



The Community Ascent Network

Newsletter - July, 2022

A High School Dedication

Right now in Piñán, several amazing project activities are underway! We're very excited to show you the progress that has been made this year with so much help from supporters.

But first, we have a big announcement: A very special plaque that we've been waiting on has just been installed in Piñán's new high school:

First, the plaque commemorates the passing of Christopher Baker. The Baker family came together and made a substantial donation toward this project, and as such Piñán's new high school classroom has been dedicated in the loving memory of Christopher Baker.

Below this, the plaque proudly displays the names of each of the donors from our 2020 crowdfund, who helped us to build this incredibly important milestone at a time when fundraising was becoming increasingly difficult. Once more, thank you all so much!



The Next Steps: Graduation, University and College

Right now 18 students in Piñán are less than one month away from their graduation, and 15 of these students are busily working away at their university preparations.

Pre-university courses, which are essential to students' university enrolment are being carried out by a team of professors from the Universidad Tecnica del Norte. Each weekend this team makes the trek into Piñán and over a course of 8 weekends they will prepare the students for the complex themes and problems that they will encounter on their university enrolment exams. Their exam grades will decide which universities across the country they will have access to.



Perhaps the most exciting, fast-approaching date is high school graduation at the end of July. 18 students are working hard toward graduating from high school, and among them will be the first batch of students to enrol in universities as well as post-secondary career programs such as nursing and hairdressing colleges.

We've been staying in touch with the students and their teachers as much as possible to try and provide as much mental and logistical support as we can for this step. There are a handful of students that plan to pursue university or college training next year, however, for many of them, this is one of the biggest decisions they've had to make. Some students feel uncertainty and pressure about leaving the community.

Thankfully, your support and initiative in creating a university fund will help take a lot of this pressure off students and families. Knowing that they will have their housing and food expenses partially or completely covered is a huge relief for their families and will play a huge part in enabling students and families to make decisions that come from their hearts.



2021 Crowdfund Rewards Outstanding

I'd also like to take a moment to personally apologize that we have not yet issued out all of the rewards promised from our 2021 crowdfund! We've been working to try and create a video edit of our November concert to send to everybody who contributed to this fundraiser as well as persistently trying to coordinate a way which many of our contributors can meet the graduating class of students, virtually. Both of these activities have been met with consistent technical setbacks, but they are still very much on our agenda and we see it as very important that our donors get a chance to meet the students whom they have been supporting and that we fulfill our promises! So, please stay tuned for future dates in cases.

With warmest regards,

Simon Cretien

Founder, Exec. Director

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