

The Community Ascent Network

Annual Report 2022/2023



COMMUNITY
ASCENT
NETWORK



This year the Abelardo Moran Munoz school in Piñán celebrated the commencement of it's 47th year of classes. A large celebration was held on the school grounds in recognition of a change which has taken place....

When I first visited Piñán in 2016 I visited a two room schoolhouse which was running combined primary school classes. For all of those years this had been the full extent of education available to children in Piñán. But during this year's opening celebration Fausto Rodriguez, the ex-community president who was our first community contact, made a statement: "Once known as a school, today it is now an Educational Institute... A dream made into reality in the high Andean páramos of our Ecuador..."

After just 5 years of collaboration school programs in Piñán, from elementary to high school, are running under full management of the local school district. This summer six students from the community were accepted into university and trades programs and are currently studying in cities near Piñán. The students are more determined than ever to succeed in their chosen careers, and their families are overjoyed with the opportunity their children have been given.

Six years ago when the project was founded it was hard to imagine what it could have such a far reaching impact. I want to thank all the Community Ascent supporters. You have helped turn a dream into reality. These children, their families and their community see a new and hopeful future.

Sincerely,

Simon Cretien
Founder/ Exec. Director
Nov, 2023

The Abelardo Moran Munoz school in Piñán celebrates the commencement of it's 47th year of classes.



Images borrowed from Otsuaf Zeugirdor's facebook profile

Accomplishments of 2022/2023

- In December 2022 six students from Piñán's first class of graduates applied for university and post-secondary trades programs. All six were accepted into their first choice of schools and programs.
- In February 2023 Veronica Obando began her studies in Agricultural Sciences at the University Technica Del Norte in Carchi.
- In May 2023 three students - Heylin Rodriguez Chavez, Alely Rodríguez De La Cruz and Dayana Yacelga De La Cruz - began their studies in Nursing.
- In August, Piñán's third class of high school seniors graduated.
- In September, Erick Yacelga Rodriguez and Dennis Burga Quilsimba began their studies in Tourism/Guiding and Mechanical Engineering, respectively.
- Our Program Coordinator, Miguel Chavez helped all 3 groups of students find accommodations, and purchased furnishings and kitchen supplies for the students who are embarking on their 5 year university programs in Ibarra. These supplies will now be available for all future university attendees from Piñán.

Agricultural Science Program in Carchi



Nursing Programs in Ibarra



Setting Up for Multi-Year University Programs in Ibarra



Program Coordination in Ecuador

Miguel Chavez continues to do outstanding work as our Program Coordinator for all operations in Ecuador. Miguel has been an amazing support for the students and families who applied and enrolled in post-secondary programs. He coordinated transportation and lodging for students to write their university entry exams. He made visits to all of the schools to register the six students, made tuition payments, found secure housing, and helped the students move in.



Miguel has been a driving force behind the scenes in all of our projects since the beginning. For this reason, we have provided Miguel an honorarium to compensate him for the many activities he carries out. This is represented in our Financial Records and Budget. It should be mentioned that Miguel is also a full time teacher and father of 3 children. He continues his work with us out of his passion for this project. Thank you Miguel!

Our Future Plans

Our organization's initial goal, which was created with full community input from Piñán, was to provide access to a high school education in their community. We can proudly say that this goal has been accomplished.

How do we plan to continue supporting education in Piñán, and how can we continue to create a positive impact for the community? CAN has committed to supporting the 6 current post-secondary students so that they are able to complete their programs. CAN's goal is to support the community so that education and career development is a self sustaining system that contribute to secure economic development for the community. Piñán's first post-secondary students have an important role model for their younger brothers and sisters. Their accomplishments would not previously have been perceived as possible by their families. With a professional's salary these students will be able to help their younger family members when it is their turn enter post secondary programs.



Supporting our Students

Support for our post secondary students is being distributed into a number of areas. This includes shared accommodation, meals, school supplies and in some cases tuition costs. In Ecuador university tuition is free but technical programs have fees. Therefore it costs about \$3500 CAD per year to support a university student. Because of added tuition fees the cost to support a nursing student's one year nursing certificate is \$6750 CAD.

CAN's fundraising goal this year is to encourage those who can, to sign up for a monthly subscription to help support a student through their schooling. For instance, five subscriptions of \$60 per month will fully pay for a university student's costs. Four subscriptions of \$25 per month will pay for a student's rent or for their food costs. One subscription of \$20 per month will cover school supplies for a year!

Remember that because CAN is a Registered Canadian Charity you will receive a tax certificate entitling you to tax credits of 30 to 40%. This means that an annual donation of \$500 will only cost you \$300. \$100 costs only \$60. You get the idea.

With just six students to support, we believe that with your help, these students will be able to accomplish the final steps of receiving their post-secondary diploma and becoming a leader for their community.



Crowdfund Campaign, 2022

Last winter CAN launched its third annual crowdfund campaign to ensure that Piñán's graduates would have a fund to begin post-secondary programs. The generosity of our supporters helped us raise a total of \$10,462.99 CAD. With these funds we were able to support all six participating students to travel to the city and take their entry exams, rent and furnish accommodations, and get the school supplies they needed to begin their studies. These funds fully covered the costs of our program objectives up to December 2023! Your support is a real part of what inspires us to keep going!

A Special Thanks...

We owe a special mention of thanks to several supporters from last year's crowdfund, and over the years. The following donors have been making major contributions to our project since its beginning. When we've needed help, they've been there without delay. This project would not be making the impact it is without their support:

Frank Baker

John Sweetnam

Cloud Forest Coffee

Pokoloko Ltd.



Adrian Baker and Robert Cretien

From our organization and from all of the students and families in Piñán, we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Financial Report

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2022/23 Financial Year

REVENUES 22/23

Donations	10,462.99
Unconditional Loans	88.69
Events	3,920.00
Total Revenues:	14,473.89

General Fund 2022

KSCU Business Acct	6,757.71
Non Cash Assets	1,641.89
	(1,200 USD)
Paypal	1,166.99
Ecuador Cash Holdings	1,875.24
	(1,370.55 USD)

EXPENDITURES 22/23

Administrative Expenses:

Advertisement	71.95
Website	16.74
Bank fees	78.00

Project Expenses:

Education Program Costs	9,691.10
Fundraiser costs	221.92
Bank Transfer Fees	43.00

Total Expenditures 22/23: 10,122.71

Total Assets Sept 30, 2023: 11,441.83



Community Ascent Network
Executive Director
Simon Cretien

October, 2023

Five-year Budget Plan

With our students now enrolled in multi-year programs we are not just budgeting for one year of project activities, but for five. This is our funding plan starting from September 2023 and ending in September 2028 with the completion of all currently ongoing post-secondary programs. The breakdowns are by student with cost summaries for each expense item associated with that student, broken down by year.

University Student Programs

Note: All table amounts represented in USD

<u>Veronica Marisol Obando Quilsimba</u>	<u>Agricultural Sciences</u> <u>Universidad Technica del Norte, Carchi</u>	Year		Program Total Duration
		1	2	
	Lodging	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$1200	\$2,400
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$1200	\$2,400
	School Supplies	\$100	\$100	\$200
	Program Total	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000

<u>Erick Wilman Yacelga Rodriguez</u>	<u>Tourism and Guiding</u> <u>Universidad Technica del Norte, Ibarra</u>	Year					Program Total Duration
		1	2	3	4	5	
	Lodging	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$3,000
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$150/month = \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$9,000
	School Supplies	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500
	Program Total	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500

<u>Dennis Gonzalo Burga Quilsimba</u>	<u>Mechanical Engineering</u> <u>Universidad Technica del Norte, Ibarra</u>	Year					Program Total Duration
		1	2	3	4	5	
	Lodging	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$50/month = \$600	\$3,000
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$150/month = \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$150/month= \$1800	\$9,000
	School Supplies	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500
	Program Total	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$12,500

University Programs Cost Summary (For 3 Students):

Year 1: \$10,261.88 (7,500 USD)

Year 2: \$10,261.88 (7,500 USD)

Year 3: \$6,841.25 (5000 USD)

Year 4: \$6,841.25 (5000 USD)

Year 5: \$6,841.25 (5000 USD)

Total University Program 5 year Cost: \$41,047.50 (\$30,000 USD)

Nursing Student Programs

Alely, Heylin and Dayana, our three Nursing Students are completing their Nursing Auxiliary courses this December, 2023. This is very exciting because it means that these three young women will be the first from the community to earn their post-secondary trades certificates! All three are very motivated to continue in their studies to receive specializations in Nursing Technologies from the prestigious Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Ecuador, in Quito. CAN has committed to supporting these students to receive their initial post-secondary nursing certificate, and we are now reserving the potential to extend the support for them to study this follow-up specialization based on the amount of funding we are able to receive over the next two years.

<u>Alely Carolina Rodriguez De La Cruz</u>	Nursing Specialization Universidad Catolica de Ecuador, Quito	Year		Program Total Duration
		1	2	
	Lodging	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	School Supplies	\$240	\$120	\$360
	Tuition fees	N/A	N/A	\$2,840.00
	Program Total	\$2,640.00	\$1,320.00	\$6,800

<u>Heylin Jazmin Rodriguez Chavez</u>	Nursing Specialization Universidad Catolica de Ecuador, Quito	Year		Program Total Duration
		1	2	
	Lodging	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	School Supplies	\$240	\$120	\$360
	Tuition fees	N/A	N/A	\$2,840.00
	Program Total			\$6,800

<u>Dayana Marilu Yacelga De La Cruz</u>	Nursing Specialization Universidad Catolica de Ecuador, Quito	Year		Program Total Duration
		1	2	
	Lodging	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	Food/ Transport Allowance	\$100/month = \$1200	\$100/month= \$600	\$1,800
	School Supplies	\$240	\$120	\$360
	Tuition fees	N/A	N/A	\$2,840.00
	Program Total			\$6,800



Nursing Programs Cost Summary (For 3 Students):

Tuitions: \$11,657.49(8,520 USD)

Year 1: \$10,836.54 (7,920 USD)

Year 2: \$5,418.27 (3,960 USD)

Total Nursing Program 2 year Cost: \$27,912.30 (20,400 USD)

Thanks To Our Partners

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We'd like to give special thanks and recognition to all of our supporters, volunteers and partners in our projects. It is due to the efforts of so many people that these projects and activities have been made possible.

We owe our gratitude the following partners:

Cotacachi School District
Municipality of Cotacachi
Imantag Municipal Government
University of Azuay
Santaguas Termas
Fundacion Ecocultural
Wichana Foundation
Allipak Warmi Tantanakuy
La UEmprende Empresa Publica
Universidad Technica del Norte
Pokoloko
Cloudforestcoffee
Ritter Productions

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Nikita Weippert
Brandon Loukes
Jessica Sigurdson Media
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Hats off to all of you!

