



The Community Ascent Network

Newsletter - May, 2022

All of our new projects have been set in motion!

Dear supporters,

The contributions you made to this winter's fundraiser have opened a door of opportunities to the students in Piñán. We're very excited to share with you updates from all of the projects that have been set in motion!

The English Counterpart Program started in March and partnered-up 24 volunteers from across Canada, USA, Ecuador and Australia, each with a high school student in Piñán. Together, they began working through very basic English conversation and grammar lessons, giving the students a chance to learn and practice speaking, a resource they otherwise have never had!

Forging a long distance connection between two people that don't share a common language is not a simple task. Great job to all of the volunteers and students who overcame their fears and technical difficulties to make this work!



A regular English class for Piñán

To compliment this program, we've been trying very hard to get a teacher to deliver **a regular English class in Piñán**, but things became difficult as the roads this winter turned to mires and rivers ran wide across them in the highlands around Piñán.

Luckily the community has some very special friends...

Meet and Nancy and Mike. I met Nancy last year as she has been shooting a documentary on Piñán and their struggle for land and rights for the past several years. She is an anthropologist and social researcher and her film company, Global South focuses on social justice issues. We can't wait for this production to be released!

Mike, is also a social activist, with an MSC in biomedical science currently working as a tutor for first generation migrant college students. After his visit to Piñán two weeks ago, he committed to coordinating and teaching one English class a week for the students! His timing couldn't be better to help with our program and for the students to reach their goals of language development.

Thanks Nancy and Mike! Piñán is lucky to have great friends like you!



Essential Programs Coming up!

These are far from the only programs we've been working on, and perhaps the most exciting ones are just coming up!

This month the graduating high school class will be taking a tour half-way across the country to visit a nationally famous, community-run agro-tourism business much like Piñán's - La Salinerita. And perhaps most importantly Pre-University courses have been arranged to start directly after the tour!

I couldn't forget to mention, since it's Mother's day, Rob and Adrian just ran their annual Appleton Booksale fundraiser and raised \$1400 to put toward Piñán's Student University Fund! Thanks Mom and Dad!



It's a busy and exciting time to be a student in Piñán. We're preparing to do everything it takes to help each student graduate with the best grades and experience for them to pursue the education or career training of their choice.

Its because of all of the amazing support you've given us that these programs have been made possible, so please feel free to feel proud about helping to make all of the happen!

With warmest regards to everyone,

Hasta la proxima,

Simon Cretien

Founder, Exec. Director

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