

A co-operatively run NGO driven by the enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers to promote sustainable development in marginalized communities throughout Ecuador and to promote Cultural Exchange for mutual benefit in our increasingly globalized world

Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 23: May-June 2011

Introduction

Summer is upon us once again, and the Spanish school is busy with students from all corners of the world. While many are studying with us here in Quito, others are taking advantage of our traveling programs, visiting different locations around Ecuador with their teachers – in the Amazon rainforest, in the Andean sierra, and at the Pacific coast.

Likewise, our volunteer department is also busy with international volunteers taking part in our “Volunteer Ecuador” program, contributing their time and effort to many of the 40 or more projects that we support in Quito and around the country.

In the foundation we have also been busy, continuing projects for the Ferguson and Souter Trusts in Tsa’chila communities and Estero de Plátano respectively, as well as giving computer classes, and inviting the scholarship students of Estero de Plátano to Quito for a cultural weekend. You can read more about these activities on the following pages.

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Yanapuma joins WYSETC

In late June we received the good news that our application to join the **World Youth Student and Educational Travel Confederation** was accepted.

Through WYSETC we will seek to form alliances with agencies and organizations that work with language students, volunteers and interns to expand numbers in the coming years.



Foundation staff and interns hard at work



Watch a short video by Amelia Brandt about our scholarship students from Estero de Plátano—
<http://www.yanapuma.org>

Accords . . .

During the last two months Yanapuma has signed two accords to further our work as a foundation.

The first was with the **Junta Parroquial de Puerto Limón** and **FASCA** (Fundación Acción Social Caritas) to undertake a reforestation project starting in September. We are also discussing a larger-scale and longer-term project to reforest vulnerable areas of the parish in which 3 Tsa’chila communities are located.

The second accord was signed with the **Pontificia Universidad Católica** of Santo Domingo, for their student to carry out research that will be of value to Yanapuma and the communities that we work with.

Estero de Plátano scholarship students in Quito . . .

We were pleased to invite the 11 children who are receiving scholarships to study at secondary school from the community of Estero de Plátano to Quito on Friday and Saturday, 27 and 28 of May. The youth were treated to visits to all the main historical and cultural sites of Quito, the museum on the equator line just north of Quito, and the cinema where they saw *Pirates of the Caribbean* in 3D. For most of them it was the first time outside the area of Estero de Plátano where they live and nearby Tonchigwe where they study. As part of the itinerary Guadalupe took them to the campus of

the Universidad Central to talk to them about attending university. With the first of our scholarship students due to graduate in a year and a half from now we have begun to think about the possibility of helping them to continue with their studies through university.

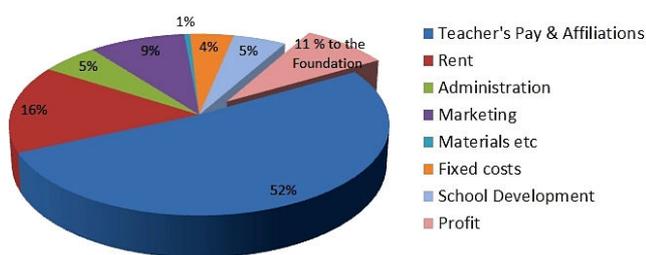


Spanish School News . . .

As part of our ongoing efforts to develop the Spanish school we have continued to develop our methodological base, guided by Edison, our academic coordinator. We continue to develop materials that will support our methods and offer each student the very best all-round learning experience.

As a non-profit we pursue a policy of responsibility and transparency in all that we do. Based on our accounts for 2010 and projections for 2011, the following graphic shows how the income from each hour of Spanish classes is apportioned, with the approximately 11% profit going towards the work of the foundation.

How is your tuition money spent?



Online Classes:

Our online classes have continued to expand slowly over the past two months. Currently we have over 25 individual students studying with us online in addition to the children of Sotogrande International School in Spain.

Check out our dedicated online Spanish class website: <http://www.spanishonlineclass.com>



Donation News . . .

Howard Markowitz donated \$50. The fund was used to pay the costs associated with bringing all the PC students from Los Naranjos to Puerto Limón to learn about using the internet.

Former student **Erin Moore** made a donation of \$100 in June. This will be put to good use soon!

If you are interested in making a donation to any of our projects in particular or just to our general fund, you can do so by visiting the donations page of our website: <http://www.yanapuma.org>

We are always happy to receive donations and pledge 100% of the funds to direct project expenses.

Intern and Volunteer News . . .

We count ourselves extremely fortunate at the moment to be able to rely on the hard work and effort of our excellent interns and volunteers.

Jamie San Andrés has been busy working in Estero de Plátano (*see next page*).

Amelia Brandt has returned to work with us again, carrying out a water study in Estero de Plátano (*see next page*).

Brenna Hull and **Ariel Climer** have been doing a great job of leading our volunteer groups as they work in Chilcapamba, Los Naranjos, and Caimito.

Helen de Meyer left us on 17 June to return to Belgium to continue her studies in tourism management. We are grateful to her for all her hard work over the past 4 months.



Judith Huisjer left us in June to return to Holland after 3 months working in the foundation. We wish her good luck in the future!

Femke Van Wezel, after working in our offices in Quito, went to Chilcapamba to continue her internship there.

Dr Interns is a non profit organization that arranges internships for medical students in India, Ecuador, South Africa, Costa Rica, Peru, and Haiti. They brought us 9 students in June, all about to enter into medical school. They volunteered for one week at Clinica Cemedso, Clinica Jerusalem, and Clinica San Martin in Quito in addition to taking classes in the Spanish School.

Thirteen students from **Vanderbilt University** in Nashville, Tennessee, USA volunteered in Quito. Their office of Active Citizenship and Service organizes various service trips for their students, including one called the "Ecuador Project", which is a month long program.

Four volunteers worked with special needs children at Camp Hope, 4 volunteered with the sexual health education program at the CEMOPLAF clinic, 2 volunteered with children at Peluchitos daycare in southern Quito, and 2 did trail maintenance at Parque Itchimbia. On the weekends, the students travelled to Otavalo, Baños, and Cotopaxi.



Project News . . .

Bua de los Tsa'chila

During the past two months we have been busy continuing the project sponsored by the **Ferguson Charitable Trust**, in the community of Bua de los Tsa'chila. After heavy rains in March and April slowed down the project, destroying the first sowing of seeds, Giovanni has been busy helping families re-sow peppers, cucumbers, cilantro, radishes, watermelons and squashes.

We have also been helped by local nutrition promoter Janet Llanos, who has visited participating women in their homes to show them how to produce delicious meals incorporating the different produce. These visits, producing different meals in each home, have been very well received and will be continued into the future.

We decided to sponsor a competition for the best vegetable plot, to be judged at the end of the project in September. We will offer a first prize, a runner-up prize, and a token prize for each participant.

At the same time, Guadalupe, our community/social worker has been visiting each of the women participants in the Project with a variety of materials including DVDs, books and pamphlets of different types to inspire the women to be able to manage positive changes in their lives. This is a complicated process however and it is sometimes hard to remember the very considerable difference between the two cultures and the Tsa'chila's lack of exposure to many of the facets of life that we take for granted.

Los Naranjos

Meanwhile, in the Tsa'chila village of Los Naranjos we finished a set of computer proficiency classes funded by La Vida, a UK organization that funds projects in Latin America. The classes have been very well received and well attended throughout. Forty-eight people signed up, which meant that we had to offer them on two days per week instead of one, as originally planned.



We added an extra class at the end, inviting all participants to the offices of the Junta Parochial in Puerto Limón where they were able to spend a couple of hours learning to negotiate the internet.

We handed out certificates to each participant, and there were many requests to offer more such classes in the future.

Other activities in Los Naranjos included a visit by a group of volunteers from the Leap UK. They worked on re-roofing the chapel for the community and construction of a new cabaña for the cultural center—Masara Mudu. This was put into immediate service for a group of visiting American tourists and students.

The groups's contribution of \$566 was matched by \$600 for

Project News Continued . . .

the community to buy the necessary materials for re-roofing the chapel. Their hard work was much commented on and appreciated by the community of Los Naranjos.

Estero de Plátano

Intern **Jamie San Andrés** has been busy working with the scholarship recipients, helping them to complete their work and dealing with any social situations that might make their studies more difficult.

In addition she has been continuing our work funded by the **Souter Trust** on sexual and reproductive health and rights. This has involved both informal communication with youth from the community and more formal workshops that explore these sensitive issues.

We also delivered a letter to the various social groups of Estero de Plátano to invite ideas for projects for the future. A follow up meeting is planned for the start of July to elicit and discuss ideas prior to seeking funding.

We have also been pleased to welcome back former intern **Amelia Brandt**, who returned to carry out a water analysis study in Estero. She took samples from the river and drinking water to measure coliforms and other contaminants. She has made the results into a video to be used to demonstrate the importance of drinking clean water. Amelia also investigated the new potable water system that we recently installed. There have been some minor teething problems, but the system is working well now and demand for the water will continue to increase.

Caimito

A volunteer group from the Leap UK spent three weeks in Caimito working on

We are excited to have been asked to make a full application for an IUCN grant to purchase an area of rainforest on the Cabo San Francisco around Caimito. Our team of Jonny Crabb, Silvia Perugachi and Guadalupe Peralta have been coordinating with George Fletcher who lives in Caimito, and with other social and political groups from the area, as well as with lawyers and other officials to prepare the proposal. For Yanapuma, success with this proposal would open the door to a great many opportunities to be involved in the preservation and sustainable development of this precious area of "patrimonio forestal."



May and June Photo Gallery

