

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

Published March, 2023 from Liguiqui, Ecuador
Visit Dos Corrientes at www.doscorrientes.com

Dos Corrientes 2023 is Moving Forward

Dos Corrientes is now in its 4th year of operation and this could not be possible without the generosity of those who care for a better world. Thank you to everyone who has helped implement the Dos Corrientes vision of creating a sustainable model to address food scarcity and impact the economics of communities.

Recent statistics indicate that 25% of Ecuadorian children drop out of school by the end of Grade 5. Another 25% drop out before they finish high school. Truncated education, lack of employment, early parenthood, and climate change create significant challenges for people living in rural coastal Ecuador. These challenges can result in a poor diet leading to a lack of nourishment and development. It also creates an endless cycle of systemic poverty and malaise that acknowledges “life never changes”.

To address these circumstances in the nearby villages of Liguiqui, Pacoche, and San Lorenzo, Dos Corrientes is launching the next and very exciting phase of its work – the Dos Corrientes Youth Program.

Community Participation

For Dos Corrientes, the participation of the community in the creation of educational programs is crucial. It reinforces ancestral knowledge that when used with contemporary teaching methodologies, provides an environment that helps young people thrive, personally, socially, and economically in the modern world. Meetings and workshops are being held with village elders, parents, and children with three specific objectives.



1. Connect the participants with their heritage, their land, and their knowledge in order to appreciate it, acknowledge its value, and embrace it as part of who they are.
2. Give space for elders and parents who understand the natural rhythms and cycles of the seasons to talk about how their children can connect to it and take advantage of society’s advancements without destroying it.
3. Have a “call-to-action” to have elder participants be a part of the process, empowering the youngest generation to their highest potential, without losing sight of their identity, heritage, and community. We will do this by showing the participants the pillars of the program and asking them what they would like to see included in each part.

The Dos Corrientes Youth Program

The soon-to-be-implemented Dos Corrientes Youth Program will provide an opportunity for young people (aged 13 to 18) to learn skills that will allow them to:



1. Become Junior Farmers by learning and growing their own gardens at Dos Corrientes to provide healthy and nourishing food for their families.
2. Become acquainted with techniques of food preparation combining traditional and contemporary methods to include vegetables, spices, and herbs in their daily diet.
3. Understand how herbs are used for medicinal purposes.
4. Become Young Entrepreneurs by selling excess food (to Dos Corrientes pre-arranged markets) to start a small business, and learn basic financial concepts as well as customer communication skills, leadership, and goal setting, among others.
5. Become conversant in English as well as Spanish.



The Rotary Club of Waterdown generously donated funds to build an “invernadero” (Spanish for greenhouse). This structure will support education and food production and is scheduled for completion at the end of March. The greenhouse is situated in an ideal location. It is on a gentle slope for gravity-fed irrigation and a natural collection of rainfall from the roof. It is close to the equipment storage bodega and right next to washroom facilities and an outdoor “orno” (like a Bar BQ) to cook meals for children. Outside the “invernadero” is a growing area where Junior Farmers and Young Entrepreneurs can produce excess food that will be sold. An arrangement has been made with community-spirited hotel/restaurant owners about 30 miles from the farm for the children to practice their entrepreneurial skills and sell their organic vegetables and fruit. Learning how to manage the revenues from their sales will be all part of the program.



For the next month, the children are on summer vacation. Teaching English in the classroom has been put on “pause” until April. The next iteration of the program will even be better. This year, instead of teaching in a classroom setting, English will be taught as part of the Junior Farmer and Young Entrepreneur Programs. Children will learn the language in a practical and very useful setting. Future plans include continued English education in the Dos Corrientes Cooking School and Store. This step-by-step process will enable young people to participate in a broader world in their not-too-distant future.

Always Addressing Food Scarcity

Food distribution has always been a core process at Dos Corrientes. This month, Dos Corrientes was given about 500 Pitahayas (Dragon Fruit). In turn, Dos Corrientes delivered it to individual families, and to village leaders in Liguiqui and Pacoche.



Vegetables in the Dos Corrientes garden which was made by students are thriving in the 6-week seasonal rain. Cucumbers, peppers, radishes, lettuce, spinach, carrots, tomatoes, and swiss chard have all been routinely harvested and shared with Liguiqui families. In a year or two we will be able to harvest fruit from the over 50 fruit trees that have been planted. Already, pineapples have matured and shared.

Be a Part of Dos Corrientes

Our budget for 2023 is a modest and tightly controlled \$89,000. This amount barely covers costs and provides income only to Ecuadorians (except for the Canadian accountant). As in the past, it would be great if “friends of Dos Corrientes” could share just a bit of their good fortune with the children in Liguiqui, Ecuador.

On the Dos Corrientes website, there is a portal that will direct you to a Dos Corrientes/University of the Fraser Valley link. Here it is: <https://www.doscorrientes.com/donate> . The university will provide a tax receipt.

**HELP THE CHILDREN OF
LIGUIQUI**

DONATE HERE