



FEBRUARY UPDATE

Focus on Technical Courses and Job Creation



Our artisan classes, including embroidery, weaving, sewing and beading, are now in full swing for 2018. Women from Santa Cruz and surrounding communities are learning new skills to make an array of beautiful products, as well as build self confidence and self worth in their new trade. Don't forget that you can support these artisans directly by purchasing their products, including these handmade woven shawls, online anytime through the Manos Cruceñas Online Store!

[Shop Online Now!](#)

Meet Effrain, the First Recipient of a CECAP Technical Scholarship

New this year, CECAP is supporting a range of technical scholarships to study trades such as car repair, fridge maintenance, boat motor repair, and plumbing. The idea is to build skills in targeted areas where there are not yet any local technicians to fill the need. For example, anytime a fridge or water pump breaks in Santa Cruz, an outside



professional needs to be contracted to do the work - exporting good jobs from Santa Cruz and raising prices for basic services in the local community. People like Effrain Simaj Garcia, who is studying auto-repair this year, can develop a technical skill and then start a business locally. This approach will build well-paying jobs while investing in the growth of the local economy.

Industrials Arts Kicks Off With a Blast

The Industrial Arts cohort sparks up in 2018 with a newly renovated welding shop! The space will better accommodate this year's students, including an additional Saturday class for working adults. We are particularly proud of our welding instructor, Ramos, who was a student in the first CECAP welding class back in 2011. Ramos now owns his own business, the very first professional welding shop here in Santa Cruz, in addition to giving back to the next generation as an instructor himself.

We look forward to seeing many more students following in his footsteps, finding employment and starting businesses that help to build local economy.



AMIGOS' 20th ANNIVERSARY

Each month we are sharing the stories and photos of just how much has changed in Santa Cruz over these 20 years, in the community and among the individuals with whom we work.



Dominga, Estela, Cristina and Rosalia (left to right) were all in the 2nd grade when Amigos first delivered school supplies to help the public school back in 1998. All four women continued on to complete high school, the first generation in their village to do so. Last year Estela became the first woman from Santa Cruz to graduate from university, Rosalia has almost completed her law degree, and Dominga was the first woman to serve on the elected Community Development Committee of Santa Cruz. All four are now staff members of Amigos, taking on increasing responsibility and leadership in the organization and in their community. Twenty years later, they represent a new generation of educated youth that are

truly changing Santa Cruz.

MAKE A DONATION

Photo: [Daniel López Pérez Photography](#)

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