

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the MLI Board of Directors**  
**March 14, 2024**

The Executive Committee of the Marshall Legacy Institute Board of Directors convened on March 14, 2024, for a special meeting to review and approve the MLI Colombia 2023 Report.

MLI Executive Director, Elise Becker, presented the Executive Committee with the MLI Colombia 2023 Report. The report contained an Operations Report, detailing the impact of MLI Colombia Programs; a Financial Report, detailing the financial statements of the MLI Colombia Branch Office; and a Section on Surplus Allocation and Utilization, providing a recommendation for the utilization of remaining funds in the MLI account for 2024.

The MLI Executive Committee members individually reviewed the Colombia 2023 financial report and unanimously approved the following:

1. The financial report for the MLI Colombia Branch Office from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023
2. The recommendation to utilize the surplus of funds to facilitate our program activities in Colombia in 2024
3. The operations report which discussed the management and results of the program activities in 2023.

Elise thanked the Executive Committee Members for their review and approval of the MLI Colombia 2023 report and the meeting adjourned.

Signed:



Elise Becker  
Executive Director, MLI  
March 21, 2024

## Annex

### MLI Colombia Report: Presentation to the Board of Directors



## 2023 – COLOMBIA REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

MLI Colombia, established as an international non-profit organization in July 2017 and duly incorporated in the country, serves as an extension of MLI's mission in the United States. The purpose is to help Colombia foster a legacy of peace and stability.

MLI Colombia is dedicated in spreading awareness about the scourge of landmines on affected communities and promoting positive societal transformation by actively engaging in peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives. Central to our strategy is the cultivation of youth leadership, as we believe in empowering the next generation to play a pivotal role in creating a safer and more harmonious environment.

By combining our expertise, resources, and collaborative efforts, MLI Colombia endeavors to foster positive change addressing the pressing issue of antipersonnel mines and conflict in Colombia through impactful humanitarian and sustainable programs.

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2. FINANCIAL REPORT: MLI COLOMBIA BRANCH OFFICE
3. SURPLUS ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION

### 1. OPERATIONS REPORT: IMPACT OF MLI COLOMBIA PROGRAMS

#### PEACE MAKERS AND PROBLEM SOLVERS – PMPS

*PMPS is a leadership development and intercultural exchange program designed by MLI to unite youth from the United States with underserved communities in Colombia to develop and enhance transformational life skills through practical application. Through experiential learning processes and real-life experiences, youth become active agents of change by addressing social issues and creating positive impact in their own communities.*

- **In March 2023**, MLI welcomed a new cohort of 7 Colombian students who joined the PMPS program from a school in Carepa, Antioquia, in the Uraba region: La Provincia School, and 12 U.S. students at Poolesville High School, in Maryland. They developed the PMPS curriculum thru November and had the opportunity to interact and engage in 7 cross-cultural virtual exchange sessions.
- The student groups, guided by their own teachers, successfully developed, and implemented 5 community-service projects in a 3-month period, benefitting more than 1,300 community members.

The PMPS students at **La Provincia School**, designed the "No More Bullying" campaign for their social impact project to conduct awareness of and take action against bullying in their community. The students created a series of workshops, ranging from student-led initiatives to psychologist-guided explorations on the dynamics of bullying. The program aimed to foster community resilience and cultivate a culture of compassion among students, teachers, and parents. The project's final impact was substantial, reaching over 300 students across the middle and high school, involving 22 teachers, and garnering the support of 45 parent.



The U.S. PMPS team at **Poolesville High School**, implemented four significant environmental initiatives in their community, impacting over 1,000 people:

### 1. **Arboretum Improvement**

Recognizing the importance of a more vibrant school environment, the team conducted clean-up activities targeting litter, waste, invasive plant removal, and other improvements for the school-ground arboretum. The effort not only beautified the school but also created a well-maintained space for the entire community to enjoy.





## **2. Labeling Recycling Bins**

In collaboration with the National Art Honor Society, the team remade 23 damaged labels on waste bins and properly labeled 37 trash, paper, and mixed recycling bins throughout the school community. Providing clear guidance on proper recycling aims to improve waste disposal practices and lend to a more environmentally conscious and sustainable school environment.

## **3. Tree Planting**

The team successfully planted over 100 diverse saplings, featuring species such as Black Gum, American beech, and various oaks and maples. They are now preparing for the spring season by storing acorn seeds to start a student-led tree nursery program next year. The students were proud to secure a \$1,000 grant from the MCPS Student Climate Action Council to expand the tree planting program on the Poolsville campus. The initiative is a powerful example of the positive impact student-led environmental action can have on the campus and wider community.



## **4. Storm Drain Labeling**

The students labeled 16 storm drains throughout the community to raise awareness about their direct impact on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The effort strives to educate the community on the importance of accurate waste disposal practices and environmental preservation.



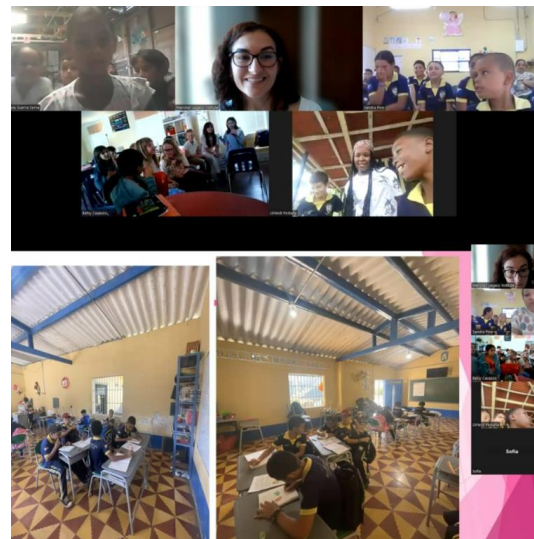
## CHILDREN AGAINST LANDMINES PROGRAM – CHAMPS

*CHAMPS Colombia unites students in mine-affected rural in Colombia with peers in the U.S. with the shared goal of fostering cultural exchange, raising awareness of the landmine issue, and teaching collaboration to address this problem. Also, through dialogue and collaboration, CHAMPS aims to nurture a sense of global citizenship among these young students, fostering a future generation that values cooperation, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding.*



**In May 2023**, 25 Colombian students and 4 teachers at 'Valentina Figueroa Rueda' educational institution in Urrao, Antioquia, along with 16 third-grade students and 1 teacher from the Spanish class at Glenelg Country School in Ellicott City, MD, successfully completed the CHAMPS landmine awareness and virtual exchange program. Participants engaged in discussions during 6 virtual calls covering topics such as: stereotypes, empathy, inclusion, International Mine Awareness Day, MLI K9 ambassador facts, and the process of training of a puppy to become a mine detection dog. Notably, a Colombian landmine survivor also shared their experiences as a guest speaker on one of the virtual calls.

**In October 2023**, a new cohort of elementary-aged students in both Colombia and the U.S. joined the program. Four rural schools in Urrao, Antioquia, Colombia, associated with La Caldasia School (involving) more than 50 students and 6 teachers engaged in virtual connections via Zoom calls with 12 students and 1 teacher from the Spanish class at Glenelg Country School in Ellicott City, MD. Throughout 2023, they were able to conduct three virtual exchange sessions, providing valuable opportunities to acquaint themselves with one another and explore the distinctive and unique aspects of their respective communities.



## 2. FINANCIAL REPORT: MLI COLOMBIA BRANCH OFFICE

MLI Colombia holds a savings bank account with Davivienda, a local financial entity, to fulfill potential requirements for administering grants that may exclusively be funded in Colombia. The account was established in 2019 with a patrimonial provision of COP \$50,000. In 2020, an additional COP \$100,000 was recorded as a donation. Of this amount, COP \$30,000 was utilized to cover financial and banking expenses associated with the entity's savings account.

From January 1st, 2023, through December 31st, 2023, MLI Colombia's financial composition was as follows:

### **BALANCE SHEET (COP\$)**

#### **ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Cash	\$114,657
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$114,657</b>

#### **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

LIABILITIES	\$0
NET ASSETS	\$114,657
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$114,657</b>

### **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (COP\$)**

<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$115</b>
Dividends	\$115
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$115</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$114,542
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$114,657</b>

## 3. SURPLUS ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION

To support ongoing activities in Colombia throughout 2014, the remaining funds in the account will be utilized for covering office administrative operation expenses or any essential financial requirements for the successful implementation of the CHAMPS and PMPS programs.