements would not have been possible.

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Disclaimer: This document serves to represent DFD/NFN and its programs, volunteers and financials. If any inconsistencies are found between the information here and that reported to the Canada Revenue Agency, the information reported officially to the CRA shall be taken as true as changes and amendments may be made after the creation of this document.

To donate or receive more information contact:  
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