

Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 20: Nov-Dec 2010

Introduction

We wish all our former students, volunteers and supporters a happy holiday season and all the best for 2011!

At the close of 2010 we can look back with satisfaction at the year. It has not been without its challenges, principally in the foundation. But we have learned an immense amount during this year, and the Spanish school has continued to grow, against global trends in language study. Our volunteer department also showed significant growth, a trend that we intend to continue during 2011.

As this newsletter is published we are putting the finishing touches to our annual report which will be published via our website as soon as it is finalized. The final financial report will not be available until perhaps March or April, although we will publish an interim statement with the written report. Please check our website in a month or so to read the annual report.

November and December . . .

Over the past two months the school has been surprisingly busy. In past years things have quietened down in November and the run up to Christmas.

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Staff and teachers enjoy a Christmas break

. . . But this year November was our busiest month with up to 28 students in a week! In addition we have been setting up new programs for 2011 which you can read about on page 2.

In the foundation we have been reviewing our past performance and reviewing our methods and methodology prior to applying for new funding. We also engaged in a process of participatory planning with the various social groups of Bua. From these meetings we are producing a plan that will define our work for 2011 and beyond.

The volunteer department has also stayed relatively busy, but we have found time to review our programs and set ourselves up for 2011.

Christmas Fundraiser . . .

Help us deliver the gift of development to the communities of Estero de Plátano and Bua this Christmas!

We are continuing with our program to offer 10 scholarships to deserving children in Estero to study at secondary school. And we are going to start a similar scheme in the Tsa'chila community of Bua, offering 5 scholarships for the first year.

In this way we are helping to raise the education level in these two communities so that they may develop the skills and abilities to manage small businesses and create employment in the future.

Each scholarship costs \$300 per child for the year – for uniforms, study materials and transport.

Help us with whatever you can by visiting this page: <http://www.yanapuma.org/en/xmas.php>
(See also Donation News below)



Cotopaxi volcano from Quito



Quemando el Viejo año el 31 de diciembre



The "Día de los Difuntos" is celebrated in Ecuador on 2 November (*photo left*), when families gather at the graves of their departed family to pray and remember them. It is common to bring food and share it at the graveside, along with flowers and other offerings for the dead. Spanish school students visited a local cemetery on this day in Quito.

School News . . .

Looking Ahead to 2011

At the end of November we published our new price list for 2011. We have not raised the cost of classes for this year, despite the financial pressure to do so.

Instead we have introduced a \$20 registration fee which is actually a direct donation to our scholarship fund. Until now we have raised the funds that we need through our Christmas appeal, but this is not really a reliable way of continuing this program for ever. So we are hoping that new students will not mind donating \$20 to this fund, which will put the scholarship program on a much firmer financial footing. We will still of course accept additional funding from individuals keen to continue supporting the scholarship children.

We have also introduced a new "Study and Travel" program for 2011, a week in Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve, a comfortable lodge set in a spectacular ecological reserve in the cloud forests north of Quito.

Continued growth in 2010

We are happy to report that during 2010 our student role grew from an average of 15 per week in 2009 to 18 in 2010, not quite as much growth as we had predicted, but still an achievement in terms of the global market.

We hope to continue growing in 2011 and beyond. To this end we have introduced group classes for beginners. These will start on the first Monday of each month and run for up to 4 weeks, taking students from absolute beginner to the point where they can take full advantage of individual lessons.

Individual Spanish classes remain the best and optimal way to learn Spanish, and for this reason we have decided not to offer group classes above beginner level. Students will learn as much in 2 weeks of individual classes as they would in 3 or even 4 weeks of group classes, which makes one-to-one classes more economical both in terms of time and money.

Staff & Intern News . . .

Fran Henry leaves: After nearly 3 years working with Yanapuma, taking care and organizing volunteers and groups, Fran finally returned to Australia to see if her family still recognize her! During her time with Yanapuma she was an immense help in developing new programs and especially in taking care of the groups that came during that time. We miss her and wish her all the best for the future!



New coordinators Kelly Schussler and Lucas Emerson were thrown in at the deep end, but have been managing well to keep things organized. They are helped by Ariel Climer from the US, who will be interning in the

volunteer department until the end of May.

We have reviewed the current programs, dropped a few that had not worked out so well or proven very popular, and have revisited each project to confirm that they are continuing to offer reliable volunteer options for the coming year.

In total during 2010 our Volunteer Ecuador project received over 100 volunteers from all parts of the world. In addition we received 120 volunteers in various groups from the UK, USA and Canada.

Donation News . . .

As of the end of December we have raised **\$3957.00** for our ongoing project to provide scholarships for disadvantaged children to study at secondary school as a means of raising the indices of development and offering greater opportunities to their communities in the future. This year we aim to provide 15 scholarships – 10 in Estero de Plátano and 5 for the first time in Bua. We need to raise **\$4500.00** in total for the program.

We thank all our donors for their generosity and pledge to continue supporting the youth of these communities through these scholarships and through additional projects:

Donations up to \$200: Lauren Cuozzo, Susan Niefeld, Hilary Segar, Vanessa Cuozzo, Natalie Emmons, Kathry Cuozzo, James McLaughlin, Laurie Luken, Stephen Sexeny, Betty Coons, Monica Niedermeyer, Cliff Couch, Marco Baresi, Sheena Gupta, Keelin Skurek, Karen Frankson Caitlin Chipman, Maureen Skurek

Donations up to \$400: Corliss Jacobs, Stephen Muther, Paul Wagner,

Donations over \$500: Graphic Print Solutions, Collège Edouard Montpetit of Quebec, Harold Fried

We also thank former student and volunteer **Cliff Jones** for his donation of \$205.00 to a seed collection drive in Bua.

La Vida for Ecuador! . . .

We were pleased to receive news that UK NGO **La Vida** will fund a project with \$1000 to buy 2 used computers and offer training in computer use to members of various social groups in Bua de los Tsa'chila. The project is set to begin in mid January and will tap into the enthusiasm of the youth of Bua who will help by teaching what they already know to the older members of the community in return for lessons in how to use the internet given by Yanapuma.

Other News . . .

We thank the Edinburgh University student group **FreshSight** for putting together a funding and growth proposal for Yanapuma Scotland that will form the basis of planning for the Scottish part of the foundation in 2011 and beyond.

Foundation News . . .

Planning and Review

There have been two principal activities of the foundation in these two months. First, we engaged in a process of participatory planning with the social groups of the community of Bua. The results of this process with the 7 groups has been the production of a plan for each, taking into account the common goals, and developing a general vision for the community for the next few years. You can read the results (in Spanish!) here: <http://www.yanapuma.org/en/buaplan.php>

Our second activity has been to review and evaluate the last two years of work and on the basis of our observations and experiences, begin to reformulate and formalize our methodology, identifying approaches that fit well with our own vision and which will help us to amplify the successes of the last years. We will be representing this process on our website soon.

Additionally, we have been considering our options for funding for 2012 and beyond and will begin to prepare proposals this January.

In the field, we continued to work in Bua, Los Naranjos, and Estero de Plátano, attending principally to the social processes that are such a key factor in successful community development (see community reports).

The end of the year is an opportunity for us to look back on what we have done this year and reflect on our successes and failures in order to more constructively pursue our aims in 2011 and beyond.

Community Reports . . . Bua

On 14 December we hired a bus to take 40 members of the 7 social groups on a 2 day visit to Salinas of Guaranda. These indigenous enterprises have grown over a period of many years to become stable sources of income for their communities, producing a wide range of products – chocolate, cheese, dried medicinal herbs, baked goods. Our aim is to inspire the Tsa'chila with a vision of what is possible for an indigenous group if they are willing to work towards realizing their goals.

During November and December we held a series of participatory planning meetings with the 7 social groups to review what we had achieved so far, listen to their needs and dreams, and form all this into a plan for the future, on the basis of which we will seek funding.

The groups are: Shinopi Bolón Cultural Group, the Cabildo, Abraham Calazacón School, the 2 Cajas Solidarias, the Cacao Growers Association, and the Reforestation group.

In addition, an exciting development that grew out of the visit to Salinas has been the conformation of a group of Tsa'chila youth who are interested in doing something . . . We are not quite sure what yet, but Guadalupe will continue to meet with the youth to help them define what

Project News . . .

they would like to do in the future. One immediate idea is to train them to train other community members in computer use as they already know something. In return we will teach the youth how to use the internet, about which they still know nothing, as well as teaching them how to teach others about using a computer. The youth expressed that they would also like to learn how to speak in public. Their request came from their observation of how Guadalupe's work with other community members has helped them to develop their presentation skills.

We also began a project to create family tree nurseries and family vegetable plots in 24 families that expressed interest. The funding comes from the **Ferguson Charitable Trust** of the UK and the project will run until October. During this time our agricultural expert will teach families to grow vegetables, and to sow and rear saplings for sale and for reforestation. At the same time our social/community worker will work on organizational capacity and coordinate other activities such as nutritional education and incorporation of vegetables in the diet.

Estero de Plátano

Our two interns Nik and Allie, Minerva scholarship students from Union College in New York, have continued their work in Estero with youth and children of the community. They have been tutoring the scholarship students and helping with homework as well as . . .

Guadalupe, our social/community worker began a project with local youth to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, aided by Nik and Allie. This project is funded by the **Souter Trust** of Scotland.

We are also happy to announce that on 16 December we delivered crates of books and other educational materials such as puzzles and art supplies to the school library as a donation funded through a memorial fund for Lynn Kirby, wife of Stuart Kirby, a trustee of Yanapuma Scotland who died of cancer in March. The books cover a wide range of topics and subjects, fiction and non-fiction, chosen by the teachers of the school to complement what is supplied by the state.



November and December Photo Gallery

