



NEWSLETTER FEB 2021

CROWDFUND MOMENTUM

This is our first newsletter since our crowdfund in December and as a thank you to all of you amazing contributors and supports we're pleased to share some of the amazing developments that are already happening in Piñán with these funds.

As you may all know, we were able to surpass our total goal, and received 15,545.30 after all of the platform deductions!

We'd laid out a plan that these funds would go toward:
The completion of a new classroom, installing a computer lab, bringing an internet connection to the school, and covering teachers' salaries,

...And this is exactly what's been happening.

AN INTERNET CONNECTION FOR PIÑÁN'S SCHOOL

Just last week, for the first time in their community's history, an internet connection was established for Piñán's school. The antenna, which was carried in pieces and installed on one of the high peaks outside of the remote plain where the community sits will now bring these students the rapid inter-connectivity of the world wide web.

...But that doesn't make their own community any less remote — not in a physical sense, anyway. The rain season has still rendered access to Piñán an arduous of a journey and it ever has been, flooding rivers and valleys along the way, and washing the road into impassable conditions.

However, our amazing team of teachers and construction workers have persisted in continually making this journey to keep the school project going!



PIÑÁN'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM.. ALMOST COIMplete!

With an internet service ready, construction is moving full speed ahead. Community members recently took advantage of a sunny week in their rain season to participate in a Minga, a community-lead work day, and joined our full-time construction team to help finishing off the interior of the school's first classroom!

This classroom is a more basic design than the others will be. It's being built as a provisional structure to meet special requirements from the Ministry of Education for Covid 19. After the our intended classrooms are completed in the summer, this building will be converted into dormitories for teachers who work away from home in Piñán. But in the mean-time we'll be outfitting it with a computer lab, at last giving a home to the set of 10 computers we sent down last year.



GET INVOLVED THROUGH ONLINE ENGLISH PROGRAMS FOR PIÑÁN

Once this lab is completed students will be able to access online resources for their studies, receive computer science classes, remote tutoring programs, and participate in a pen-pal program we're setting up with Stanley Humphries Secondary in Castlegar, BC.

If you're part of an education program and would like to get involved with Pinan's school in this way, or have any other ideas please reach out to us. Its just a first step toward the English programming we're working to establish for their students.

I'm delighted to say that thanks to all of your support, and the amazing team we have working with us in Ecuador, we've been able to overcome this year's onerous difficulties, as I hope all of you have, in one way or another, as well.



Always feel free to reach out about ideas or about getting involved.

Lets's stay in touch.

Hasta muy pronto, amigos!

Simon Cretien

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