



WORKSHOP

Venezuelan's Kids
July 20th

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

Elaborated by
The Venezuelan
Community in
Ireland



VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY
IN IRELAND

EVERY
BODY'S
WELCOME
TO THE PARTY

Mauricio Vena
Photographer

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A message from our Chairperson

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this annual report of the Charity Organisation, highlighting the remarkable achievements and impactful work accomplished throughout the past year. As we reflect on our journey, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering dedication and commitment demonstrated by our team, volunteers, donors, and partners.

This report serves as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and shared purpose. Together, we have made significant strides in addressing the pressing needs of our community, providing vital support, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

As you delve into the pages that follow, you will discover inspiring stories of resilience, growth, and hope. Our programs and initiatives have touched the lives of countless individuals, offering a helping hand during challenging times and opening doors to new opportunities.

I am particularly proud of our innovative approaches to tackling complex social issues. By embracing technology and forming strategic partnerships, we have expanded our reach and maximized our impact. Through our unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability, we have ensured that every dollar donated is used efficiently and effectively.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to create lasting change and foster a more compassionate and inclusive society. With your continued support, we will strive to break down barriers, promote social justice, and build a brighter future for all.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Charity Organisation. Your generosity, empathy, and unwavering belief in our cause have made an indelible difference. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Sincerely,

Francisco Astudillo



Our vision for change

MISSION

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



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

In Ireland

We are a platform to share information relevant to Venezuelans and other Latin Americans in Ireland. We collaborate with other Latin and migrant communities to organise events that are relevant to the community for employment, mental health, and cultural exchange. We support the most vulnerable of our community, the elderly Latin Americans through free language English classes and social activities for inclusion and integration. We promote our culture, traditions, and values through our dancing group Venezuelan Roots who have represented us in numerous festivals and St Patrick's Parade.

In Venezuela

We are committed to supporting children and families in Venezuela through our Humanitarian aid program. We have supported food and health programmes since our conception in 2017, including support for breast cancer patients during “pink month” every October.

Strategic Objectives



1. Integration of Venezuelan in Ireland:

The Venezuela Community in Ireland (VCI) is committed to integrating Venezuelans and Latin Americans into Irish society through three core pillars: integration, community engagement, and cultural promotion. Our strategic focus is on empowering our community members by providing access to essential resources and fostering cultural exchange.

In 2024, VCI organized numerous events, including "Day Trips," "Family Days," and "Kids Workshops," to promote social interaction and cultural understanding. These initiatives showcased Venezuelan culture through music, food, and creative expression, strengthening bonds within the community and with Irish society..

Our integration efforts extend to vulnerable community members, particularly elderly Latin Americans, through free language classes and support with accessing Irish government opportunities.

The Venezuela Kids in Ireland (VKI) project, alongside the "Venezuela Root Dance" and "Integration Programme +50," aims to further integrate Venezuelans into Irish society. VKI provides a comprehensive cultural program for children aged 2-16, fostering a sense of community and promoting both Venezuelan and Irish cultural values. This initiative strengthens Venezuelan identity and enhances the community's positive image within Ireland.

Our "Integration Programme +50" specifically addresses the unique challenges faced by elderly Latin Americans, including language barriers and social isolation. We provide tailored support to ensure their well-being and successful integration into Irish society. Through these diverse initiatives, VCI strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all Venezuelans and Latin Americans in Ireland.



- Social Inclusion for elderly Latin American

Migration among individuals over 50 is becoming more common within our Latin community for several reasons: to reunite with family, access healthcare services for aging-related needs, pursue post-retirement living arrangements, or seek safety and economic opportunities. This demographic faces vulnerability as they navigate new environments, risking their rights and well-being. Thus, we advocate for our Social Inclusion Program tailored to elderly Latinos, offering language support, integration assistance, and social opportunities. Our aim is to empower them to adapt to their new surroundings, find emotional balance amidst change, and foster a sense of belonging in their new realities.

- Dublin Learning City Festival



For VCI participants in the 2024 Dublin Learning City Festival: The event showcased diverse, accessible learning opportunities, aligning with Dublin's UNESCO Learning City status. Over 100 free, inclusive activities, including workshops and exhibitions, aimed to break down educational barriers. Funded by the HEA Access Initiative, the festival brought together organizations like VCI to support socially disadvantaged learners. It highlighted that education is open to all, emphasizing the transformative power of learning. VCI's participation contributed to fostering community connections and expanding knowledge, reflecting the festival's mission to enrich lives through accessible learning.

- Day of Discovery at the National Botanic Garden!



The VCI Day of Discovery at the National Botanic Gardens was a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of VCI members. The event fostered language skill development, new friendships, and a deep connection with nature. VCI participants helped strengthen bonds between Venezuelan, Latin American, and Irish communities, promoting valuable integration. Your presence made the day memorable, enhancing Dublin's cherished green space. VCI appreciates your contributions and looks forward to continued engagement in future events, building on the spirit of community and cultural exchange.

- VCI Newgrange

The VCI Day of Discovery at Newgrange (Sí an Bhrú) was a significant experience for participants. Your presence enriched the event, fostering language practice, friendships, and a connection with Ireland's ancient heritage. Exploring this prehistoric site, older than Stonehenge, strengthened ties between Venezuelan, Latin American, and Irish communities, promoting integration. VCI thanks you for contributing to this memorable journey into Ireland's history. We value your participation and look forward to your continued engagement in future VCI events.



- Halloween Family Day

The VCI Halloween Family Day was a successful step in our Integration Programme, connecting Venezuelans and Latin Americans with Irish culture. Participants enjoyed engaging storytelling, including Eoghan's "Magic Plan" and Ana's "Ciman" folklore, fostering cultural understanding. Your interest and participation were crucial to creating a welcoming environment and strengthening community bonds. VCI appreciates your involvement in this initiative and looks forward to continuing these connections.



- "Cut from the Same Cloth-Get Together" workshop

The "Cut from the Same Cloth-Get Together" workshop, made possible by Research UCD and UCD Conway Institute, provided a unique platform for VCI participants. This event transcended fashion, fostering personal narrative exploration and cultural exchange. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, honoring traditions and celebrating diverse stories. The workshop emphasized clothing as a powerful form of self-expression, facilitating personal growth and community integration. VCI extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants for contributing to this transformative experience. Through this initiative, VCI continues to create inclusive spaces for community integration in Ireland.



- VKI Workshop - Integrating Future Generations



The Venezuelan Kids Ireland (VKI) project, integral to VCI's integration goals, aims to foster Venezuelan identity and cultural understanding among children aged 2-16. VKI, alongside other initiatives, strengthens community bonds and enhances VCI's positive image in Ireland.

The 2024 VKI workshop successfully delivered a cultural program, celebrating Venezuelan heritage. We thank parents, volunteers, and "La Profesora" Marisela for their enthusiastic participation. This event showcased VCI's commitment to integration and cultural pride.

VKI empowers children, ensuring the preservation of Venezuelan culture within the Irish context. We encourage community involvement through volunteering, feedback, newsletter subscriptions, and donations, building a vibrant and thriving Venezuelan community for future generations.

2. The Promotion of our Culture

- Saint Patrick's Parade

As a core component of VCI's strategic goal to promote Venezuelan culture and values, our community proudly participated in the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Venezuelan Roots Dance Group, alongside other cultural representatives, delivered a vibrant display of our heritage, showcasing the rich diversity of our community within Ireland.

For the third consecutive year, Venezuela's presence at this prestigious international event served as a powerful testament to our commitment to cultural exchange. The energetic performances and traditional attire celebrated Venezuelan folklore, evoking immense pride among our organization and the wider Venezuelan and Latin communities.

This year's participation was particularly significant, featuring children born to Venezuelan parents and raised in Ireland. Their involvement symbolized the successful integration and cultural fusion VCI strives to achieve, demonstrating how our heritage can thrive in a new environment.

Witnessing our culture represented on such a prominent stage reinforced the importance of unity and cultural preservation among diverse communities residing in Ireland. This event not only celebrated our heritage but also strengthened bonds with the broader Irish society, aligning perfectly with VCI's mission to foster integration through cultural expression.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Ireland for its warm welcome and to all volunteers and sponsors who made this impactful participation possible. This achievement underscores VCI's dedication to promoting Venezuelan culture and values, integral to our community's growth and integration within Ireland.

Cultural Programme

St Patrick Parade 2024



- Latin American Christmas Market



The "A Very Latin American Christmas Market" remains VCI's most cherished annual event, a pivotal milestone in fulfilling our strategic goals of "promotion of culture and values" and "integration in Ireland." This festive gathering, timed perfectly with the Christmas season, serves as a vital bridge between the Latin and Irish communities, offering a vibrant space for connection, cultural exchange, and fundraising. It features a rich tapestry of cultural performances, delectable gastronomy, unique handicrafts, and joyful entertainment for all ages.

The 2024 market was an overwhelming success, a testament to the unwavering support and enthusiasm of our community. We are profoundly grateful for the trust and active participation that made this event a reality. We extend our sincerest thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable contributions:

@lclavegroup, @realeventsireland, @wskfsedaikaratedo, @venafoto, @radiolatinadublin, @yonelysainagas, @gabymarcnob, @carlosfarmacia9, @flamma_bel, @orlando051150,

@ronixmusica, @joyfulnoisedublin, @thewellnesshubireland, @johelyguilarte, @almabolivianaireland, @peru.fusion_ireland, @venezuelanrootsdance, @fusionmurga, @freymasc, @tenzin.music. We also express our heartfelt appreciation to all guests, the dedicated team members responsible for Decoration, Beverages, and Tickets, the entire VCI Team, our generous Donors, Collaborators, Volunteers, Cultural Groups, Musicians, DJs, Bands, and Vendors. Your collective efforts created a truly magical experience.



This year's market was a powerful demonstration of VCI's commitment to fostering cultural understanding and strengthening community bonds. The funds raised will directly support our charitable initiatives, providing crucial humanitarian aid, integration programs, and cultural projects.

In 2023, despite our planned market, we made the difficult decision to cancel as a gesture of solidarity with the wider Irish community during unforeseen challenges. This decision underscored our commitment to responsible citizenship. However, we remained steadfast in our fundraising efforts, focusing on strengthening institutional connections to ensure future success.

We also extend special thanks to Mauricio Vena (@venafoto) for capturing the magic of the 2024 market through his stunning photography, preserving the joy, culture, and community spirit for years to come.

3. Humanitarian Aid

- *Robotic Program*

In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, VCI has prioritized aid delivery as a key strategic goal. Through annual fundraising events in Ireland, we not only secure vital funds but also raise awareness about the crisis, fostering solidarity and sustained support.

Our longstanding partnership with "Alimenta la Solidaridad" remains central to our efforts. In 2023, we continued to support their network of over 240 community kitchens, providing daily meals to over 16,000 children. Our contributions cover 40% of the daily caloric needs for children aged 0-12, addressing critical nutritional deficiencies. Beyond meals, the partnership implements holistic programs encompassing health, education, and female empowerment. Montessori-based activities promote literacy, hygiene, and child rights, while the Female Leadership Programme provides vital support and entrepreneurial training to women facing domestic violence.



In 2024, we expanded our humanitarian efforts by launching a robotics program in partnership with Alimenta la Solidaridad and Kurios. Since January, we have empowered 53 students from "El comedor el Caballito del Municipio Libertador."

Notably, three students achieved second place in a Kurios tournament, showcasing their remarkable talent and dedication.

This program, using Kurios-Quinex, introduces children to robotics, from basic assembly to video game programming, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.

We envision a future where all children have access to quality robotics education, enabling them to become future innovators. This initiative represents VCI's commitment to breaking barriers and preparing the next generation of Venezuelan geniuses, ensuring a brighter and more technologically advanced future. Through these initiatives, VCI aims to provide immediate relief while fostering long-term resilience and self-sufficiency within Venezuelan communities.



- Cancer Support: *Pink is my strength* campaign

Since late 2018, VCI has been working in alliance with Senosalud-Europa in the shipment of medicines and medical supplies to cancer patients in Venezuela.

Through 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.

We have collected, purchased, and shipped 90kg of medicines and medical supplies to Venezuela during these years.



Venezuela's hyperinflation has severely undermined the quality of life, making essential goods like medicine and food unaffordable. A staggering 73% of the population lacks financial protection for medical costs, leaving 18.8 million people without access to healthcare services. The crisis is particularly devastating for those with critical illnesses. In 2021, for example, there were 3,127 breast cancer deaths, averaging about nine deaths daily, with the highest mortality among those aged 55 to 64.

In response to this crisis, the VCI partnered with Senosalud-Europa in 2024 to provide crucial support. The initiative delivered 68 chemotherapy medicines, 10 prostheses, and 34 bras to breast cancer patients in Venezuela. This effort provided a complete cycle of chemotherapy (a minimum of three doses) to 15 patients, offering them a vital chance at treatment.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our community for supporting this humanitarian campaign.



Our Work on the ground

Cultura Exchange

Promoted Venezuelan culture through:

Consistent participation in the St. Patrick's Parade: Participation for four consecutive years (2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024) demonstrates a dedication to cultural exchange and community engagement.

Strengthened community partnerships: Successfully fostered collaboration with local authorities and civil society organizations, building bridges and expanding cultural awareness.

Educational Empowerment

Empowered 12-25 Latino parents (age 50+) on their cultural journey in Ireland by providing:

27 engaging English classes: This equipped them with the essential language skills to navigate their new surroundings and connect with their community.

6 exciting multicultural activities: These activities fostered a sense of inclusion and broadened their cultural horizons.

A exceptional exchange experience: Attending the "Cut from the same Cloth" in alliance with UCD, this provided a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Irish culture.

An educational day trip: A full-day tour of the Newgrange offered a deeper understanding of Irish history and heritage.

Our Work on the ground

Nourishing the Future

Supported 51 children and 5 dedicated volunteer mothers in the in the Dinner Room "Caballito" in Antimano, Venezuela, by providing them with:

7 months of educative activities in Robotics. This includes recreational activities for fun and team building, training sessions to equip the mothers with valuable skills, and educational activities to promote learning and development.

3 Children participated in the robotics tournament of Kurios 2024. They obtained the 2nd place in their category.

Solidarity Campaign

Provided Relief to Aragua State, Venezuela:

Partnered with "Hazlo Hoy Venezuela" to raise crucial funds following a devastating natural disaster. These funds directly aided those affected, providing them with much-needed support during a challenging time.

Health Care Campaign

Empowered Women with "Pink is My Strength" Campaign in collaboration with SenoSalud-Europa. This campaign aimed to provide them with: (1) Essential knowledge and resources to fight cancer and (2) a sense of community and support during their journey.

Achieved to Donate: 10 Breast Prosthesis, 34 Bras and 68 medicines for Chemotherapy in Venezuela.

Partnerships and fundraising

Partnership is integral to our mission, guiding our efforts both locally and globally. We've aligned with NGO partners possessing specialized humanitarian expertise, strategically located near Venezuela. These collaborations amplify our impact, ensuring efficient aid delivery and support acquisition to sustain our humanitarian initiatives.

Management and governance

a. Structure

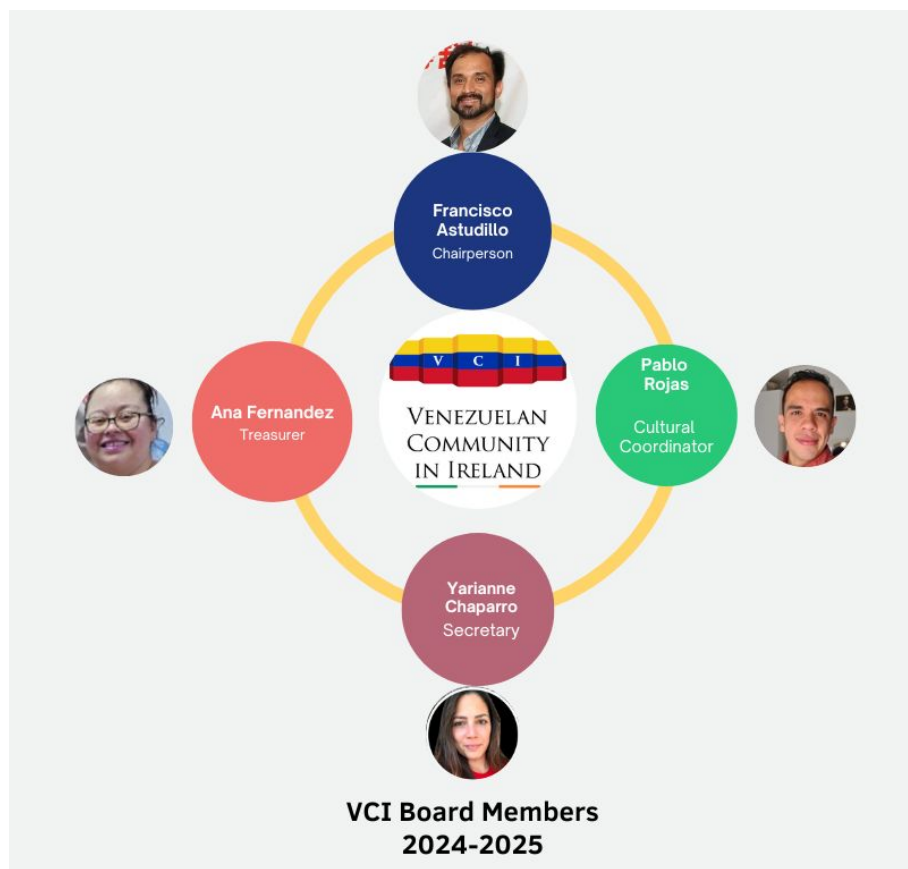
VCI is a non-for-profit, volunteer-based organisation created in April 2017. We are a Registered Charity with the Charities Regulator - Ireland's national statutory regulator for charitable organisations. Our Registered Charity Number is: 20206241. VCI is registered as a charity with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. Our Charity Number is CHY 3472123HH. The organisation has an Executive Committee formed by seven trustees and a volunteer base that supports the implementation of our projects.

b. Governance

As an unincorporated body we are governed by the VCI Constitution which sets out our mission, objectives, trustees eligibility and the governance arrangements and internal management of the organisation. The current Board of Trustees, elected at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, are the charity's trustees. During 2023 the board members were selected through an open recruitment process, which included advertising online, and a targeted recruitment search. New appointees were given a personal induction programme tailored to their areas of expertise and governance obligations, and all trustees were provided with a range of training opportunities to help them meet their responsibilities. The Board of Trustees met monthly for scheduled meetings and held occasional ad hoc meetings for exceptional business where necessary. The balance of trustees is kept under review with regard to diversity and geographical spread. The Board of Trustees also places particular emphasis on appointing individuals who bring specific identified skills.

c. Our Board of Directors (trustees)

We have dedicated trustees who support the strategic and operational side of the organisation. In 2023 we held nine Board meetings and numerous meetings through our different advisory committees. We are constantly engaging with volunteers that support us in specific areas of the work. Below is the list of trustees for this period:



The Board, another Volunteers and Collaborators

Board members (4)

Francisco Astudillo

(Chairperson -
appointed in 2022)

Ana Fernández

(Finance - appointed in
2023)

Yarianne Chaparro

(Secretary - appointed
on 2023)

Pablo Rojas (Cultural
Coordinator - appointed
in 2022)

Active volunteers for Operational Support in

Jhonangel Mireles
(Communications team)

Giancarlo Giampaglia
(Communications team)

Andrea Rendon
(Communications team)

Yurbi Marrufo
(Events Team)

Fabio Uzcategui
(Events Team)

d. Advisory committees

We have dedicated trustees who support the strategic and operational side of the organisation. In we held nine Board meetings and numerous meetings through our different advisory committees. We are constantly engaging with volunteers that support us in specific areas of the work. Below is the list of trustees in :

I. Strategic events and volunteer management

Plays a key role in the effective implementation of the VCI projects and initiative, ensuring there are realistic resources available to execute short- and long-term projects. In this committee, new volunteers can get involved with the planning, managing and coordination of activities, who meet twice a month to oversee assigned tasks and responsibilities. As for the volunteer management, the committee oversees the recruitment of new volunteers, to make appropriate induction and training.

II. Communications and PR

Develop and manage the strategic communication plan for VCI which include responsibility for marketing, social media, content creation, website design and other related communications tasks.

III. Audit Finance and humanitarian aid

Oversees and monitors the financial position of the charity to ensure long and short-term viability. It oversees the budgeting process and recommends the investment policy, including the charity's stance on ethical investment for humanitarian purposes. It monitors reserves and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the appropriate level for reserves, taking into account the financial risks faced by the organisation.

IV. Governance and Strategic Planning

Ensures that VCI complies with its governing documents and all relevant governance-related legislation and meets the requirements of charity regulators and best governance practice. Its remit includes strategic and succession planning, recruitment, training and development of trustees; reviewing committee terms of reference and levels of delegated authority; and ensuring appropriate performance evaluation processes are in place. .

e. Our Governance

I. Governance Code

The Venezuelan Community in Ireland works in compliance with the current rules and regulations required by the Irish Charities Regulator, and each year prepares and presents an annual report on our management and results as well as any other requirement demanded by the regulatory authorities of our activities.

A good governance involves putting in place systems and processes to ensure that a charity achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent way. These are minimum standards to effectively manage and control the charity and this is related to the following:

1. Charity Trustees Duties and Roles.
2. Meetings and minutes
3. Planning and Risk
4. Recruitment and inductions
5. Legal and regulatory requirements
6. Board Appraisal

The preparation of this annual report is part of our commitment to both the Charities Regulator and the community that trusts us and the work we do each year to achieve humanitarian aid and integration and culture programs also is demonstration of the transparency in carrying out our activities and the effort that our volunteers make to maintain the standards involved in the management and regulatory maintenance of our organisation.

Code of Conduct: The Venezuelan Community in Ireland has a Code of Conduct that sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all trustees, staff, and volunteers. The Code of Conduct is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that it reflects the values and principles of the charity, and that it complies with legal and regulatory requirements. The charity also provides training and support to all its stakeholders to ensure that they understand and adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Training and Development: The Venezuelan Community in Ireland is committed to providing its trustees, staff, and volunteers with the necessary training and development opportunities to enable them to carry out their roles effectively and efficiently. The charity provides induction training to all new trustees, staff, and volunteers, and also offers ongoing training in areas such as governance, fundraising, and program management. The charity also supports the professional development of its stakeholders through access to external training and qualifications.

Performance Evaluation: The Venezuelan Community in Ireland conducts regular performance evaluations to assess its effectiveness and impact. The charity uses a range of performance indicators, such as financial ratios, impact metrics, and stakeholder feedback, to evaluate its performance against its strategic objectives. The charity also conducts external evaluations to gain independent and objective assessments of its operations and impact.

Risk Management: The Venezuelan Community in Ireland has a robust risk management framework in place to identify, assess, and mitigate risks associated with its activities. The charity regularly reviews its risk register, which includes risks related to financial management, governance, operations, reputation, and external factors such as political and economic conditions. The board also ensures that the charity has adequate insurance cover and contingency plans in place to manage unforeseen events.

Transparency and Accountability: The Venezuelan Community in Ireland is committed to being transparent in all its activities and ensures that stakeholders have access to accurate and timely information about the charity's governance, management, finances, and impact. The charity provides regular updates through its website, social media channels, and annual reports, and also responds to queries and feedback from stakeholders. The charity also ensures that it complies with legal and regulatory requirements, and that it is accountable to its stakeholders, including beneficiaries, members, volunteers, and the wider community.

II. Policy infrastructure

The Venezuelan Community in Ireland works in compliance with the current rules and regulations required by the Irish Charities Regulator, and each year prepares and presents an annual report on our management and results as well as any other requirement demanded by the regulatory authorities of our activities.

III. Fundraising standards

All our fundraising activities are guided by the government official document “Guidelines for charitable organisations on fundraising from the public” (2018) which sets up the recommendations and principles to manage public funds for charitable purposes. Following the Guidelines, we provide details of the selected cause and beneficiaries, along with the logo and charity number for all our online fundraising campaigns. We also follow the recommendations provided in the Charities Institute Ireland “2017 Fundraising Guidelines for Digital Fundraising”, where detailed information about fundraising campaigns for humanitarian purposes is provided, including the purpose, action plan, beneficiaries and how to contact us for feedback/complaints.

Risk Management



Improving lives in Venezuela through aid delivery has been a key objective for our charity in Ireland. However, achieving this goal comes with its challenges. Here are the primary risks we face:

- Financial resources

In 2024, VCI encountered financial limitations affecting various programs. The cultural program operated with diminished resources, restricting its scope due to unforeseen external factors. The VKI project also faced initial financial constraints, limiting its early activities. Conversely, the humanitarian aid faced uncertainty due to the volatile situation in Venezuela, leading to a suspension of agreements. To mitigate these risks, VCI strategically focused on fundraising through an efficient Christmas Market, aiming to recover and generate necessary funds. A significant positive financial mitigation was the successful recovery of a lost grant, which directly supported the continuity of English classes and the social inclusion program. These targeted financial strategies aimed to navigate the limitations and ensure the sustainability of VCI's core activities despite the challenging financial landscape of 2024.

- Human resources

Our human capital serves as both our main strength and potential weakness. While our volunteers dedicate themselves altruistically to our organization's objectives, their limited availability due to full-time jobs can sometimes slow down project execution. We heavily rely on volunteers, often needing to enlist the help of trustees to complete tasks.

Risk Management

This reliance on volunteers, compared to non-profit organizations with paid staff, can hinder our efficiency. To address these challenges, we're strategically recruiting volunteers with specific skill sets for targeted projects. Additionally, we're reaching out to individuals with board experience to assist in governance and policy oversight.

However, relying solely on volunteers isn't always sufficient for ensuring operational effectiveness, efficiency, and economy. Training new volunteers can strain our Board of Trustees and may not always result in qualified individuals assuming managerial tasks. To mitigate this, we're identifying short-term projects that require specialized skills, reducing burnout among volunteers. Furthermore, we're enhancing our social media presence to better inform potential volunteers about available opportunities.

To further reduce this risk, we're exploring the possibility of changing our legal structure to a company, enabling us to pursue funding for our humanitarian, integration, and cultural projects. This could potentially allow us to hire 2-3 paid employees, including a CEO to oversee initiatives and improve operational efficiency.

- Challenges in socio-economic environment

Our organization recognizes the inherent vulnerability to shifts in the socio-economic landscape, compounded by global events like the conflict in Ukraine, the persistent challenges of COVID-19, and the impact of Venezuelan sanctions. Fluctuations in inflation, currency exchange rates, and shifts in consumer behavior stemming from pandemic-related consequences are among the external factors that can disrupt our operations. However, we remain resolute in our ability to confront these challenges, drawing upon our adaptability and the dedication of our skilled team to navigate uncertainties.

Moreover, in , NGOs in Venezuela faced impediments to their work due to political pressures from local government entities. The threat of closure loomed over humanitarian organizations amid internal political tensions, although our allied organizations have thus far been spared such threats. We fervently hope for their continued operation without fear of persecution.

Risk Management

Furthermore, the crisis of basic services in Venezuela, including water, electricity, and fuel shortages, has compounded difficulties for NGO beneficiaries. The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela has escalated, accompanied by soaring inflation rates. These dire circumstances underscore our commitment to sustaining efforts such as the dining room program, driven by our unwavering dedication to serving vulnerable communities in the face of adversity.

-Other Risks:

- i. Governance: Failure to effectively monitor the implementation of VCI's policies poses a significant risk. Given our volunteer-based structure, volunteers often prioritize day-to-day operations, potentially overlooking policy adherence. To address this, we aim to mitigate the risk by bolstering the Governance Committee with skilled and dedicated volunteers specializing in policy oversight.
- ii. Reputational - Lack of Feedback Mechanisms: The absence of clear channels for feedback and complaints from volunteers and the general public is concerning. In , efforts commenced to enhance our website and leverage social media platforms for volunteer engagement and feedback collection. This initiative aims to foster transparency, accountability, and reputation protection for our organization.

1. Integration of Venezuelans in Ireland

- Reinforcement of “Venezuelan Kids Ireland” VKI.

VCI is committed to building a vibrant, inclusive community by strengthening the Venezuela Kids Ireland (VKI) programme. This initiative aspires to actively involve children born to Venezuelan citizens in Irish society, fostering their integration while celebrating their unique heritage. Recognizing the critical role these young individuals will play in shaping the future of our community, the program seeks to engage them in diverse educational, cultural, and sporting activities. Through these initiatives, VKI aims to provide opportunities for children to connect with and embrace Venezuela’s rich traditions and customs, ensuring that their heritage remains a vital part of their identity as they grow and thrive in Ireland.

- Support the most vulnerable in our community.

We aim to sustain our Language Exchange Program, offering complimentary English classes to elderly members of the Latin community. Our objective is to facilitate connections between these participants and Irish locals, fostering a sense of inclusion and unity among migrant and native communities. Additionally, we aspire to raise awareness of our social, cultural, and health initiatives within the broader community, promoting visibility and engagement.

- Increase training and volunteer engagement.

Our Trustee members have benefited from “the training development programme” provided from “The Wheel”. In future, we would like to extend those trainings to other members and volunteers who will hugely benefit from the skill set offered for this programme. We have been offered training from GLG Social Impact Partners Program, to improve our capacities in project management, risk assessment and impact evaluation. We are hoping to actively undertake these training sessions to execute our current and future projects at a higher standard.

- Increase our alliances and collaboration with other migrant groups.

We aim to enhance training and volunteer engagement by deepening our partnerships with migrant organizations focused on community integration and cultural exchange.

Our recent collaboration with New Communities Partnership involves inviting immigrants to participate in workshops, opening up cultural spaces traditionally accessed by locals.

Our recent collaboration with New Communities Partnership involves inviting immigrants to participate in workshops, opening up cultural spaces traditionally accessed by locals. We'll also maintain our support for Venezuelans facing legal challenges in Ireland, working closely with organizations like UNHCR to provide essential information and support.

- Our health is our wealth.

To prioritize the health of Venezuelan nationals in Ireland, we'll create initiatives promoting mental and physical wellbeing. Through workshops and health activities like medical care days and coaching sessions, we'll collaborate with stakeholders to foster a supportive environment."

2. Promotion of Venezuelan culture, custom and values

- Promote Venezuelan Culture at Multicultural Events:

Continuing our commitment to showcasing Venezuelan culture, traditions, and values, we'll actively participate in multicultural events and festivals as outlined in our VCI Strategic Plan -2025. Through our renowned dancing group "Venezuelan Roots," we'll captivate audiences with traditional performances, particularly highlighting our presence at the traditional Christmas Market. Here, Venezuelan entrepreneurs will offer authentic cuisine, handcrafted goods, and cultural displays, fostering engagement with the broader community.

- Foster Collaborative Partnerships:

We'll eagerly engage as guests at multicultural events hosted by other communities, forging strong connections to broaden our knowledge and network with potential allies. By advocating for solid links and collaboration, we aim to further the social inclusion and integration of migrants in our country.

- Preserve Traditions and Values:

Acknowledging the significant contributions of small businesses, artisans, musicians, and sports clubs in upholding Venezuelan traditions, we'll prioritize supporting and promoting their endeavors. Our focus will be on enhancing the visibility of Venezuelan entrepreneurs who enrich Ireland's cultural landscape, ensuring their valuable contributions are recognized and celebrated.

- VKI & Venezuelan Folklore:

Future Plan 2025: In alliance with "5678 We Dance" directed by Karley Torres, VCI will introduce a "Venezuelan Nationalist Dance for Children" program. This initiative will establish a children's dance group dedicated to learning and showcasing traditional Venezuelan dances. Through expert-led classes provided by Karley Torres, the project aims to immerse young community members in their cultural heritage, culminating in vibrant cultural events and performances. This collaborative educational and cultural endeavor seeks to promote Venezuelan identity among new generations while simultaneously fostering their integration within Irish society, leveraging the expertise of a professional dance instructor experienced with children and Venezuelan dance.

3. Humanitarian Aid to Venezuela

Future Plan 2025: Recognizing the vital need for social health support within the migrant community in Ireland, VCI's humanitarian efforts in 2025 will strategically partner with the established Healt Society. This collaboration will focus on supporting innovative programs designed to benefit either the Irish Cancer Society or another impactful initiative directly addressing the social health challenges faced by migrants in Ireland. By leveraging the expertise and infrastructure of the Hhealth Society, VCI aims to contribute meaningfully to the well-being of vulnerable populations, ensuring access to crucial support networks and resources that foster social integration and overall health within the Irish context. This partnership allows VCI to extend its humanitarian reach and impact within its local community.

“SenoSalud Europa” supporting communities in Venezuela.

The "Pink Strength" program, in collaboration with SenoSalud-Europa, supports breast cancer patients in Venezuela. Through the "Pink is my Strength" campaign, it raises awareness, mobilises support, and provides medical supplies. Activities include campaign launches, fundraising, and supply distribution. Expected outcomes include increased awareness, mobilised support, improved access to supplies, and enhanced support networks.

4. Fundraising

To ensure sustainable growth and maximize our impact, we'll diversify income streams through various strategies:

1. **Target Corporate Donations:** Research and contact Irish/international corporations with Venezuelan/Latin American links or strong CSR. Develop tailored proposals for humanitarian aid and integration projects. Offer tiered recognition (website, events) and highlight brand alignment/employee engagement.
2. **Strengthen Existing Donor Relationships:** Implement regular communication (newsletters, impact reports). Personalize updates and acknowledge contributions promptly. Seek feedback and cultivate deeper engagement through exclusive content and events for loyal supporters.
3. **Integration-Aligned Fundraising:** Organize ticketed multicultural events (food, music). Facilitate community-made handcraft sales (online/markets). Host online fundraising events (auctions, concerts). Explore donation-based language exchange programs.
4. **Enhance Online Event Planning:** Train volunteers/staff on virtual event platforms and digital marketing. Develop diverse online event formats (webinars, galas). Optimize online promotion to reach a wider audience.
5. **Support Venezuelan-Led Fundraising:** Provide resources and guidance for community-organized fundraising. Offer platform access and logistical support. Recognize successful initiatives and ensure mission alignment.
6. **Recurring Donation Program:** Offer tiered monthly/quarterly giving options with impact examples. Promote via website, email, and events, emphasizing ease and long-term impact.
7. **Skills-Based Volunteering Drive:** Recruit skilled volunteers (legal, translation, marketing) through professional networks. Match volunteers to projects and acknowledge their pro-bono contributions.
8. **Collaborate with Local Irish Businesses:** Partner for percentage-of-sales donations, co-hosted events, in-store donation boxes, and employee giving. Cross-promote partnerships to engage local communities.
9. **VCI-Branded Merchandise:** Design and ethically source items (tote bags, t-shirts) with Venezuelan/Irish elements. Sell online and at events to generate revenue and raise awareness.

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Venezuelan Community in Ireland

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Trustees and other information
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees	Pablo Rojas Francisco Astudillo Ana Fernandez Yarianne Chaparro
Secretary	Yarianne Chaparro
Charity Number	20206241
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 Dublin 4

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

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Executive declaration
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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.

Francisco Astudillo

Chairperson

Ana Fernandez

Treasurer

Date: August 2025

Accountants' Report to Venezuelan Community in Ireland
on the Unaudited Financial Information
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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We have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Venezuelan Community in Ireland for the year ended 31 December 204 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.

Our work has been 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 2024 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
Dublin 4

Date: August 2025

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

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Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	€	€
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Fundraising Event Income	10,282	6,320
Donations income	16,067	14,097
Other Grant Income	2,449	
	<u>28,798</u>	<u>20,417</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Administration expenses	312	388
Fundraising expenses	6,850	6,825
Charitable Donations	11,092	12,027
Insurance	650	650
Accountancy	861	431
Bank Charges	111	132
Advertising	471	384
	<u>20,347</u>	<u>20,837</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	<u>8,451</u>	<u>(420)</u>

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

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Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<u>Current assets</u>			
Bank and cash		14,517	6,434
<u>Creditors</u>			
Creditors due within one year	2	<u>(6,745)</u>	<u>(7,113)</u>
Net Current Liabilities		<u>7,772</u>	<u>(679)</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>7,772</u>	<u>(679)</u>
<u>Represented by</u>			
Accumulated Reserves		<u>7,772</u>	<u>(679)</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on August 2025 by :

Francisco Astudillo
Chairperson

Ana Fernandez
Tustee

Venezuelan Community in Ireland

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Notes on the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Constitution

Venezuelan Community in Ireland is a registered charity in Ireland.

Taxation

The organisation has been granted a Charitable Tax Exemption under Section 207 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 and is not liable to Tax on its charitable activities. Charity No. 22942

2 Creditors due within one year

	2024	2023
	€	€
Accrued expenses	1,192	431
Deferred income	5,553	6,682
	<u>6,745</u>	<u>7,113</u>