

A photograph of a clown performing juggling in a dirt field. The clown is wearing a purple shirt, red suspenders, blue plaid pants, and a red clown nose. He is juggling three red hats. In the background, a large crowd of people, mostly children, are watching the performance. The sky is clear and blue.

2015

Annual Report

CLOWNS  
WITHOUT  
BORDERS

USA

# Mission: Clowns Without Borders (CWB-USA)

is a non-profit organization which offers laughter to relieve the suffering of all persons, especially children, who live in areas of crisis including refugee camps, conflict zones and other situations of adversity. We partner with individuals and organizations to bring small teams of professional performing artists to share performances and workshops with children and their families in refugee camps, conflict zones, or with communities who have experienced trauma or crisis.

In 2015, the world refugee crisis grew at a staggering pace. It consumed the political arena and sparked international debates about human rights. It can feel overwhelming to be bombarded with the ever-escalating trauma of the world.

We choose to respond with optimism. It is estimated that one out of every 122 people is either a refugee or internally displaced.

Though we cannot reach each of those people, for those we can, we offer a moment of levity. Time and time again, laughter creates community in the face of duress.





#### STAFF

**Tim Cunningham**  
**Molly Levine**  
**Naomi Shafer**  
**Tamara Palmer**

#### Board of Directors

**David Lichtenstein**  
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**Sarah Liane Foster**  
**Anne Olivia Eldred**  
**Moshe Cohen**  
**David Rosenthal**

#### Key Contributors

**Susan Langenes**  
**Micael Bogar**  
**Brendan Gawel**

# 2015 At A Glance

31 volunteer artists gave 106 performances across the globe.  
That totals to 333 performer days in the field, or 333 days of donated time.  
These incredible artists served a total of 24,000 people in crisis.  
In addition to performing, CWB artists also led workshops for 210 youth and 20 local performers so that the work could continue after the project ended.



\*It's hard to put a number on the value of our extraordinary artists, but if we were to pay artists a conservative rate of \$300 a day, we would have spent over \$99,900. By donating their time, these performers make our projects possible.

Originating in Spain, Clowns Without Borders is established in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, the UK, and the United States.



**“Todo el mundo es igual, cuando estan riendo.”**

**“All the world is equal when they can laugh.”**

January 5 - 18

## Chiapas, Mexico

Rudi Galindo, Jaspere Patterson,  
Georffrey Mars & Morgan Goldberg

Shows:

12

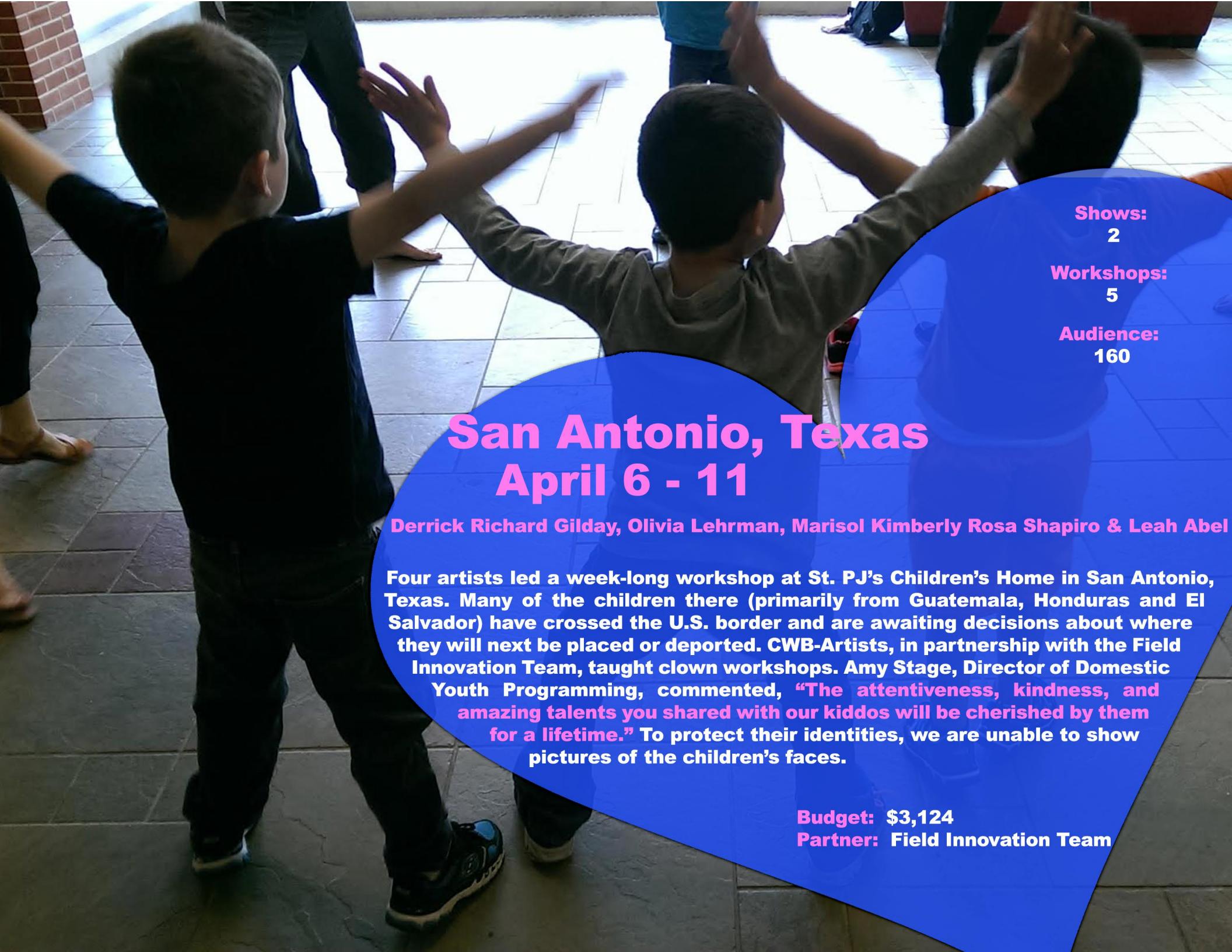
Audience:

3,160

Partner: Save the Children Mexico

Since 1999, CWB artist Rudi Galindo, has returned to Chiapas, Mexico to mentor new CWB recruits and work with local volunteers. More importantly, he has chosen to return each year to serve the people who live and work here; those who have to endure the pain of poverty and the psychological stress of political differences. It is a pledge he made when, years ago, an indigenous woman grabbed him by the arm, and with tears in her eyes begged him not to leave. Rudi, boldly promised her he would return and has kept his promise ever since.

Budget:  
\$2,060

A photograph showing several children from behind, standing in a circle with their arms raised, palms facing each other, as if they are participating in a group activity or workshop. They are on a tiled floor.

**Shows:**  
2

**Workshops:**  
5

**Audience:**  
160

## San Antonio, Texas April 6 - 11

Derrick Richard Gilday, Olivia Lehrman, Marisol Kimberly Rosa Shapiro & Leah Abel

Four artists led a week-long workshop at St. PJ's Children's Home in San Antonio, Texas. Many of the children there (primarily from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) have crossed the U.S. border and are awaiting decisions about where they will next be placed or deported. CWB-Artists, in partnership with the Field Innovation Team, taught clown workshops. Amy Stage, Director of Domestic Youth Programming, commented, "The attentiveness, kindness, and amazing talents you shared with our kiddos will be cherished by them for a lifetime." To protect their identities, we are unable to show pictures of the children's faces.

**Budget:** \$3,124  
**Partner:** Field Innovation Team

# Turkey

July 26 / August 10

Audience: 1995

Workshops: 2

Budget: \$4,372

Shows: 14

## ARTISTS:

Güray Dincol, Esin Aslan,  
Tim Cunningham, Pinar Alev,  
Sarah Liane Foster,  
Gökc  Turkmen, Elif Temu in,  
Erkan Uyan ksoy, Firuze Engin,  
Elvan Koger, Nurullah,  
Alcg l, Payiz Bihor, Bora Celik,  
Kevin Casey, Ezgi Keskin,  
Ozan Yilmaz,  
Sena Taskapilioglu,  
Ruya Kilin kini, Do u Can,  
Can G ven  & Cihan Ilhanli

When this project was conceived, the goal was for CWB-USA artists to train a group of Turkish actors, clowns, musicians, and acrobats the specific skills associated with performing for populations in crisis, across linguistic and cultural boundaries. A last-minute addition of four Kurdish teachers/performers and an Armenian artist inspired a new goal: to facilitate cultural exchange among Turkish, Kurdish, and Armenian artists through play, dialogue, song, and clown. As a united troupe, we performed in refugee camps along the Syrian border.

"It's harder for these kids to laugh for an hour than to take up arms and fight. We are walking on the right path. We need to reach these kids." - Elvan Koger, Artist



# Lesvos, Greece

Clay "Mazing" Letson, Sabine Choucair, Luz Gaxiola & Molly Levine

Shows: 33 Audience: 6,800 Budget: \$8,709

October 26 - November 12

In October, we travelled to Lesvos, Greece, where our artists performed for people fleeing Syria.



"This girl just spent four hours on an over-crowded, rubber raft from Turkey to Greece. It was driven by a fellow refugee who had never been on a boat before. She went through the entire process of displacement that brought her to Turkey, took this dangerous journey, on which many have - and continue to - die. Upon arriving in this new land, the first thing she heard was music. She heard laughter and invitation to play on what was once a raft, but was now a trampoline. And she ran to it. She wanted to start the next chapter of her journey with a moment of play." - Molly Levine, CWB-USA

November 11 - 21  
**Colombia**

- Shows: 12
- Workshops: 2
- Audience: 1811
- Partner: Cali Clown
- For several years CWB has partnered with local clowns to participate in extraordinary community performances and workshops.
- The Clown Encuentro is a one-of-a-kind 'meeting of clowns' in South America.



A close-up photograph of a clown with voluminous, spiky pink hair and a bright red clown nose. The clown is laughing heartily, showing their teeth. They are wearing a blue and yellow patterned garment. In the background, there's a large, ornate white building with classical architectural details like columns and a balcony. A crowd of people is visible in the distance, some wearing hats. The lighting suggests it's daytime.

November 5 - 25

# Nepal

**Micael Bogar & Julianna Frick**  
**Shows: 8**  
**Workshops: 3 day intensive**  
**Audience: 1850**  
**Partner: Circus Kathmandu**  
**Budget: \$7,645**

**CWB-USA partnered with Circus Kathmandu to provide laughter to some of the 2.8 million people displaced by massive earthquakes since April 2015.**

**Artist Micael Bogar wrote, “We found ourselves down in the square, setting up the sound system, rolling out the carpet, setting the hula hoops, the hand-balancing chair, the juggling knives, and the rest of our props. The kids and parents circled us. Old grandmothers were cackling in delight, just cracking up. Tiny kids with bright eyes. A pile of nervous teenagers hanging on each other, holding in their joy as it bursts out of their faces.”**

A photograph showing a clown in a red floral top and yellow skirt interacting with children in a refugee camp. The clown has a red nose and a large red bow in their hair. In the background, other clowns and children are visible.

November 30 - December 7

# Turkey

Audience: 2,650

Shows: 8

**Güray Dinçol, Gökçe Türkmen,  
Ben Croft, Sena Taşkapılıoğlu  
Kornhauser, Ezgi Keskin  
Nate Cooper, Rudi Galindo  
&  
Justin Therrien**

Clowns Without Borders USA led a 7 day performing tour for refugees and migrants currently housed in Turkish refugee camps. Over 1 million Syrians have taken refuge in Turkey since the outbreak of the Syrian refugee crisis in March 2011. Around 30 percent of these live in 22 government-run camps near the Syrian-Turkish border. The rest do their best to make ends meet in communities across the country.

# FINANCIALS

2015 was a record-breaking year for CWB-USA. We received a \$65,000 capacity building grant from the Tecovas Foundation, which allowed us to hire part time staff for 2016. We continued to focus our fundraising on grassroots, person-to-person efforts, and increased our donor base to 430 individuals! Whether a gift of \$20 or \$20,000, each of these supporters increased our ability to focus our efforts on producing high quality projects and content.

## \$50,000 and Up

Tecovas Foundation

## \$5,000 - \$20,000

Anonymous

Glenmede Trust Company

Soros Fund Charitable Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Brendon Gawel

Cathe Giffuni

Donald & Regina Moore

Joanne & Al Dalaisio Family Fdn

Michael & Cathy Cunningham

Robert Scarr

Shane Litts

The G A Files Foundation

Tim Cunningham

United Way of Portland Oregon

## \$500 - \$999

Derrick Gilday

Emily Van Beveren

Hugh Chatfield

James Black

Kathleen Cornish

Kevin Casey

Biernacki Family

Mariam Kamel

Robert Barnett

Sarah Foster

Thirstybear Brewing Company

Timothy Schumacher

## \$100 - 499

Allison Nelson

Amanda Coyle

anne gavzer

Anne O Eldred

Anonymous Anonymous

Anonymous

Ariana Wohl

Avra m Patt

Bank of America Charitable Fdn

Bechara Choucair

Beklen Kerimoglu

Bina Khan

Bree Ferrin

Brian Polhill

Bruce Steffler

Bryan Kelly

CatonMcFadden

## \$100 - \$499

Bryan Kelly

CatonMcFadden

Charlene White

Cheryl Bledsoe

Cheryl Nunes

Christine J Friedlieb

Christine OCONNOR

ChristopherWilliams

Danalee Buhler

Dave Barak

David Strother

David Edelstein

David A Edelstein

David Fuller

Dawn Williams

Debbie Gilday

DEBBIE GILDAY

dennis rael

Diane Kondrat

DUENDE

edward lichtenstein

EILEEN PURCELL

elizabeth day

Elizabeth and JonSobel

Elizabeth Fallon

Elizabeth Tarpinian

Ella Hullfish

Emily Van Beveren

Eric Post

Erica Babad

Erlend HanssenSjåvik

Frank Tonn

Gabriela Lozano

GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club

Gillian Faye Rickett

Haggis Survivor's Trust

Harvey Rich

Heather Maloney

Hilda Roe

Ilana Schiff- Ross

IndiTrehan

James Black

James Garnett

James & Ann Harmon

Jane Voigts

Jefferson Reynolds

Jeffrey Awada

Jeffrey Sprung

Jeffrey Chroman

Jessica Trent

## \$100 - \$499

Jeffrey chroman

Jessica Trent

Joanne Braxton

Joe Buhler

John Dwork

John Masterson

John Teeter & Karen Zink

john tolsen

Jordan Plimmer

Joseph Stubbs

Judd Depew

Judith Arman

Karen Pollach

Lauren Becker

LeifRunning

Leo Kypuros

Lewis Westbury

Lisa Logan

Lori Sheppard

Lowri Emlyn

Madeline Puzo

MaribethjoyMcManus

Mark Irwin

Marlita Reddy-Hjelmfelt

MARTHA RODGERS

Martha Ellul

Martha Neighbors

McKinstry Charitable Fdn

Melissa Knowles

MichaelMize

mm harris

Naomi Shafer

Neven T. Matthews

Nicola Born

OliverSteck

Ombelico Mask Ensemble

P. Kemp & C. Kaufmann

Pamela Coffey & Valerie Tibbett

Patricia Penta

Patrick powers

Paul Puppo

Paula Conway

Reeb Venners

Robert Reis

Sandy Kaufman

Sawyer Hartman

scott jackson

shahaboddin Saraei

Shawn Kessler

Sonja Bring

## \$100 - \$499

Steve Levi

Stringcycle

Tiffany McNeil

Tora Larsen Morset

Trevor Langton

Trine Petersen

VanBlack

Vicky deMonterey Richoux

Wytch Stubbs

Youssef Kerkour

Zoe Kimball

A tremendous thank you to the 285 people who gave gifts of \$1 - \$99. Combined, these gifts equaled \$8,374.

**"All of us, no matter our cultural backgrounds, no matter our circumstances, we all respond to the same thing. We are looking for connection in this world, and we all laugh in the same language."**

**- Molly Levine, Executive Director, CWB- USA**



Hannah Kirmes-Daly

Illustration by Hannah Kirmes-Daly, @brushandbow2