



# Annual Report

**2021**

## Director's Welcome

Dearest Supporters,

The year 2021 saw us emerge from the restrictions and social distancing of the Covid-19 pandemic, and slowly return to normalcy. The students were able to return to in-person learning in March, and embrace the warm feeling of being together again with their school family.

Many families continued to endure financial hardship due to decreased employment, and Victor's Vision made sure it was there to provide nutritional assistance. Without healthy meals, it would be difficult for students to put forth their best efforts at school. We wanted them to have the best opportunities for success.

Together with this, Victor's Vision also held enrichment workshops throughout the year for both adults and children, covering a variety of topics that were pertinent to the community. Different professionals gave of their time to present helpful information on health and psychological issues.

I am so thankful to everyone who has supported us along our journey! Whether by attending our Viva La Vision event, hosting your own fundraiser for Victor's Vision, or taking the time to read our newsletters and celebrate our students' successes with us—thank you.

We are so excited to see what 2022 has in store for our community and our programming.

Sincerely,

Emily Felsenthal  
Executive Director



Giving Tuesday

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# Victor's Vision At-A-Glance

Victor's Vision is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves underserved youth in northern Peru through comprehensive after-school programming with a multi-pronged approach to address student needs.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to empower Latin American youth to dream of a brighter future and to pursue such a dream through higher education.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to empower underprivileged Latin American youth to dream and to achieve their dreams. The key to this is college graduation, so Victor's Vision provides its students with the supplemental academic support, personal and academic guidance, and university preparation necessary to attain a university degree.

## Our Values

We believe all children have the right to dream and to pursue their dreams. We believe in equal access to all levels of education, regardless of race, class, gender, religion, age or family status. We believe that when provided with the necessary resources, support and guidance, all children can achieve and succeed.



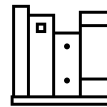
## Victor's Vision At-A-Glance



**100%**  
graduation  
rate from  
secondary school  
(local average: 47%)



**14**  
graduates  
attending post-  
secondary  
institutions



**88%**  
post-secondary  
placement within 1  
year of graduation  
(local average: 9%)



**100%**  
of paid staff are  
Peruvians from  
the Chulucanas  
community

Student enrollment	<b>76</b>
Local staff employed	<b>14</b>
Local community partnerships	<b>3</b>
Grade levels served	<b>4<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup></b>
Average student: teacher ratio	<b>9:1</b>
Annual operating expenses	<b>\$50,434</b>
Average cost per student	<b>\$664</b>
Year of program establishment	<b>2009</b>
Year of US 501(c)(3) status	<b>2010</b>

## Where We Work

Perú is a developing country in western South America with a poverty rate of 21.7% and a population of 31.2 million. Its economy is largely based on agriculture, fishing, mining, and manufacturing of products such as textiles.

Victor's Vision operates in Chulucanas, a small town with approximately 57,400 inhabitants located in the northwestern Piura region of the country. This area is most well-known for its ceramic tradition, an important aspect of Peruvian heritage that dates back to ancient civilizations.

### Fast Facts: Rural Piura

Malnutrition Rate (students aged 0-5)	36,9%
Students completing primary education (6th grade)	83%
Students completing secondary school (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)	63%
Students completing at least 2 years of higher education	15%

### Fast Facts: Victor's Vision Families

Poverty Rate	100%
Households with running water	89%
Single-parent or no-parent households	20%
Number of parents in professional careers	7
Percent of students with only one working parent	74%



# Our Continued COVID-19 Response



## Academic Support

After two years of schools being shut down, students were finally able to return to school in September.



## Parent Workshops

In response to the social-emotional trauma stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, our psychologist facilitated socially distanced parent workshops for all Victor's Vision families. These workshops specifically focused on providing families with the support and resources needed to improve nutrition, maintain a healthy immune system, and navigate the stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic.



## Food Baskets

The economic devastation of the pandemic was particularly impactful on Chulucanas and consequently, Victor's Vision's families, as many were left jobless and without a steady source of income. In response, Victor's Vision provided food and baskets to all 60 of its families, totaling more than three months' worth of supplemental food supplies for each family.



## Teacher Compensation

With schools being closed as a result of the pandemic, many of our teachers' salaries were also in jeopardy. In solidarity, Victor's Vision offered financial support to several teachers affected economically by COVID-19 to ensure their stability.

# Core Programming



## Academics

Victor's Vision (VV) starts working with students when they are in the fourth grade. All students receive three extra hours of schooling, five days a week. Since inception in 2009, VV has offered classes in 4 core subject areas: math, language arts, science, and character development. In 2012, Victor's Vision began offering a fifth subject to all of its students: computer classes. In addition to the 15 hours of core subject work, students also engage in a monthly 2-hour computer class taught by VV staff. In 2014, Victor's Vision additionally began offering English classes to all of its students. Through our English program, all students receive one hour/week of English language instruction. VV's average class size in 2019 ranged from 7-15 students, which enabled the program's university-certified teachers to focus on the individual needs of every child. By supplementing the students' regular school day with a personalized learning atmosphere, VV ensures that every student is prepared with the skills and confidence necessary to pursue higher education and to ultimately overcome poverty.

### Why focus on academics?

Although the Peruvian government mandates the right for every child to attend a public school, the average Peruvian school day is often much shorter and of much poorer quality than those in the U.S. While the school day typically lasts 6-7 hours, instructional time may only take up a total of 3 hours of this time due to breaks between classes, recesses, and other unpredictable interruptions. The current public education system, providing 15-20 hours at best of instruction per week, simply isn't sufficient to prepare students that aim to pursue higher education. Additionally, many public schools, while free, still require registration fees, uniforms, books, school supplies, transportation fares, and other barriers that make it difficult for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to be fully prepared to learn.



**Over 60%** of 6th grade students in the Piura region are at least one grade level behind in communication arts in school.

**88%** of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Piura are performing below the basic level for their grade level in mathematics.

(UNICEF 2016)





## Nutrition

In order to ensure that students receive the nutrients necessary to learn and grow, VV implemented a nutrition program in January 2011. A local certified nutritionist assists Victor's Vision by preparing and ensuring that every VV student with one additional balanced meal every day of programming; this amounts to five additional meals per week, per student. Additionally, in 2013 Victor's Vision began providing additional medicine and meals for families in situations of extreme need, and continued these efforts through 2019. In 2019, our secondary-level students were also provided with an additional evening snack, as the older students typically work at Victor's Vision past 8pm. Thanks to the support of our on-site nutritionist, VV was able to ensure that all students and families are healthy, well-nourished, and ready to learn and develop.

### Why focus on nutrition?

According to UNICEF (2016), 52% of children between the ages of 6-9 living in the Piura region of Peru are malnourished. Research has shown that without the proper nutrition, it is highly unlikely that children reach their full academic potential. Malnourished students are unable to develop physically and mentally at a normal rate, and their academic growth suffers as a direct result. All VV students live in poverty. As a result of this, many children join the program in a malnourished state. Ensuring the proper developmental ability of every student is essential to our programs' success.



In 2021, **100%** of students received one extra balanced meal every day they attended Victor's Vision's programs. All meals include milk, fruit, protein, and bread.



## Social Emotional Learning

Along with Academics and Nutrition, Victor's Vision supplements our students' achievement through social emotional support, which instills in our students strong values and a desire to succeed. Since 2012, Victor's Vision students have met monthly with a psychologist who evaluates their mental and social health. Additionally, our students participate in monthly social emotional learning workshops on topics such as bullying, domestic violence, sex education, and character values. Our psychologist also conducts one-on-one meetings with students who may be particularly struggling with a difficult experience, such as puberty, social conflicts, or the divorce of parents.

### Why social emotional learning?

Victor's Vision recognizes the importance of ensuring that our students are mentally, socially and emotionally prepared to enter university and other post-secondary programs. These traits are also essential to ensuring students stay in and complete their degrees or certifications. We believe monthly workshops, psychological support, and excursions can enhance this growth. VV's cultural experiences offer students the opportunity to see and experience different cultures and lifestyles, as well as develop an understanding of the value of service. As a result, our students are more driven in their pursuit of higher education and are more confident in their desire to give back to their own community.



**74%** of Victor's Vision students have just one working parent.

This increases the risk that students are likely to enter the workforce instead of completing high school or attending a post-secondary program, especially when social situations are new & difficult to navigate.

## Parental Involvement

VV recognizes parental involvement as a necessary factor for the long-term success of our students. While most VV's parents dropped out of school prior to achieving a secondary education, VV actively works with parents to help them understand and value academic success. As a result, parents are empowered to encourage and establish high standards for their children's academic performance.

In addition to signing a commitment contract to invest in their child's education, VV parents attend monthly parent workshops run by our staffed psychologist. At these workshops, Victor's Vision staff and families address topics such as education, domestic abuse, and child labor. Through these workshops and bi-monthly home visits that are conducted by Victor's Vision teachers, we hope to provide parents with a safe space to share, grow and support their family's future.

### Why focus on parents?

In Chulucanas, many students drop out of school by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in order to start working and earning money for their families – this results in just a 47% secondary school completion rate. With such limited education, almost all of these individuals end up in one of four professions: moto-taxi driver (more than 50%), factory worker (about 10%), cleaning homes (about 15%) or selling goods in the market (about 25%). None of these professions allows individuals to earn sufficient income to escape poverty.

VV empowers parents to understand the benefits of higher education for their entire family. By communicating regularly with VV teachers and participating in monthly workshops, parents take on a larger role in their child's education and consequently their family's future. Under this approach, all VV children have the family support needed to succeed in the classroom.

**20%** of Victor's Vision families are single-parent or no-parent households.

**100%** of Victor's Vision parents say they feel more confident in their family's future as a result of Victor's Vision's programs.





## Post-Secondary Placement

In Peru, students graduate high school after 11<sup>th</sup> grade. With our first class of graduating students in at the end of 2017, 2021 marked the fourth class of VV graduates applying to university or post-secondary programs.

This year, we broke our previous record for university acceptances and post-secondary placement! We are proud to report that all of our 2021 graduating class have enrolled in university or a post-secondary program.

Four of our students were admitted to university or are enrolled in post-secondary courses in 2021:

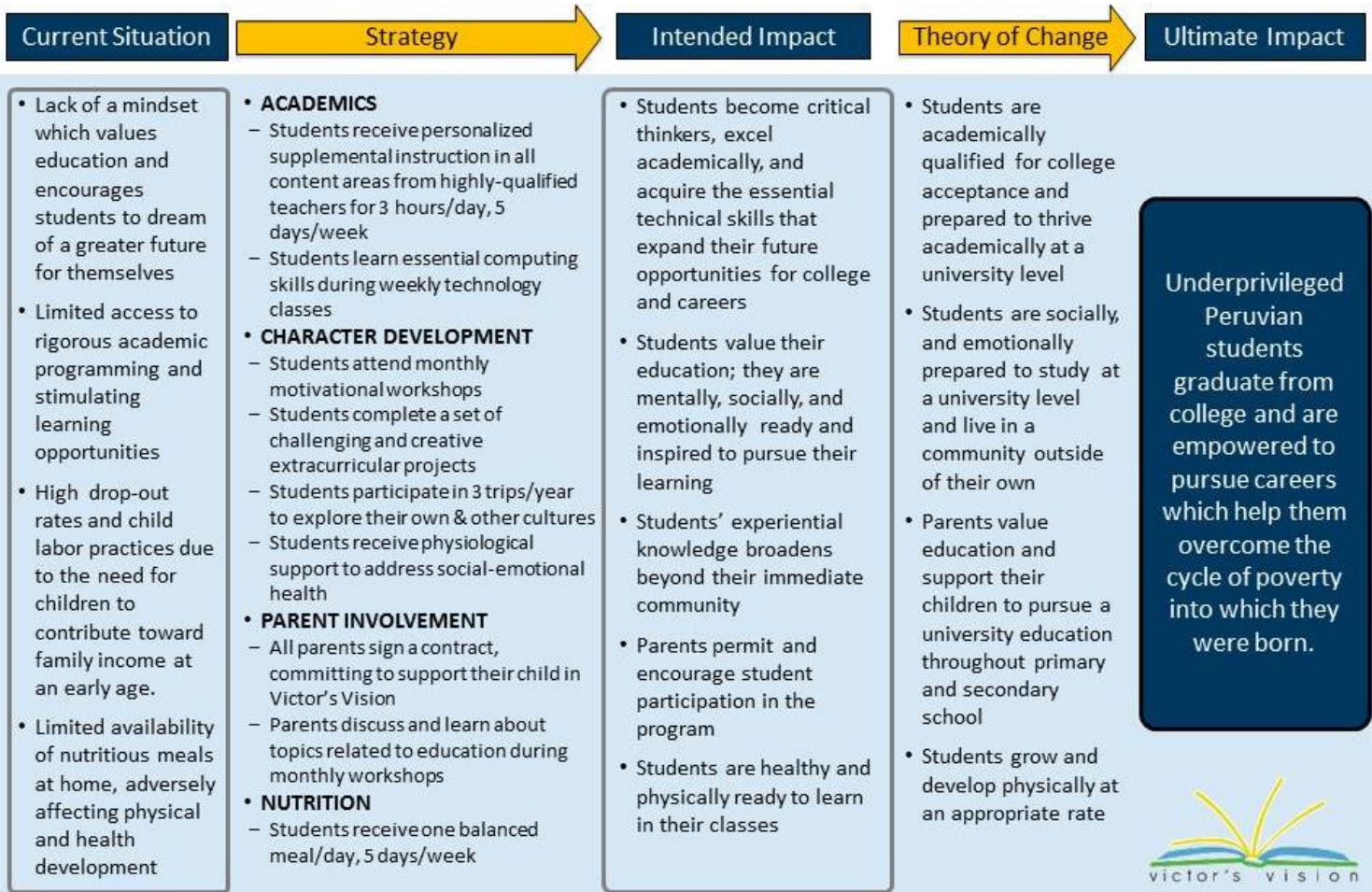
- **Edgar** is studying Civil Engineering at Universidad César Vallejo.
- **Ashley** is studying Statistics at Universidad Nacional the Piura.
- **Samuel** is studying medicine at Cesar Trujillo University in Piura.
- **Anthony** received the highly-coveted Beca 18 from the Peruvian government to go to college this year
- **Miguel** is studying International Business at Universidad Católica de Chulacanas.
- **Gladys** is studying Criminology at Universidad UTEL in Lima.
- **Anghelo** also received the Beca 18 from the Peruvian government to go to college this year

Although university and post-secondary entrance rates are high, our students continue to face relatively high costs for continued enrollment. Many of our students choose to only apply to the national scholarship program or the National University of Piura—a public university with no tuition fees. Unfortunately, this university is also one of the most competitive in the country, with just a **2.9% acceptance rate** in 2019.<sup>1</sup>

We are seeking to expand fundraising in 2022 to help cover the costs of university tuition for former students. They are inexpensive by North American standards, but very high for poverty-stricken Peruvian families.

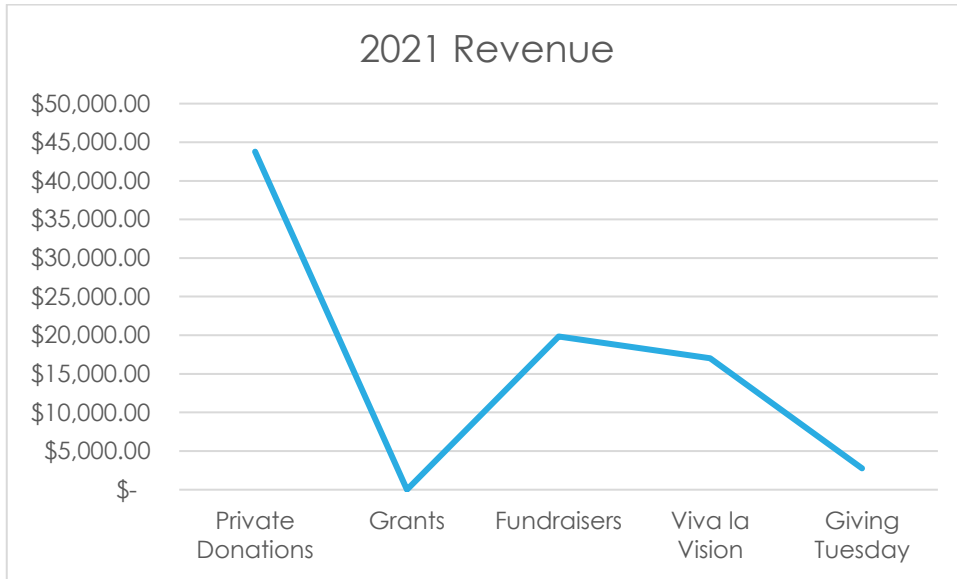
<sup>1</sup>[Resultados examen general de admisión, April 2019.](#)

# Theory of Change

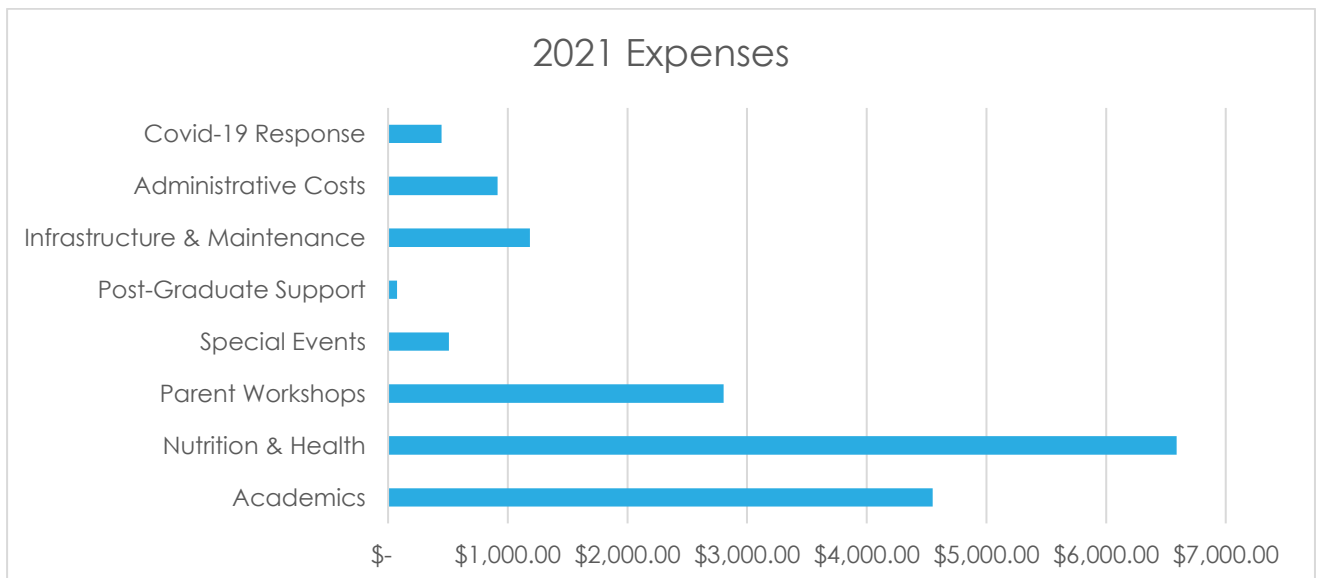


# 2021 Revenue and Expense Summary

**Total Revenue: \$54,951**



**Total Expense: \$17,074**



## 2021 Highlights

This year marked Victor's Vision's 12<sup>th</sup> year of programming. We are very excited about how much the organization has grown and the impact we've had in the Chulucanas community. Below are some highlights from our 12<sup>th</sup> year.

**School finally re-opened after two years of remote learning.** Our students and teachers were able to get back to the classroom in March 2022 and make up for lost time. We know that it was a challenge to try to make progress and work on any missed learning, but we are confident that everyone will be caught up soon.



Back to the classroom!

**We celebrated Teachers Day on July 6.**

Our students had the opportunity to show their teachers how grateful they were for all their support, and how much they value their commitment to helping them advance in their learning.



Celebrating our teachers!

**Family Workshops were held on a variety of topics.**

The subjects were selected by the community and were related to health and wellness. Our psychologist conducted workshops on how to cope with stress and anxiety. Our nutritionist hosted workshops on disease prevention, healthy eating, and building strong immune systems. Additional topics included healthy self-esteem and sexual health in adolescence, domestic violence prevention, and emotional health.



Family Workshops

**Nutritious food baskets were provided for everyone who attended the health and social wellness seminars.**

These included copious amounts of fruit, as well as rice, noodles, oil, tuna, and other food staples. Since beginning this initiative, we have raised funds for approximately 200 food baskets, which equals more than three months' supplemental food supplies for our 57 families.



Fruit baskets for the families.

**Special recognition is due to Anthony, Samuel, and Anghelo.**

Anthony and Anghelo both received the Beca 18 from the Peruvian government this year, covering all their university expenses! This is a highly competitive program and we could not be prouder! Samuel also began studying medicine at Cesar Trujillo University in Piura in the Fall. Our students are truly brilliant!



Beca 18 recipients

**We have now had a total of 29 students enroll in higher education.**

This year, we had six new graduates! In a region where only nine percent of students go on to higher education, this is an incredible achievement! We are so proud of our students!



We are so proud of our students!



