

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

Issue 3, Published November, 2021 from Liguiqui, Ecuador
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Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

Many charities and non-profits are genuinely working toward being of assistance to impoverished people. Since 40% of the world's population falls into this category, it is a worthy endeavour indeed. Research indicates that many organizations focus on providing relief as opposed to development. They have a material definition of poverty and therefore believe that giving material things are a solution.

What happens is that impoverished people receive relief when a more effective and longer lasting solution would be to provide development. Why is this? First, relief is far easier to provide than development. Dropping food out of an airplane or ladling out soup is quite simple. Working in the field of development is arduous and takes time. Development must come from individuals within a community working alongside those who can assist in their progress.

It is with this in mind that we are pleased to publish Issue #3 of the Dos Corrientes Journal to inform our readers what has transpired over the month of November in the Dos Corrientes quest to create a model that can be used worldwide to alleviate family poverty and transform communities. Our model is unique and innovative and early results in our testing indicate that Dos Corrientes is on the right path.



Working the farm.

The Dos Corrientes Model

There are eight components to the Dos Corrientes model:

1. Extensive research
2. Solutions based on causes not symptoms of poverty
3. Food sovereignty
4. Skill-based education
5. Multiplier effect of money to promote community growth
6. Teach English to facilitate commerce outside the community
7. Working with foreign and domestic universities for student and faculty engagement
8. Social Entrepreneurism

Of these, there are three Key Components:

Key Components of the Dos Corrientes Model

Food Sovereignty

- Established through the Dos Corrientes "Backyard Garden Food Production Course" and Community Gardens on the farm

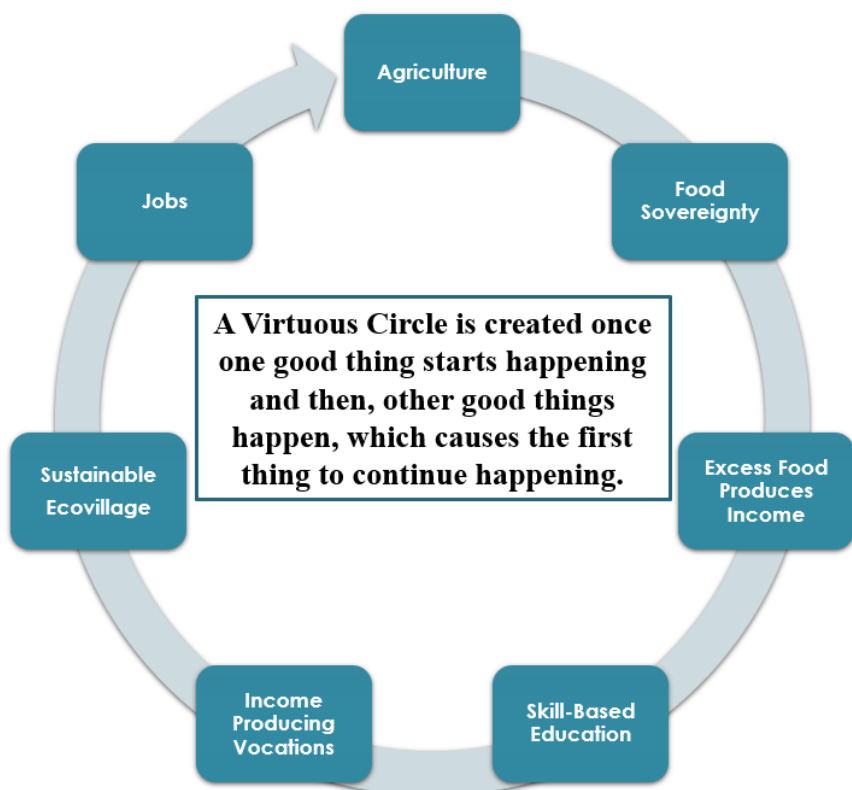
Skill-Based Education

- Built on a platform of entrepreneurship and the Dos Corrientes "Education to Income" model

Social Entrepreneurism

- Provide training, and revenues for community growth and project sustainability

THE DOS CORRIENTES VIRTUOUS CIRCLE



The Dos Corrientes Initiative

Extensive Research: Students from the Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (ESPOL) continued their investigation into the “Development of natural skills with education” and “Empowering women in rural communities to help them raise their self-esteem”.

Solutions Based on Causes not Symptoms of Poverty: Of the many variables that lead to poverty, unemployment is the most common. Lack of opportunity and lack of education are main contributors. At Dos Corrientes, we are continuing our test of skill-based education and monitoring the student’s progress carefully. Also, in November research commenced on creating micro businesses based on tourism to employ villagers.

Food Sovereignty: Food security is a goal while food sovereignty describes how to get there. ... Food sovereignty highlights the need for a democratic food system, one that involves inputs from citizens as well as producers. In November, we visited a farm deep inland where rain is plentiful, to get a different perspective on culturally appropriate food. In order to get a more local understanding, two individuals on a part time basis work in the community garden and live near the farm. There is regular and constant contact in the planning and execution of food production.

Skill-Based Education: “Maria” has completed 5 weeks of her nursing course, which is sponsored by Dos Corrientes. School supplies, equipment, used computer and tuition have been paid for and in return Maria has worked at the Dos Corrientes office for about 70 hours doing a variety of tasks. Part of the Dos Corrientes philosophy is that in return for financial assistance a student would provide labour, thus paying their own way. Pride, worthiness, self-esteem and dignity follow. That is community development and transformation in action.

Multiplier Effect of Money to Promote Community Growth: The more people who have jobs the more currency there will be in circulation in a community. In turn, individuals who are earning money will want to purchase goods and services in the community. Because of that demand, new small businesses will begin to open from food stands to small stores. Dos Corrientes employed eight people in November. Two of them are on a full-time basis and six are part-time.

Teach English to Facilitate Commerce Outside the Community: In previous months, an Ecuadorian certified English as a second language teacher was interviewed. In November, a second Ecuadorian was interviewed. This individual spent many years in Canada and has a thorough and engaging teaching style. A hiring decision will be made soon with a course to be taught at the local school in 2022.

Working with Foreign and Domestic Universities for Student and Faculty Engagement: The University of the Fraser Valley in British Columbia has provided invaluable support to Dos Corrientes. On our behalf, they processed donations to Dos Corrientes and issued tax receipts. They hold funds in trust for Dos Corrientes and once we provide receipts for expenses, UVF releases the funds to us. In addition, we have been in communication with UFV’s Global Development department. A meeting is being arranged between that department and the head of the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabi (ULEAM)’s Vice-Rector to examine projects that can be developed and worked on together. We also had two meetings in November with the Vice-Rector of ULEAM to discuss next steps in our continuing to work together.

Social Entrepreneurism: An exciting development in the month of November was that research into establishing an ecovillage on the property commenced. An ecovillage is a community of like-minded people who will participate in the four dimensions of sustainability (society, culture, ecology and economy) to regenerate social and natural environments. Discussions were held with an urban planner and architect as to the feasibility of such a project at Dos Corrientes. Individuals and families who are interested in living off the grid with alternative sources of energy and water and wish to participate in a gentler, non-consumerist economy would be interested in such an idea. This venture would participate with the nearby communities in providing employment to build and maintain houses in providing security, for example. Revenues to Dos Corrientes would come in the form of providing a variety of services to the people who live there. These revenues would offset costs at Dos Corrientes such as labour and skill-based education.

Alleviating Poverty: Christmas and Contrasting Approaches

Two meetings were held in November with the community with regard to Christmas toys for the children. The original request was that we give money as in past years, when a small number of donors provided the Christmas fund. The community parents would then buy toys for the village children. True to our idea of community development we proposed that instead they could harvest food from the farm and sell it to local tourist cabanas and expats. From the sales they made, Dos Corrientes would give them the proceeds to use for Christmas gifts. Interestingly, that idea was met without comment.



We are beginning to understand how traditional poverty relief is built into the system. To “help” means to give money and material goods. While that methodology may provide short-term benefits, it does not have sustaining developmental qualities. Our emerging belief is in a developmental system of allowing a community to progress on its own, facilitated through relationships with those who are in a position to assist. The concept that we attempted to employ was that if the community provided labour, they would benefit by having the joy and satisfaction of providing toys for their own children. What a great feeling that would be for a parent. Fortunately for small beginnings three individuals stepped up on behalf of the community and harvested and distributed food in return for money that will be used for Christmas toys, not only for their own families, but for others as well. As mentioned earlier lasting poverty relief comes with a “developmental” spirit and it is a long process, a few people at a time.

Year End Fund-Raising Campaign

Raising funds is a major component of any not-for-profit and Dos Corrientes is no exception. The organization has undertaken an incredibly important mission and so far the results affirm our direction and the work that is being done.

Fundraising is important in order to plan the upcoming budget for 2022. We have salaries to pay for work on the farm and new gardens to clear, fence and plant. There are costs for tools, equipment, water, energy, repairs, maintenance and communications. There are also education costs. In addition, we are planning to build a home on the property for the Farm Caretaker who will also provide security. A small outdoor education center for agricultural classes is being contemplated. Add administrative, legal and accounting fees and new projects to plan and budget.

Dos Corrientes needs you to help bring the vision to life. To be a part of the continuing work here, please donate. All of life at Dos Corrientes will thank you.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Here is how you can donate and receive a tax receipt.

<https://connect.ufv.ca/South-America-Growth-Project-Foundation-Dos-Corrientes>

If you use this link, please let Don Wilson know (don@doscorientes.com) so that your gift can be tracked.

Many prefer to donate using the Dos Corrientes link (click the button).

DONATE