

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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Visit Dos Corrientes at www.doscorrientes.com

Almost There: Navigating Global Challenges Towards a Sustainable Future

The challenges facing our world today are daunting, but they are not insurmountable. By working together and taking decisive action, we can address the root causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, and build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world for future generations. Initiatives like Dos Corrientes exemplify the power of grassroots efforts to effect positive change, offering hope and inspiration in the face of adversity. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, let us remain committed to our shared humanity and the pursuit of a better future for all.



Heather and Don, Co-founders.

We are almost there!!! The mission of Dos Corrientes is to create a template that can be replicated to reduce poverty and transform communities. We are doing just that! Having been established in Ecuador for almost 5 years Dos Corrientes is expanding its vision to take a more holistic approach to community building. We are embracing the Sustainable Development Goals as set out by the United Nations and incorporating them into our programs. At the heart of the SDGs lies a focus on empowerment and participation. By actively engaging local communities in the implementation of these goals, members of the communities can take ownership of development initiatives, voice their concerns, and contribute their expertise to finding effective and relevant solutions. The localization of global agendas like the SDGs is pivotal, necessitating the active involvement of organizations like Dos Corrientes.

We are launching a fundraising campaign that will allow, Dos Corrientes to continue its work of finding ongoing answers to food scarcity, education and employment. Get involved - we look forward to your participation. Below is a portal for your donation. Every donation goes a very long way and assists in on-the-ground building grassroots model that is getting results and traction.

We have accomplished a lot since our February Dos Corrientes Journal – read on and see the effect your past financial support!!!

Astounding Results

In Quarter 1 of 2024, Dos Corrientes welcomed its first set of interns from the University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, who contributed to various aspects of the project, from teaching English to villagers to conducting research and facilitating agricultural programs.

Vienna Kapyt, Amber Desilets, and Monica Saboria arrived in Ecuador with sleeves rolled up, ready to dive into their work. And work they did, accomplishing a multitude of tasks aimed at furthering the mission of Dos Corrientes. Among their achievements:



Teaching English to Liguiqui children.

- ◆ Taught English to villagers, empowering them with a valuable skill for communication and opportunity.
- ◆ Created an assessment to examine the effectiveness of the Dos Corrientes English course and a template for future and different courses.
- ◆ Developed a Sustainable Development Course and Curriculum, laying the groundwork for education on vital environmental and social issues.
- ◆ Crafted a specialized course for Women and Girls in Agriculture, promoting gender equality and empowerment in the agricultural sector.
- ◆ Established a blog, serving as a platform to share insights, stories, and updates on Dos Corrientes' initiatives.



Working as a team in agriculture

- ◆ Conducted gender-based educational research, shedding light on disparities and informing targeted interventions.
- ◆ Curated social media content, leveraging digital platforms to raise awareness and engage with a wider audience.

- ◆ Conducted preliminary research on a "field school" program, envisioning an immersive learning experience for North American university students in Ecuador.



*Monica, Vienna, Amber.
UFV Student Interns*



Planning Future Activities

In early May and after the first UFV group went back to Canada, another trio of interns from the UFV (Chelsea Skerlak, Leah Goertzen and Kalia Kraemer) joined the project at Dos Corrientes, to continue the momentum of research and education within the community.

Dos Corrientes extends its heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Heather's son, Paul Curtin of Toronto. Paul collaborated closely with the University of the Fraser Valley student interns, providing operational guidance, benchmarks, key performance indicators, and other essential operational components. We are pleased to announce that Paul is continuing his work with the current group of interns. We are now calling these two intern groups "Dos Corrientes Ambassadors".

In the first quarter of 2024, Dos Corrientes remained committed to its English classes, now expanded to accommodate 35 children. These classes also incorporated a component of "Social Awareness," fostering a deeper understanding of social issues alongside language skills. As Liguqui undergoes transformation, small beach restaurants are emerging, with young English learners actively participating in hospitality, bridging cultures and fostering economic opportunities.

Empowerment of Women and Girls

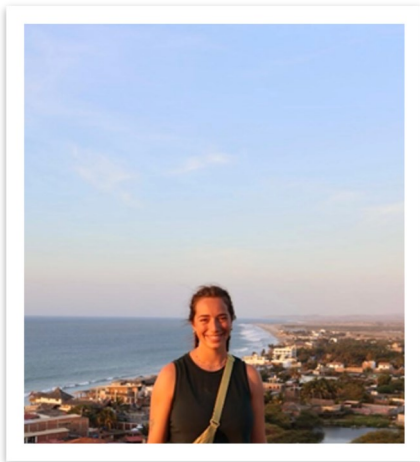
Within the next few weeks, a Women and Girls Agriculture Program led by agriculture doctoral student Max Montuano and supported by a dedicated villager, Maria Reyes, and the UFV Interns will begin. It will be conducted in the community garden at the Dos Corrientes farm. This program will not only advance agricultural education but also integrate culinary skills and sales, enriching the community's livelihoods and sustainability efforts.

Teaching Sustainable Development Goals

In Liguiqui, Ecuador where awareness of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals is quite limited and guided by UFV interns, we are preparing to launch a new educational program. This initiative aims to empower both children and adults with knowledge about their village's significance within the broader context of their country and the world. While there are 17 UN SDGs, our curriculum will focus on Climate Action, Life below the Water, and Life on Land. By emphasizing these specific goals, we seek to raise awareness among village residents about pressing global issues such as climate change and highlight local impact, such as the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on Liguiqui's beach and its effect on marine and land ecosystems. Through this educational endeavor, we hope to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for both local and global environmental challenges, empowering the community to take meaningful action, created by them and for them.

In addition to Liguiqui, Dos Corrientes is reaching into the City of Manta. With the assistance of Ngendi Samuel of the Dynamic Institute and the cooperation of Marine Biologist, Dr Sebastian Hernandez of the Hope and Faith Foundation the UFV interns will also be conducting a course to young people about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Welcome Holly Janzen, Operations Manager, Dos Corrientes



Holly Janzen

Holly graduated from the University of the Fraser Valley with her BA in Global Development Studies in 2021. Since then, she has stayed active in the field of global development and human rights through her work and personal life. After she graduated, she worked at UFV as Program Coordinator for the UFV Peace and Reconciliation Centre where she oversaw various initiatives related to peace building and various forms of reconciliation. This past year, Holly spent 6 months travelling and volunteering around Latin America while learning Spanish and the diverse cultures

within the region. Holly is passionate about anything human rights related, in particular gender equality and environmental justice. In her free time, Holly enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and running. (Dos Corrientes is a perfect location for that). **Welcome Holly!**

Fundraising

To tackle the myriad development challenges facing the communities supported by Dos Corrientes, the organization is launching a fundraising campaign. This initiative aims to generate revenues to support crucial initiatives like the Women and Girls Agriculture Program and Sustainable Development Goals Courses.

Through the mobilization of resources and the rallying of donor support, Dos Corrientes seeks to confront these daily obstacles and pave the way towards sustainable development and resilience. Each contribution to the fundraising campaign will have a tangible impact on the lives of rural residents, empowering them to thrive despite adversity.

Dos Corrientes remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing issues such as food scarcity, education, employment, self-sufficiency, and equality. Rather than viewing these challenges as roadblocks, we see them as opportunities for innovation and progress. Through strategic investments and collective action, Dos Corrientes aims to create a brighter future where access to essential resources is recognized as a fundamental right, and communities flourish in harmony with their environment.



Tying Shoes is part of the English Class

Not everyone can take on a project like Dos Corrientes. Still, everyone can play a proactive role by donating to initiatives that address the needs of the global majority. We don't have to solve everything but we can be a part of a selected "something". We are almost there in bringing the Dos Corrientes vision to fruition. Once done, the template model on how to create an NGO to address individual and community impoverishment can be published globally for other like-minded individuals to follow.

Please be a part of doing something positive for our fellow human. Be a part of our Campaign - Donate now!!!

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)