



Opening Letter:

We have just entered our third year as an organization and our third year working with the community of Piñán. For all of our supporters that have watched our progress from the start, this will be a pivotal year with the project. By the end of it we will see a fully established high-school in Piñán, built by the hands of the community and operating for them; Piñán's first year with access to a complete education system, including all grades in the school curriculum, from primary to graduation, and right in their own community.

This year did present some significant challenges due to the global pandemic. Ecuador was the most effected country in all of Latin America, with a tragic outcome. Significant barriers throughout the country slowed some of our work there. Ecuador closed many of its borders including those around ecological reserves where many remote indigenous communities, seen as more vulnerable to the virus and having no access to health services, live. This included the Cotacachi-Cayapas reserve, where Piñán is located.

However, We kept up our communications with all of our working partners and found ways to persevere. We moved some of our targets ahead by one year, such as the construction of the school to this following September of 2021, and found ways to adapt our fundraising strategies. As the government offices and universities we work with in Ecuador began to re-mobilize, the project found its stride again and now we're looking at our busiest and most ambitious year yet!

Our Network is shaping up, with volunteers, committees and supporters accross several continents, and we'd like to thank each one of you for the part you play in building stronger, more sustainable and connected communities!

Simon Cretien

Founder/ Executive Director

The Year's Achievements

- The second year of high school classes are up and running in Piñán.
- We've hired two new qualified teachers with collaboration of Cotacachi District of Education.
- 10 Computers and 1 projector have been delivered to Ecuador and have arrived in Piñán for installation in one of the primary classrooms.
- Rumble for the Jungle: An overly theatrical fundraiser like no other was put on in Nelson last January with a whole team of creative volunteers from the Kootenays. It was a huge success and we can't wait until we can run this one again!
- Our designs for the school have been completed by architects at the University of Azuay.
- We've started preparing for our big construction project: The three high school classrooms in Piñán. The community has started working as a cohesive crew to prepare the wood and adobe bricks that will be used for the construction.
- We're now working with a committed network of official volunteers and partners in Ecuador that are dedicated to seeing Piñán's vision become a reality.



Highlights

Our new student employee

We'd like to introduce you to our organization's first Employee, Caitlin Kallendonk. Caitlin is our new Student Outreach Coordinator.

Currently in her graduating year at Stanley Humphries Secondary School in Castlegar, BC, Caitlin has already compiled an impressive portfolio of experience in non-profit and community development work.

She'll be taking on the job of building connections in our home communities here in the Kootenays through outreach programs and fundraising. We're looking forward to working together this year!

Our Crowdfund Campaign

November 16, 2020 is the launch of our first crowdfund campaign! It's our new strategy to adapt our fundraising to reach out to our supporters during these "less social" times. The campaign will run from Nov 16 to Dec 18 and during this time you'll be able to make a donation online and receive one of our many rewards!

Each donation earns a reward including original artwork by Nicole Rose Hobbs and being entered in a draw for a load of coffee and hand-made Ecuadorian sweaters.

We'll be trying to reach our goal of \$15,000 to cover all of the activities being developed in Piñán this year. But we don't expect to get there all at once! Every donation will count toward this goal, no matter how big or small!

For more details check out the postings on our website at communityascent.com

Minga in Piñán

COVID 19 has effected Ecuador more than any other country in Latin America. This has made work extremely difficult to find, especially in remote areas where so much of the work is informal.

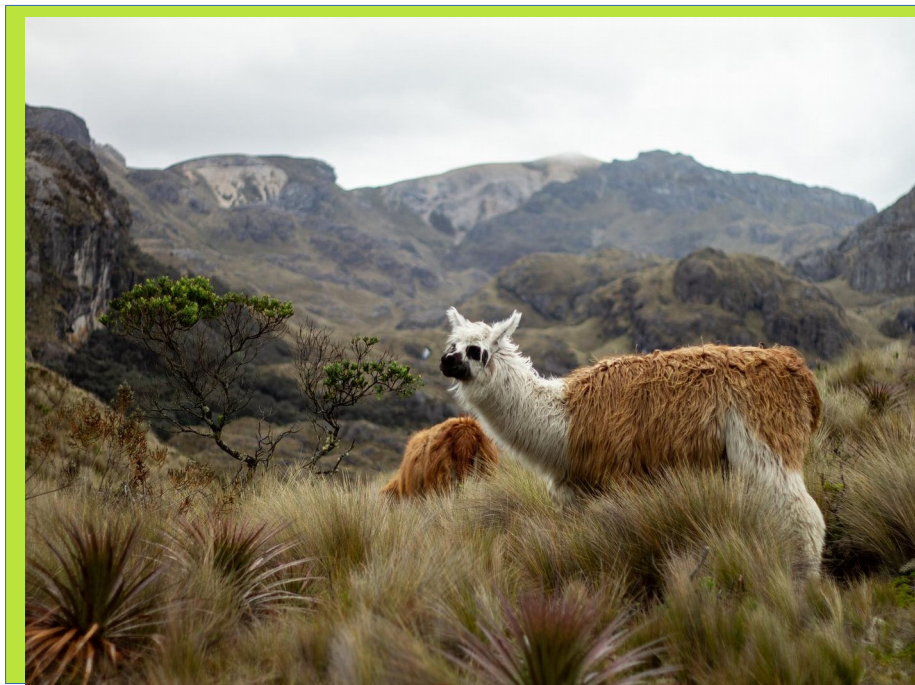
We're very pleased that this project has been able to provide local work to everyone in the community. Recently the members of Piñán began preparing the materials that will be used for the construction of the high school classrooms. They do this work as a community, and everyone available has gotten involved. This way we've been able to provide accessible work to the whole community at their set price. The classrooms will be built this way too and continue to provide work opportunities for those who need.

Minga is a Kichwa word meaning work that a community does together, for the benefit of the whole community. It feels great to have the whole community so involved in this project for their youth!

Financial Breakdown 2018-2020

COMMUNITY ASCENT NETWORK Statement of Financial Activities

	General Fund	2020(To Sept. 25)	2019	2018
REVENUES				
Donations	6,445.00	5,000.00	1,445.00	-
Sales	9,957.35	1,476.00	6,199.35	2,282.00
Events	8,273.00	8,273.00	-	-
Investments	9,367.00	1,848.00	4,080.60	1,413.00
Totals	34,042.35	16,749.00	11,724.95	3,695.00
EXPENDITURES				
Administrative	1,647.54	948.54	218.00	481.00
Bank charges	146.08	116.00	30.08	-
Projects	5,134.49	1,959.90	3,174.59	0.00
Travel	1,063.00	1,063.00	0.00	0.00
Coffee, clothing (COG)	6,963.98	1,136.00	4,289.98	1,538.00
Event costs	3,095.59	2,705.59	340.00	50.00
Totals	18,050.68	7,929.03	8,052.65	2,069.00
SURPLUS	6,624.67			
	+ 9,367.00			
	15,881.67			



Upcoming Goals

These are the goals we've set for the upcoming year:

- Launch our crowdfund campaign to reach the \$15,000 fundraising target for the fall.
- Install a computer lab, temporarily in the existing elementary classroom, later to be transitioned to designated laboratory classroom in the upcoming high school.
- Provide an internet connection for the school.
- Monitor the two currently running high-school classes and provide necessary support and equipment to teachers and students.
- Implement the 3rd and final year of high school programming for September 2021.
- Coordinate community construction activities to provide employment within the community throughout the year.
- Coordinate the construction of three new high school classrooms in Piñán
- Transition high school classes and equipment into the new classrooms for Sept. 2021



Recognition

We'd like to thank everybody for contributing to this project. However it is you've been able to help, you can be sure it has made a difference. There are a few people whose efforts we'd like to recognize especially for this year:

Juan Carlos Monge of Fundacion Cordillera for making our operations in Ecuador possible. For keeping it cool well humoured despite being constantly tangled in red tape.

Ivan Suarez for all of your coordination and communication, foresight and wisdom. This project would simply be impossible without you!

University of Azuay for creating an incredible design that is simple, functional, designed to use local materials and building techniques traditional to Pinan, while still meeting ministry school codes. This was all done voluntarily, over summer break and into the school year, during a military lock-down. Thanks to Rob and Adrian, for their continual guidance and their annual contribution to the project through their book-sales.

Kevin Gustafson, Heather Opeia and all of the other amazing people who helped put on The Rumble For the Jungle fundraiser. Every single one of you made that show what it was!

And thanks to **Jonathan Robinson** and the **Kanata Montessori School** for their significant contribution in sponsoring the computer lab in Piñán!

Thank you for reading and we look forward to keeping you updated through this next year!

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