



Venezuelan Community in Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

APRIL 2021 EDITION



VENEZUELAN
COMMUNITY
IN IRELAND

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A message from our Chairperson

I would like to thank all who have supported our organization since we began in 2017. In particular, I would like to thank our founding members, the current board and our volunteers, for their unwavering commitment and dedication. We have achieved a lot in our short time as an organisation, but more needs to be done. As we continue to welcome new volunteers into the folds of the organisation and work with existing partners, I believe we can meet those challenges with unity and strength.



Throughout the previous year, our new board has had to confront the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and change how we fundraise. Undeterred, we organized a number of online fundraising events throughout 2020 and delivered humanitarian aid to our beneficiaries in Venezuela.

In addition to this, VCI continued to provide support for Venezuelans living in Ireland. To that end, we surveyed the Venezuelan community in Ireland and identified those in need of financial assistance as a result of the pandemic. As an organisation which assists the expatriate community in Ireland and in those in Venezuela itself, we are proud to have played our part assisting the integration of Venezuelans in Ireland.

In 2020, we relied on digital means to connect with Venezuelans in Ireland and assist their adaptation to life here. Central to our efforts has been building partnerships between the diverse community of Venezuelans so that their social integration to Ireland can be fulfilling and prosperous.

Finally, while the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela remains dire, we, the Venezuelan people, remain committed to action. Here at VCI, we have the resources and passion to be able to support our own people. With our team's commitment and a strategic vision for change, we are positive we can achieve our goals.

LILIANA FERNANDEZ

Chairperson

Our Vision for change

Our Mission

To positively influence the lives of Venezuelans living in Ireland and to support the disadvantaged and vulnerable living in Venezuela.

Our Vision

To have a strong and vibrant community of Venezuelans living in Ireland and to provide humanitarian aid and poverty relief for Venezuela.

Why our work matters

Across the world there are 5.4 million Venezuelans according to UN figures. Shortages of food, electricity, water, fuel as well as high crime rates and hyperinflation have led many Venezuelans to emigrate. The economy of the oil dependent country collapsed after oil prices fell dramatically from 100USD a barrel in mid 2014, to 30USD by the end of 2015. Less revenue in the economy has led to increasing shortages of food and medicines and the current hyperinflation is making ordinary goods and services unaffordable. The World Food Programme estimates that around 2.3 million Venezuelans are severely food insecure with an additional 7 million moderately food insecure. Moreover, the rate of undernourishment has increased from 2.5 per cent between the years 2010-2012 to 31.4 per cent between 2017-2019. As a result millions of Venezuelans have been forced to flee their country in search of a better life abroad.



There is also a dramatic shortage of petrol in the country. Poorly managed state-owned oil company Petroleos De Venezuela (PDVSA) failed to invest in the industry over the years. Oil production shrank and has led to a profound crisis in the transport sector. For local salaries, fuel prices are extremely high and people have to queue for hours and even days, to fill their tanks. This reduces people's mobility and negatively impacts their purchasing power. According to a Global Risk Analysis Report, this lack of access to fuel has forced many Venezuelans to journey on foot, crossing national borders and putting themselves at risk of violence, harassment and sexual exploitation.

For the reasons above we believe Venezuelans desperately need humanitarian assistance. Not only do Venezuelans need support in their country, but for those who leave, they deserve to feel welcomed wherever they go. We support Venezuelans living in Ireland through social inclusion, cultural and community integration projects. As we believe a thriving expatriate community will be better able to support our humanitarian aid efforts.

Strategic goals

Integration of Venezuelans in Ireland



Promotion of Venezuelan culture, custom and values

Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela



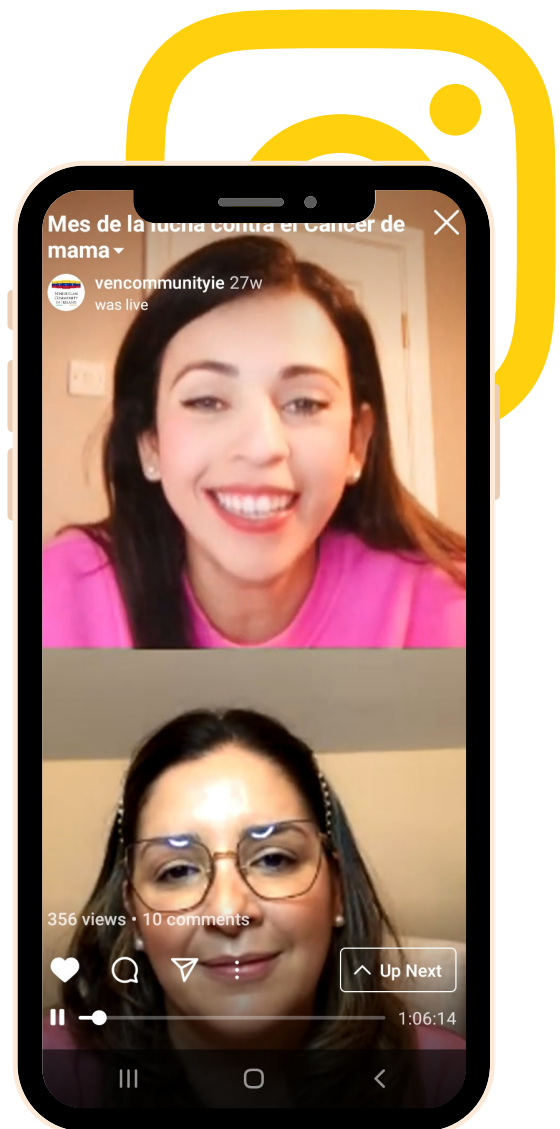
Objective 1: Integrations of Venezuelans in Ireland

The integration of Venezuelans into Irish society is one of our strategic goals. We aim to build a strong and unified community where Venezuelans can share their talents, values and culture with the rest of the community. For some, the language difference is a barrier, getting permanent legal status and limited job opportunities in their professional areas. We support their integration by providing information on resources for migrants, social inclusion projects, language exchange and organizing cross-cultural events. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the last year most of our activities moved online, this is what we did:

Recreational talks for mental wellbeing:

We organised a series of 'Instagram live' discussions to provide informal psychosocial support to assist manage the mental challenges associated with widespread pandemic restrictions in Ireland from March to August 2020. We pursued new means of communicating with our community by creating an online space for discussions and community integration. We also encouraged mental and physical activity as part of our online activities. Some of these live events included:

- Medical information Lives: We hosted two online conversations with Venezuelan Dr Yayicsia Escalona from ES-Doctors (General Practice Clinic located in Wellington Quay, Temple Bar, Dublin 2) informing participants about COVID-19 and early breast cancer detection.

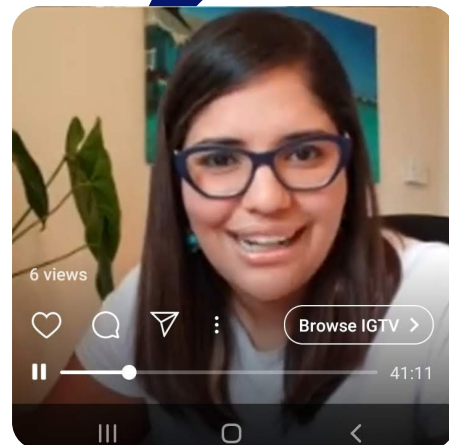


Objective 1: Integrations of Venezuelans in Ireland

Recreational talks for mental wellbeing:

- How to face life changes and manage anxiety: During this virtual event, Annick Doza, a Venezuelan certified life coach, offered professional advice to participants about how to manage anxiety and depression amid COVID-19 lockdown.
- Online Pilates class by Marianna Salvioli and an online Zumba class by Gaby Marcano to encourage participants to engage in indoor physical activity.

Online Master class "Venezuelan Sayings" with Jessica Mavare: In this IG live session, Jessica Mavare drew parallels between Venezuelan Idioms that would be frequently used in Venezuela with similar Irish expressions. This event received great feedback from participants and, as such, was repeated




VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY
IN IRELAND
Presents


Let's reStart!

Online Pilates Class with
Marianna Salvioli



Date: 27/06/2020
Time: 10:30 AM
Duration: 45 MIN.
Suitable for all levels!





VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY
IN IRELAND

Let's Dance!

Online Zumba Class with
Gaby Marcano

Date: 03/07/2020 **Time:** 4:00 PM
Duration: 45 MIN.

Make sure to
register to join
the fun!



Objective 1: Integrations of Venezuelans in Ireland

Support to Venezuelans with passport issues

In July 2020, we offered our support to a movement of Venezuelans living in Ireland who raised awareness around the difficulties associated with renovating their Venezuelans passports at home and hence the Irish Residence Permit (IRP). They petitioned the Minister of Justice to renew the IRP and remove the barriers that make it difficult for Venezuelans to notify and update authorities on their immigration status in Ireland. We issued a letter to support their petition which was duly acknowledged and contributed to a change in this area. Now, under special circumstances, Venezuelans are able to renew their IRP with an expired passport.

Support to Venezuelans affected by COVID-19.

In May 2020, we created a GoFundMe initiative to support Venezuelan citizens living in Ireland who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and by public health restrictions that left them in financial hardship. This was especially the case for Venezuelan students and refugees in Ireland and those Venezuelans suffering passport or other visa-related issues. To that end, we designed and developed a survey to appeal directly to the most vulnerable among our community and found that six Venezuelans in Ireland were struggling to cover the cost of their most basic needs including food and accommodation. As a result, we created a fundraising campaign to purchase gift cards for food and other essentials and, in the end, we raised €670 which we then distributed between those six Venezuelans in-need.



Objective 1: Integrations of Venezuelans in Ireland

VCI Summer Picnic

In August 2020, we organised an outdoor gathering for our volunteers at the Phoenix Park, Dublin. We enjoyed food, music and games on a lovely afternoon. It was an opportunity for volunteers to gather and board members to meet for the first time in person since the COVID-19 restrictions started in March 2020. It complied with government restrictions on public gatherings. In this event, 2 new volunteers joined the organization.



Virtual Christmas Market

We were delighted to be able to support Venezuelan businesses in Ireland impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, we organised our first Virtual Christmas Market which was hosted on both our Facebook and Instagram accounts where 24 small- and medium-sized Venezuelan businesses and musicians participated and performed online. The event took place between the 21st November - 5th December 2020. We encouraged people to participate in the market which showcased the magic of Venezuelan culture, food, art and handcrafts.

Objective 2: Promotion of Venezuelan culture, custom and values

Throughout 2020, VCI continued to help enrich Ireland's multicultural environment and to give back to the Irish community which has welcomed so many Venezuelans. However, this time around and as a consequence of social distancing measures due to the pandemic, all of our events were conducted online.

"Venezuelan Roots" was created in 2017 by a group of Venezuelan dancers who wanted to stay connected to Venezuelan tradition while, at the same time, showcase our dance and culture to the people of Ireland. While this dance troupe functions as a separate entity to VCI, we work together and support each other at shows, festivals and events where we aim to collectively showcase the richness of Venezuelan music, costume and tradition. "Venezuelan Roots" is the only recognised traditional dance troupé from Venezuela in Ireland and it has so far participated in over 30 events since 2017. Over the past year, the troupe rehearses online where they continue to develop new choreographies in preparation for future events.



As part of the digital shift, VCI launched a mini series called, "Celts and Caribbeans" that portrayed different aspects of Venezuelan and Irish culture in short videos broadcast across social media. "Celts and Caribbeans", now available on youtube, broadcasted 4 episodes between September - December 2020 on topics including traditional music and dance, halloween, famous national figures and Christmas traditions.



Objective 3 : Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

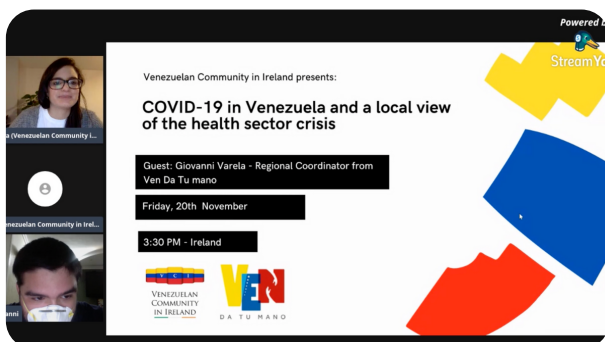
Given the deterioration of the living conditions in Venezuela, we have made humanitarian aid our core objective to support disadvantaged communities across the country. As an organisation, we deliver projects and initiatives that aim to raise awareness of the current humanitarian situation in Venezuela and assist humanitarian work there.

VCI Fundraising Events

As mentioned, VIC's fundraising events for this year took place online and included webinars, raffles, a GoFundMe fundraiser as well as an event whereby we sold second-hand clothes online in a project named 'Clothing for Venezuela'.

Webinars and Online Raffles

We hosted a number of webinars where we invited members from humanitarian organizations in Venezuela to speak about their projects and the current challenges they face in delivering aid. In November 2020, we hosted our first webinar with the Regional Coordinator from our partner NGO Ven Da Tu Mano. As part of this webinar, VCI organized a raffle to raise vital funds to support medical staff in Venezuelan hospitals as they battle against COVID-19. Following the success of this webinar, we hosted an additional talk and raffle in February 2021.



SenoSalud-Europa Fundraiser and Medicine Collection

As part of our partnership with Senosalud-Europe, we initiated a campaign in September 2020 to support the shipment of medicines and other medical supplies to organisations that are working on the prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer in Venezuela. We raised a total of €2,187 through a GoFundMe fundraiser this year. This fundraiser received a donation of €500 from the GoFundMe Team as part of their 'Gives Back' programme. Throughout the campaign, we received donations of medicines and medical supplies from hospitals, pharmacies and private organisations.

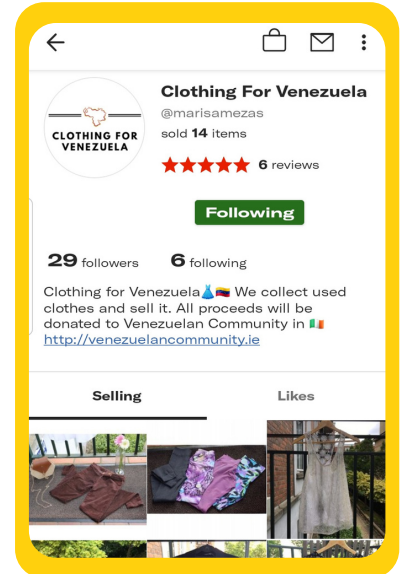
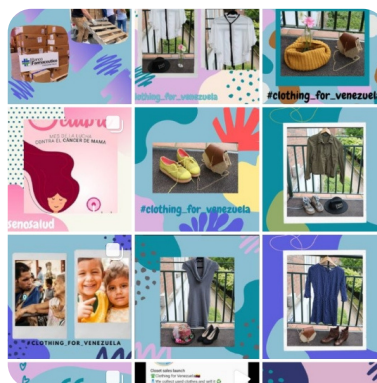


Objective 3 : Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

Clothing for Venezuela

In September 2020, the idea for the campaign Clothing for Venezuela was born out of our ongoing commitment to humanitarian aid and to showcase how fashion can be reused at affordable prices. We collected second-hand clothes - all in good condition - from volunteers and donors and set up a profile on Depop where we have been selling clothes ever since.

Moreover, in December 2020, we partnered with the webshow “Como Esta Hora” to host a live show to collect money for Clothing for Venezuela. Thus far, Clothing for Venezuela has raised over €150 which includes ticket sales from the aforementioned show. These funds have been donated to our various causes.



Objective 3 : Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

Healthcare

The partnership is fundamental to our values, our belief and our work both in Ireland and abroad. We have identified a number of NGO partners, each with specific knowledge and skills in humanitarianism, that are geographically located closer to Venezuela.

Partnership with Senosalud-Europa

Since late 2018, VCI has been supporting Senosalud-Europa in the shipment of medicines and medical supplies to cancer patients in Venezuela. During this partnership, we have shipped humanitarian aid to three separate NGOs in Venezuela including Senosalud Venezuela (Caracas), Seno & Vida (San Cristobal) and Fundanica (Valencia). The first two work with breast cancer patients while the third, Fundanica, works specifically in the area of pediatric oncology.

As part of our humanitarian efforts in 2020, we shipped a box of medicines and other medical supplies to Hospital Paraguaná in Punto Fijo (Venezuela). During the COVID-19 crisis, it came to our attention that this particular medical facility was struggling to acquire and pay for PPE. In sum, we sent a total of 55 kg worth of medicines and medical supplies from Ireland and an additional 13kg from Colombia. Additionally, medicines included everything from pain relief to chemotherapy and hormonal treatments were donated.



Objective 3 : Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

Partnership Dale la Mano a un Hermano

Dale la Mano a un Hermano (DLMH) is a not-for-profit organisation founded in Bogota, Colombia. Since 2017, VCI has been working with DLMH across multiple programmes that aim to facilitate greater access to food and medicines. With our contribution this year, DLMH sent two shipments of medicines and face masks amounting to a total of 86kg in August (2020) and 117kg in December of that same year. These shipments were then distributed across to the following organisations:

1) Ven Da Tu Mano (Caracas)

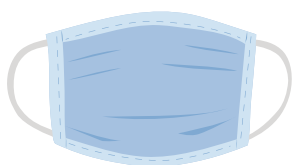
We funded the shipment from Colombia to Venezuela of more than 3500 face masks between August-December 2020, supporting more than 700 doctors working on-the-front-line to treat COVID-19 patients. They also received approximately 65kg worth of medicines and medical supplies - antibiotics, saline solutions, catheters and syringes - which were distributed between five different hospitals in Venezuela.

3) Asociación Hazlo Hoy

This organisation carries out medical-check up programmes around the city of Caracas. With the help of VCI, our partner NGO, DLMH, shipped around 68kg worth of medicines to treat a variety of illnesses and diseases such as hypertension, thyroids disorders and depression. As a result of our contribution, Asociación Hazlo Hoy carried out three medical check-ups that reached over 100 critical patients each (+300 in total).

2) Hogar Clínica San Rafael (Maracaibo)

We contributed to the donation of almost 55kg worth of pediatric medicines and medical supplies across two shipments. The first shipment took place in collaboration with long-term partner DLMH while the second shipment was made possible by the support of Irish hospitals which donated medical supplies. These donations have been used to treat patients from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially children. As it stands, these shipments have supported 43 surgeries to treat uterine cancer and 2 pediatric surgeries.



Objective 3 : Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

Partnership with Ven Da Tu Mano

Our current partnership with Ven Da Tu Mano was born out of an initial partnership with DLMH. This past year we have worked closely with Ven Da Tu Mano to raise awareness about the current crisis in the Venezuelan health sector through webinars and other fundraising efforts including raffles. As such, we have raised funds to support health workers and public hospitals in Venezuela during the COVID-19 crisis. For example, with funds raised during our first raffle which took place between November - December 2020 (total amount: €515), Ven Da Tu Mano was able to purchase a total of 52 PPE kits. Each kit contained 10 pairs of surgical gloves, one bottle of hand-sanitising gel and 5 surgical face masks which were donated to health workers in various hospitals dedicated to the treatment and care of COVID-19 patients (Hospitales Centinelas).

Food Provision

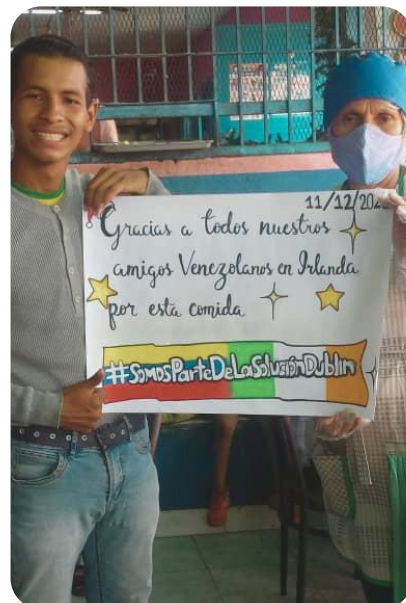
Support school food programme “Merienda Escolar”

Since 2017, our partnership with DLMH and Primeros Auxilios Luz (PALUZ) has enabled VCI to support a school food programme in a primary school called “Victor Lino Gómez” located in Cabimas, Maracaibo. This programme, which aims to significantly improve childhood nutrition among participants, supplies daily lunch for over 250 children each week from Monday to Friday. By donating €175, VCI contributed to two-months worth of the operational budget of the programme which is equivalent to around 4,000 distributed meals.



Support #SomosParteDeLaSolucionDublin

VCI donated €80 of the total funds raised from the Clothing for Venezuela project to the initiative #somospartedelasoluciondublin (#wearepartofthesolutiondublin). The idea behind this campaign was to provide 200 Christmas meals for one of Venezuela's most disadvantaged communities in Puerto Ordaz. “Fundación Me Diste de Comer” is the Venezuelan organisation which made this possible.



our work on the ground

Medicines

Total spent: €2,964

GoFundMe: €2093 and DLMH: €871



790 Venezuelan patients received primary health care



271kg worth of medicines shipped to our partner organisations in Venezuela

PPE kits

Total spent: €515.



52 PPE kits and 4,200 face masks were donated to frontline healthcare workers

Meals

Total spent: €255*



4,200 meals were provided to disadvantaged communities in Venezuela.

*€100 of the €255 were received as a donation in 2021 and will also be included in the Annual Report for 2021.

Communications and Public Relations

VCI's main communication channels are through our social media platforms which include Facebook and Instagram. In 2020, these digital platforms allowed us to continue our activities during the COVID-19 crisis and the strict public health measures which followed. Despite the array of challenges presented by the pandemic, we manage to host numerous events, classes, activities and initiatives online using social media.

Facebook Overview

Facebook is our main social media platform with more than 5,600 followers.

- Friday, 20th November 2020: VCI hosted a conversation with Ven da Tu Mano about the crisis in Venezuela's health sector and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis.

Total participation (Facebook events): 3,499
Engagement: 515
Comments: 15
Shares: 57



Instagram Overview

Audiences:

- August 2020: VCI reached 1,000 followers on Instagram.
- The majority of VCI Instagram followers are from Dublin followed by different locations in Venezuela
- 67.6% of our Instagram followership are women and 32.4% are men all between the ages of 25-54.
- Approximately 44 posts from VCI's account and 9 reposts from different organizations in 2020.

Top IGTV from last year

- The 2020 Celts and Caribbean mini-series attracted more than 4,417 views between different live and posted videos (13 IGTV in total).



Communication and Public Relations

Instagram (Live) Events and online projects in 2020:

- Online Pilates Class: 28 views.
- Zumba Class: 21 views; 1 comment.
- Covid -19 Information Session: 409 views; 5 comments.
- Venezuelan sayings (dichos venezolanos e irlandeses): 363 views; 4 comments.
- Idioms class: 363 views; 4 comments.
- Breast cancer awareness with E&S Doctors: 355 views; 10 comments.
- Virtual Christmas Market (2 days):
 - Day 1: 487 views; 561 comments.
 - Day 2: 201 views; 173 comments.
- Raffle supporting Venezuelan doctors: 252 views; 4 comments.
- Celtics and Caribbeans (4 videos sharing Venezuelan and Irish Culture): 1604 views (combined); 29 comments.



Communication and Public Relations

Others channel

- YouTube, LinkedIn, Website.

In 2020 we improved our performance across our secondary social media channels such as YouTube and LinkedIn. We targeted a charity sector audience in LinkedIn, to increase our networking and partnership's opportunities. Right now (2021), the communications team is working to develop a survey to discover more about our audience including their interests and expectations for VCI which will ultimately allow us to improve how we reach out and communicate with followers more effectively. A key part of this effort will be the development of a new VCI website which will enable our followers to access news, information and relevant updates about our community in a more efficient and effective way.



Partnerships and fundraising

Throughout 2020, VCI organized virtuals and a social event in collaboration with Venezuelan entrepreneurs who are living in Ireland. They either donated prizes or kindly agreed to sponsor our social events. Our sponsors included:

- Marianna Pilates Classes who provided a pilates class in January 2020
- Annick Doza who provided life coaching session for VCI members in February 2020
- Niuska Catering which provided food for the VCI Summer Picnic in 2020 and for our Board Members' Christmas Party in December 2020.
- Leopoldo Ayala, donated Avila Painting for Online Raffle in November 2020
- ComoaEstaHora which hosted a fundraiser in Nov 2020 for our school meals program in Cabimas, Zulia.
- Venebazaar for supporting VCI with a 'donate' section on their website
- O'Riordan's Pharmacy which donated medicines and medical supplies for breast cancer patients

The VCI is a member of several different groups and organizations operating in Ireland. Since 2018, we have formed part of the South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum (SDMIF) and we are also a member of the New Communities Partnership (NCP) which serves as the official mailing address for VCI.

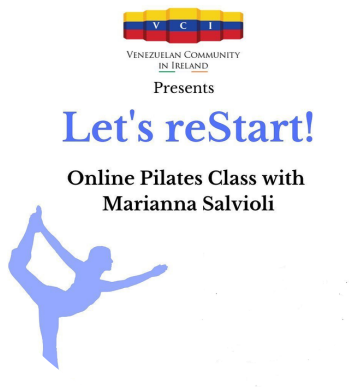
In addition to this, VCI is also a proud member of the Wheel, an organization that provides advice, training and networking opportunities for charities based in Ireland. We have been participating in online training sessions for social enterprises and we have been partaking in webinars for governance, fundraising, audit finance and communication strategies. Most recently, the VCI is pursuing a Certification in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance which is jointly hosted by the Wheel and by the Law Society of Ireland.

Furthermore, VCI forms part of the Tea & Chats programme which is organised by the Dublin City Council Cultural Company and our chairperson was recently appointed a member of the Dublin City Council Culture Company Advisory Group to serve a two-year term beginning in May 2021.

We are currently in conversation with members of the Latin American Solidarity Centre (LASC) where we seek to work on initiatives that will enhance the wellbeing of both our memberships.

Partnerships and fundraising

VCI Sponsors



Members of



Management and Governance

Structure

The Venezuelan Community in Ireland was founded in April 2017 for the purpose of alleviating poverty in Venezuela. Having applied for charity status to the Charity Regulatory Authority (CRA) in 2018, we have since re-submitted our application in 2019 as a -Complex- Unincorporated Association to reflect our work in Ireland and internationally.

The VCI Constitution sets out the charitable purpose of the organization and includes the responsibilities, eligibility and appointment procedures for Board members.

As of last year, VCI has begun to incorporate the principles of the Charities Governance Code to ensure that we fully comply with Irish Law and with all charity regulations for when we are granted status.

Governance

VCI is committed to maintaining the highest standards in all the work that we do. We have established clear procedures for selecting our beneficiaries in Venezuela and we maintain a very clear record of all our donations as well as a clear statement on the responsibilities of our beneficiaries. To that end, in 2020, we created a Donor-Beneficiary Agreement that outlines the conditions that NGO beneficiaries in Venezuela must comply with to ensure complete accountability and transparency.



Board Meeting Dec 2020

Management and Governance

Our Board of Directors

The CRA advises that Board Members should have experience of a maximum of nine years. In VCI, Board members are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The VCI Constitution enables a one-year period of service plus a re-election. Currently, the VCI is evaluating a possible change which includes extending this to a three-year period with one-year re-election. If a vacancy arises on the Board at any stage between AGMs, the position will either be filled by an existing member or it will be advertised on LinkedIn to find suitably qualified and interested candidates. Once we have selected a Board Member, the individual will receive an Induction Pack providing them with comprehensive information about VCI including our organisational structure, legal procedures, our values, priorities and goals and details on how we work.

Our Board of Directors consists of 4 officers and 4 co-opt officers. The Board meets once a month and we have extra meetings in sub-committees.

Last year, the new acting Board formed in June 2020 held 8 online meetings plus numerous meetings in sub-committees:

7 ordinary meetings which took place between June – December 2020.

1 online (volunteer) meeting held in September 2020 which was also open to the general public.

Below is a list of our current Board of Directors:



Liliana Fernandez Mitchel
Chairperson



Karen Mavare
Vice-chair person



Anaïs Marin
Treasurer
since August 2020



Marianella Oropeza
Secretary



Maria Isabel Meza
Relations development officer



Mariangel Rendon
Communications Officer



Giancarlo Ciampaglia
Fundraiser officer
From Sept 2020 till March 2021



Carlos Rojas
Fundraiser Officer
since March 2021



Juan Ayala
Communications officer 2

Ordinary Executive meetings



Volunteers meeting



Management and Governance

During our first online volunteer meeting which was held in September 2020 we had a total of 10 attendees - 7 existing members and 3 new volunteers. In addition to the current Board, we always encourage volunteers and members to participate in Board meetings as a way for them to raise issues directly with VCI management and to share new ideas, projects and initiatives with the Board.

Advisory committees

We have two ongoing committees that meet twice a month to discuss in-depth VCI operations. We expect to create an additional two committees by the beginning of next Board period (May 2021) which will be responsible for (1) Audit Finance and Humanitarian Aid and (2) Governance and Strategic Planning.

Strategic Events and Volunteer Management:

This committee was established with the aim of liaising with our volunteers, organising regular meetings with them to discuss events and initiatives that will help VCI to achieve its priorities.

Communications and Public Relations:

The purpose of this sub-committee is to develop, manage and execute an effective and strategic communications plan for VCI which includes responsibility for marketing, social media, website design and content and other related communications tasks.

Audit Finance and Humanitarian Aid

Once fully established, this sub-committee will be responsible for all internal procedures relating to guidelines and requests for funding. It will also be responsible for monitoring and evaluating our overseas operations which include support for our NGO partners and their programmes in Venezuela.

Governance and Strategic Planning

Once fully operational, this sub-committee will regulate all internal policies and practices and will regularly suggest improvements to VCI procedures. It will also be responsible for enacting all recommendations laid out by the Charities Governance Code.

Management and Governance

Best practices

Policy infrastructure

Our policies are the backbone of how VCI operates both internally as an organisation and how we work with our overseas partner NGOs in Venezuela. The VCI Constitution is the governing document which guides all aspects of work as an organisation and clearly outlines our main priorities, defines the role of our Board Members within the organisation and provides guidance on our recruitment process. This year, VCI Board Members created the Donor-Beneficiary Agreement together with our partner NGOs in Venezuela to guarantee complete transparency and accountability across all our professional humanitarian networks. Currently VCI has in place a Code of Conduct, a Child Protection policy, a Conflict of Interest policy and a Health and Safety policy. Over the next term, our Board will prioritise policies which address (1) the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and (2) Bullying and Harassment..

Fundraising standards

We organise all fundraising activities in line with the CRA recommended Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. Our values are fully in line with all CRA Fundraising principles which include respect, honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability. By using online fundraising platforms such as Rayllup and GoFundMe, we are able to showcase to the public (and our beneficiaries) how much money is raised and collected by VCI and we are fully transparent in how we distributed these funds to our specific causes. We encourage feedback across our public platforms and we always provide information on our funding activities to those who request it by email, telephone or during any of our volunteer meetings.



Risk Management

There are always risks associated with the operation of an organisation like ours. However, as we continue to grow and develop, we are constantly learning new and innovative ways in which we can mitigate these risks for the future.

Regular Income

In the past, our main source of revenue as an organisation was our annual Venezuelan Christmas Market where we received contributions from participating vendors in exchange for them selling their products. Currently, as it stands, we are organising all fundraising events online to generate income but it is quite apparent that this approach can be rather unpredictable and thus requires a significant marketing strategy to guarantee public interest and engagement. We are always seeking ways in which we can implement new and innovative forms of generating revenue as we look to provide paid services/products rather than rely entirely on the unpredictability of public donations.

Charity Status

Right now, our lack of a formal charity status reduces our chances of seeking corporate donations or applying for government funding and/or grants. We are making every effort to remain in contact with the CRA and to follow their guidance so that we may be in a position to receive formal charity status in the future and further develop our work in Ireland and abroad.

Volunteer engagement

As we are a small organisation, Board Members are required to participate in the day-to-day operation of VCI. However, our Board and volunteers often have other professional commitments outside VCI which can make it quite challenging to retain talent.

We try to encourage long-term participation within the organisation by offering volunteers opportunities to train and upskill in addition to providing our volunteers with references and formal certificates of recognition.

Field operations

Our partner NGOs in Venezuela often have great difficulty in accessing funds from abroad to run their operations. Towards the end of last year, the Venezuelan government announced that NGOs will no longer be permitted to receive remittances from abroad to cover their operational costs. Despite this, as long as there is a need on-the-ground in Venezuela, VCI remains fully committed to supporting children who require humanitarian aid.

COVID-19

The global pandemic has further deepened the health crisis in Venezuela. A lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has placed many medical professionals in a very vulnerable position in a country which has one of the highest death rates in Latin America. Working with our partner NGO in Venezuela, Ven Da Tu Mano, VCI is committed to trying to alleviate this problem by helping to source, fund and distribute PPE to healthcare workers in the country.

Future Plans

VCI's future looks bright for everyone who is involved in the organisation. On the humanitarian front, we have opted to shift our focus towards the school meals programme from this point onwards. While we will continue to support our NGO partners with the distribution of medicines and PPE to Venezuela for breast cancer and to protect health workers against COVID-19, we will only do this at specific times during the year. Our focus for now will be to work to support disadvantaged children in the country. So far, we are providing support for the school meal programme "Merienda Escolar" in the "Lino Victor Gomez" school located in Cabimas, Zulia. By the end of the year, we plan to increase this support with two additional school meal programmes in the country.

In order to sustainably grow as an organisation into the future, we are slowly making changes to how we raise revenue. Rather than rely on traditional fundraising methods, VCI is focusing on the provision of services which include raffles, bingo and virtual walks (these initiatives have already formed part of our revenue stream this year).

In line with our priority to help integrate Venezuelans into Ireland, we will launch a survey among the Venezuelan community in Ireland to receive direct feedback regarding the projects and initiatives we have designed to help us achieve that objective.

Our main priority here will be to help improve the online exposure of Venezuelan entrepreneurs who sell products/services in Ireland. We would also like to re-engage with many of our colleagues from the Venezuelan elderly community who have previously benefited from our free language exchange program. Unfortunately currently postponed due to COVID-19 public health restriction. We are keen to find new spaces for recreation and socialising for our community as well as continue our work for humanitarian support for schools meals programs in Venezuela.



Financial Statements

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

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Trustees and other information

Trustees	Marianella Oropeza Liliana Gabriela Fernandez Carruci (Appointed 1st June 2020) Karen Yolsin Mavarez Chirino (Appointed 1st June 2020) Anais Claret Marin Diaz (Appointed 1st June 2020) Mariangel Rendon (Appointed 1st June 2020) Juan Pablo Ayala (Appointed 1st June 2020) Maria Isabel Meza Silva (Appointed 1st June 2020) Gianncarlo Ciampaglia (Appointed 1st June 2020) Maria Marialejo (Resigned 31st May 2020) Indira Fernández (Resigned 31st May 2020) Kleiyurit Salinas (Resigned 31st May 2020) Angelica Fernandez (Resigned 31st May 2020)
Secretary	Marianella Oropeza
Registered Office	53 Upper Dorset Street Dublin 1
Bank	Bank of Ireland 2 & 3 Burnell Green Malahide Road Northern Cross Co Dublin
Accountant	Whiteside Cullinan Chartered Accountants Fleming Court Fleming's Place Dublin4

Executive declaration
for the year ended 31 December 2020

We approve this financial information and confirm that we are responsible for it, including selecting the accounting policies and making judgements underlying them. We confirm also that we have made available all relevant accounting records and information for its compilation.

LILIANA FERNANDEZ
Chairperson

Anais Marin
Treasurer

Date: 07.05.2021

We have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Venezuelan Community in Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Venezuelan Community in Ireland and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Venezuelan Community in Ireland for our work, or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by Chartered Accountants Ireland and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

You have approved the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet and related notes for the year ended 31 December 2020 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their completion.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Venezuelan Community in Ireland. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

Whiteside Cullinan
Chartered Accountants
Fleming Court
Fleming's Place
Dublin4

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Event planning	-	1,230
Event collaborations	-	550
Donations income	1,194	1,038
Government grant	-	500
	<u>1,194</u>	<u>3,318</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Administration expenses	90	1,317
Fundraising expenses	1,652	1,292
Project costs	-	607
Charitable Donations	2,589	6,262
Insurance	-	740
Printing, postage and stationary	9	102
Website maintenance	-	55
Accountancy	300	300
Bank Charges	100	30
Advertising	260	-
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>10,705</u>
Net outgoing resources	(3,806)	(7,387)
Taxation credit/(charge)	-	(808)
Net outgoing resources after taxation	<u>(3,806)</u>	<u>(8,195)</u>

Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
<u>Current assets</u>			
Bank and cash		2,695	3,712
<u>Creditors</u>			
Creditors due within one year	2	<u>(2,700)</u>	<u>(5,100)</u>
Net Current Liabilities		<u>(5)</u>	<u>(1,388)</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>(5)</u>	<u>(1,388)</u>
<u>Represented by</u>			
Total funds		<u><u>(5)</u></u>	<u><u>(1,388)</u></u>

Notes on the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

applicable accounting standards.

Constitution

Venezuelan Community in Ireland is not a registered charity though the organisation does have philanthropic objectives.

Taxation

The organisation is not exempt for income tax.

2 <u>Creditors due within one year</u>	2020	2019
	€	€
Accrued expenses	300	300
Deferred income	2,400	4,800
	<u>2,700</u>	<u>5,100</u>