

The Community Ascent Network

Annual Report

2021/2022



COMMUNITY
ASCENT
NETWORK



Director's Statement

Can you believe that on September 25th, 2022 we began our 5th year as an organization? 5 years ago, in Ecuador I first sat down with Ivan Suarez and Fausto Rodriguez, then president of Piñán, to discuss an action plan to offer a complete education program for their community's youth.

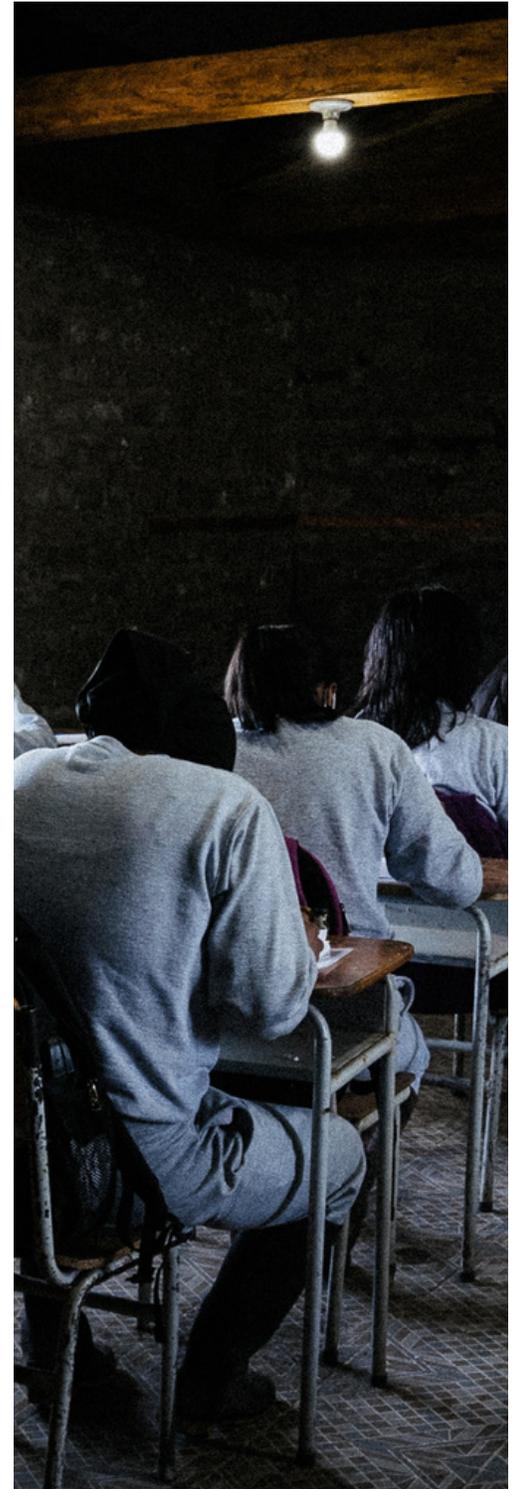
Despite having set this clear goal at that time, I struggled in being able to visualize an action plan - a road-map from A to B. We'd identified the problem and brainstormed our solution, but the way forward remained vague at best.

The truth is, it was the incredible guidance and support that was offered throughout these past four years that steered our projects past each hurdle and in the direction we needed to go. Our thanks go out to the selfless teachers working at their school, the endlessly caring people of Ecuador, our donors, our family and friends, and even absolute strangers who reached out when solutions were hard to find; and of course all the hard work and collaboration that has come from the people of Piñán.

This past year has been one of exciting accomplishments for Piñán and for our organization. In this report we will go over these projects, our finances and our vision for the coming year. Thank you for taking the time to read through and be involved with our cause!

Sincerely,

Simon Cretien
Founder/ Exec. Director



CAN Recieves Charity Status

We've just recieved our Charitable Status as an organization and are very happy to be able to offer you Canadian tax deductible receipts for your donations.

The First Graduating Class

The completion of Piñán's high school classroom last August, 2021 allowed the local School District to finally provide them with a complete high school program. This meant that for the first time ever, Piñán had all three years of high school classes running locally and attended by students, both young men and women from their community and others nearby.

Following construction of the school Piñán celebrated its first ever graduation ceremony for a class of 18 students in July, 2022. The ceremony was attended by proud family members, officials from the municipality, and friends of the community.



This date marked an important milestone - the completing the original goal set out in collaboration with the community of Piñán.

Piñán's Abelardo Morán Muñoz School now consists of 3 classrooms for their elementary and middle school programs, a computer lab with 10 student computers and a projector and printer, as well as 3 teacher dormitories and the new high school classroom. 3 teachers and a head director allocated by the ministry now deliver classes for grades 1-10.



Our New On-Site Program Coordinator

We'd love for you all to meet Miguel Chavez. As a past teacher at Piñán's school, Miguel has been instrumental in so many of the logistical operations we've carried out in Ecuador. Following his selfless efforts over the past four years, Miguel has taken on the role as CAN's On-site Program Coordinator for our activities in Ecuador. Welcome to the team Miguel, we couldn't do it without you!



Language Exchange Programs

By request from Piñán's students and families, over the fall and winter we ran two different programs to provide English learning opportunities for their high school.

The first program had several volunteers in Ecuador travel up to the village and deliver in-person classes to the students. The second was a language exchange program. Volunteers from Canada, USA, and Australia were each partnered up with a high school student for weekly correspondence over email, text and video-call to deliver one-on-one lessons, giving the students an opportunity to speak with and listen to English speakers.

Our next ESL volunteers are preparing for their visit in December! If this sounds like an experience that interests you, please reach out to us!



Pre-University Courses

Our next project goal is to provide the graduating students of Piñán with funding and logistical support to study and train in trades schools or post-secondary education programs.

Our first step was to provide Pre-University training for the graduating class of 2022. Pre-University is an essential program in Ecuador which prepares students for the nationally standardized university entry exams.

We partnered with the prestigious Universidad Technica del Norte and over the course of 8 weeks a team of professors made the trip into the community to prepare the students for the exams. The students worked busily during these 8 weeks to attend these programs and stay on top of their final semester of high school work. We are very proud of the effort each of them put in and all 18 students qualified to be accepted into Universities.



Student Field Trip

Are field trips the very best part of high school? In March the graduating class made a trip half way across Ecuador to *La Salinerita*, a small indigenous community famous for their successful, entrepreneurial cheese production. As Piñán's vision for economic development is very aligned with this model, the students stayed in and toured the village for what was a very informative weekend, and a great sight-seeing opportunity for a group that had never left their own province.



Crowdfund Campaign, 2021

Last winter we launched our second annual crowdfund campaign for Piñán's education projects. Your support helped raise a total of \$15,953, enabling the completion of the high school construction, the launch of the pre-university program and leaving a substantial contribution for this year's University Fund! But, what really blew us away were the number of donors who reached out to help us make our target. We saw help from many new supporters from across several continents, an outcome we couldn't have imagined. These contributions, together, made a huge impact on the community and the programs which have been able to run this year.

We'd like to thank our top donors from this campaign for their generous support:

**John Sweetnam Frank Baker Ren Roberts Daniel Diekema Peggy Winkler
Mia and Mark Steele Isabelle Graveline Pokoloko Cloud Forest Coffee**

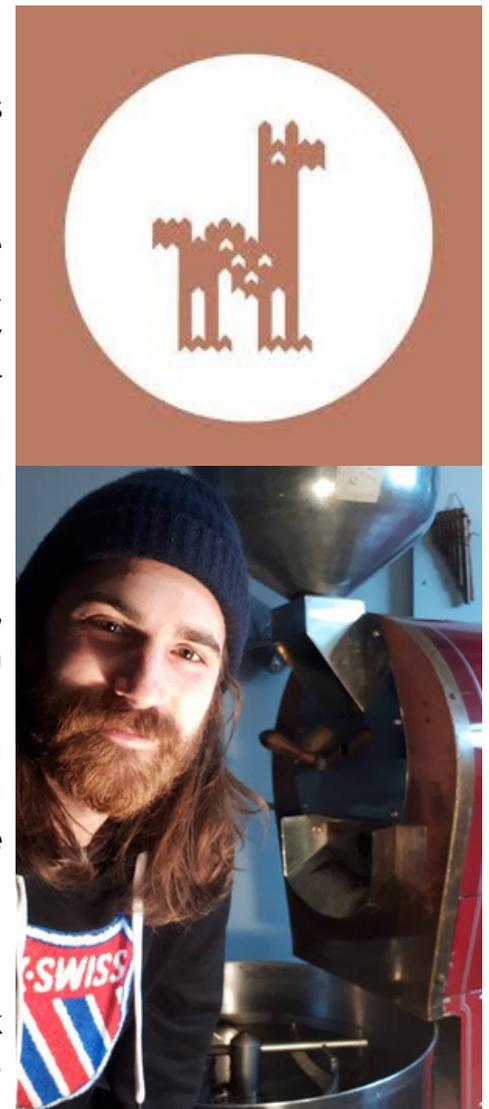
Student University Fund

We are very pleased to have two project partners join us as long-term supporters.

Pocoloco, an Ottawa based company that sells hand-made artisan products from around the world, took on our project as a way to give back to the Andean indigenous community which they have been working with since their founding. Pokoloko started the Piñán-Poko University Fund this year, donating 15% of their sales from their Ecuadorian clothing line.

Cloud Forest Coffee, Ottawa's micro-roastery of choice,, which supports Ecuadorian coffee cooperatives has joined in too, developing a new roast which contributes \$5 to this fund for each pound of coffee sold. With their support we've been able to establish a significant fund that will be distributed among the students who will attend university and college this coming winter. It will help them and their families with tuition, supplies, and room+board expenses.

We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and look forward to continue working with them in support of the students of Piñán!



School House Rock

Last December a group of musicians came together in Nelson, BC to support our crowdfund goal.

With an incredible pipe-organ back-drop in Nelson's United Church, the event saw a very successful turnout, despite the many COVID event regulations. Thanks to everyone who came out to support that event. We thank to the Nelson Arts Council for providing grant funding for this event. As well - a very special thank you to musicians Liz Arnason, Veronique Trudel, Hannah Deboer-Smith, Grace Stewart and Jared Sullivan, sound tech Olivia Niese and all of the volunteers involved for such a great show!

The production was filmed and all of our crowdfund donors can expect to receive a copy of this concert filming, this coming December!



Annual CAN Book Sale

On the Ottawa side of our operations, Robert and Adrian held their annual book sale for CAN. As usual, the donations of books arrived in heaps at their door step and the turn-out from all over the Ottawa valley raised \$1300 toward our organization and projects!

Rob and Adrian have been hugely instrumental at every point of this project, from work on the board to their relentless fundraising activities, well into their retirement years. Our organization and myself owe them a huge debt of gratitude!

Tree Planter Bingo

Our final fundraiser this year was our annual Tree Planting Fundraiser with Greenpeaks Ltd. Once again a generous crew of planters donated their tree earnings – 20c at a time - to raise a total of \$2500 for our university fund! A bingo event held that night in camp saw a barrage of prizes handed out for their benevolent labours. Thanks again to the amazing Greenpeaks 2022 crew and to Owen Stewart and Rutka Salzova for their generous donation and support in this event and past ones!

2022 Financial Breakdown

REVENUES 2022

Donations	14,888.94
Sales	255.00
Events	3,800.00
Assets (inventory)	200.00
Total Revenues:	19,143.94

General Fund 2022

KSCU Business Acct	5,491.62
Inventory:	200.00
Petty Cash:	160.00
Accounts Credited:	3,800.00
Paypal:	0.00
Ecuador Account Holdings:	0.00

EXPENDITURES 2022

Administrative Expenses: 5,507.93

Advertisement	64.47
Website	391.14
Bank fees	52.32
Loan Repayment	5,000.00

Project Expenses: 6,964.51

Ecuador Program Costs	6,118.81
Coffee (COG)	451.00
Fundraiser costs	123.20
Bank Transfer Fees	271.50

Total Expenditures 2022: 12,472.44

Total Assets Sept 30, 2022: 9,651.62



COMMUNITY
ASCENT
NETWORK

As this last year saw the completion of our first major project with Piñán, this upcoming year will see our focus shift to how we can support the students and community in their post-secondary studies, careers and entrepreneurial efforts.

Our organization's new goals for 2022/2023 are:

1. Support the graduating class of 2022 to enrol and attend university and/or career programs of their choice. A number of students from this years graduating class will begin preparations for university classes in January. Along with Miguel, we will be helping students to find safe and suitable housing and make a plan for this first semester.
2. Continue growing our Student University Fund with the aim of creating a long-term fund for a sustainable post-secondary student program. We plan to grow this fund by continuing to plan fundraisers and seek sponsorships. If you or your company would like to join this program as a donor, please reach out and we'd love to discuss how this can be an opportunity for you too!
3. Plan and develop new projects that align with Piñán's economic development goals.



Thanks To Our Supporters

Annual Report
2021/2022

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 special mentions to:

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

Nelson Arts Council
Ivan Suarez
Luis Alfredo Rodriguez
Miguel Chavez
Pablo Yacelga
Fausto Rodriguez
Joselin Moran
The entire Vinueza Family
Nancy Burneo
Owen Stewart and Rutka Salzova
Alex Garner and Erica Delaplaine
Nikita Weippert
Robert Cretien and Adrian Baker

Hats off to all of you!

Photographs courtesy of Nancy Burneo and Nikita Weippert

