

# DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

Published February, 2024 from Liguiqui, Ecuador  
Visit Dos Corrientes at [www.doscorrientes.com](http://www.doscorrientes.com)

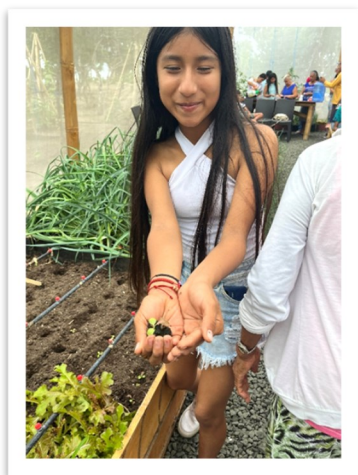
## Dos Corrientes: Reflecting on 2023 and Envisioning the Future

As we embark on a new year filled with promise and possibility, we are delighted to share a retrospective on the remarkable achievements and groundbreaking initiatives that defined Dos Corrientes over the past year. With dedication and your generous support, we have made profound strides in advancing education, fostering entrepreneurship, and cultivating sustainable development within our community.

### Looking Back: 2023 Accomplishments

#### Dos Corrientes School:

- Expanded curriculum offerings to include English, Agriculture, Business, and Life Values, nurturing well-rounded individuals poised for success.



Planting Seeds



Melisa Macias Manager, Banco Pichincha teaching the value of money and business.

- Experienced exponential growth, with student enrollment increasing from 13 to a graduating class of 35, marking a testament to our commitment to educational excellence.
- Two projects were completed at the elementary school in the village of Liguiqui. First the school and playground were painted. In addition, all washrooms were repaired and running water installed. Second, a new roof was installed on a portable classroom.



Marcos Chiluisa, Lawyer and Entrepreneur, teaching Business and Life Values



*Business Incubation: Learning about starting a clothing sales business, a technology business and an agriculture business*

**Business Incubation:**

- Pioneered entrepreneurial endeavors in collaboration with three individuals, birthing innovative ventures in clothing, technology, and agriculture, with revenues already beginning to materialize. A lead role in this project was taken by lawyer and entrepreneur, Marcos Chiluisa. His leadership and easy, collaborative style made learning and most enjoyable experience for the students.



*Distributing food to 35 families at the agriculture*

**Agriculture:**

- Demonstrated our dedication to community well-being by distributing food to local residents and establishing three small outlets to promote economic empowerment.
- Celind Velez was the agri-instructor. Because of her dedication to what Dos Corrientes is trying, Celind travelled 60 miles from her home weekly, by bus.
- Forged a groundbreaking agreement with Megamaxi, Ecuador's largest grocery chain, securing a steady revenue stream for Dos Corrientes through the sale of locally grown produce.



*Lowering the pump in the SKF well*

**Grants and Donations:**

- With a grant from the Rotary Club of Waterdown, Ontario, an education centre/ greenhouse was built.
- With a grant from the Smurfit Kappa Foundation in Ireland, a well was built.
- With a grant from the Million Dollar Round Table, agriculture structures were created.
- With a grant from the Rosevear Fund of the Fiera Capital Foundation, various education projects were developed and implemented.
- With a grant from the Pollock Family Foundation, the agriculture classes and materials were funded.
- Received a total of 81 individual donations throughout the year.



*The Rotary Greenhouse/Education Centre*

**University of the Fraser Valley Partnership:**

- Renewed our invaluable partnership, ensuring continued support in receiving donations and facilitating tax receipts to sustain our philanthropic endeavors.
- Worked closely with various departments to ensure grants and donations were correctly coded for our use and that we received weekly reports of finance activity.
- Concluded an agreement to host a total of 6 interns in 2024 who will work in our programs and conduct a variety of research for our use.

**Looking Forward: Vision for 2024**

As we set our sights on the future, Dos Corrientes remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation and progress. Here's a glimpse of our ambitious plans for 2024:

**Staff:**

- Our son Paul Curtain has joined the Dos Corrientes team as an advisor to operations and succession planning.
- A search has commenced to hire and train an Operations Manager, with a current staff comprising of five full-time members and five on an as-needed basis.



**Budget:**

- Anticipate expenses to reach \$150,000 USD, with plans for adjustment to accommodate emerging projects and opportunities.

**School:**

- Expand educational offerings to two days per week, focusing on English, Entrepreneurship, and Social Awareness on one day to the 45 students now enrolled and initiate a new agriculture program on another day to 4 students that consists of education and a commercialized business.



**University of the Fraser Valley Partnership:**

- Host six interns from the university to conduct gender analysis research, teach English, create English learning assessments, create business plans and financial forecasts for revenue generating initiatives and enhance social media communications and grant research.

**Fundraising:**

- Aspire to raise sufficient capital to cover 2024 expenses and beyond.
- The Rosevear Fund of the Fiera Capital Foundation has given a generous grant for 2024. This grant will allow Dos Corrientes to continue its growth of operations. We are extremely grateful to Don Cranston of Fiera Capital and his work on our behalf to make this happen. This donation allows us to get on with the business of managing and growing our organization. Thank you Don!



## Agriculture:

- Evaluate distribution channels, including grocery chains and online platforms.
- Execute expanded agriculture programs to provide employment, income and food for villagers.
- Prioritize community outreach by distributing excess produce to students and residents.
- Research the feasibility of establishing a field school that will have two major beneficiaries. First will be students from North America that are interested in a practical field experience learning Spanish or Sustainable Development Goals. The second beneficiary will be local people interested in education in all matters that pertain to construction. This will conclude an original vision for Dos Corrientes, Miguel Camino (now deceased), the former Dean of the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabi.

## Security:

- Because of the current national State of Emergency brought on by surging violence and criminality we will enhance safety measures with the installation of a new security gate, surveillance cameras, lighting systems, all powered by solar energy. In addition, welcome a 3rd "security dog", Max to the formidable team of Ginger and Shain.



***As we step forward into 2024, Dos Corrientes expresses profound gratitude for your steadfast support and collaboration. Together, we are committed to empowering communities, igniting change, and forging a path toward a brighter future.***

***Our endeavors are bold, fueled by the remarkable progress thus far, achieved through the collective efforts of students, community members, and staff alike. We are on the brink of realizing our vision: establishing a replicable model capable of eradicating poverty and revitalizing communities worldwide. Yet, to accomplish this, we seek partnerships from North America. We urge you to engage with Dos Corrientes, leveraging your abilities to foster a world that is equitable, fair, and just for all. Your contributions to our work in Ecuador will be profoundly impactful, driving meaningful change where it is needed most.***

**DONATE**

[Donate through the University of the Fraser Valley \(Canadian Tax Receipt will be issued\)](#)

**DONATE**

[Donate directly through Dos Corrientes \(No Canadian Tax Receipt\)](#)