



JANUARY UPDATE

The Faces of Youth Leadership in 2018



Welcome to the 2018 Santa Cruz Youth Corps! These recent graduates will be participating in Amigos' year-long professional development program. They will gain experience to improve their chances of getting a good job, while also building the skills to become strong and positive young leaders in their community.

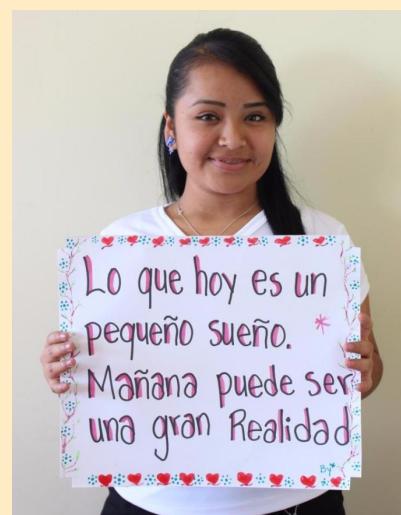
Young Women Becoming Young Professionals

"What is a small dream today, can be a great reality tomorrow."

~Brenda, 19, Youth Corps Intern

This is what the Santa Cruz Youth Corps program is all about – growing self confidence, cultivating leadership skills, and building professional experience. Brenda is placed this year with Mayan Families, an NGO in Panajachel, working on their health extension program educating families in rural communities. Amigos' Youth Corps Interns, like Brenda, are the first generation from their community to graduate and are now exciting young professionals entering the workforce.

That is why we focus on building self-confidence, especially among young women. Now that they have a good education, participating in the Amigos' Youth Corps is a great stepping stone into the new professional opportunities now available to this generation of Santa Cruz youth.



2018 Culinary Program & Gastronomic Festival



In January, our own graduate-run Café Sabor Cruceño opened its doors to over 150 guests for the 7th Annual Gastronomic Festival! They came to celebrate the kick-off of the 2018 Culinary Program with instructors and new students. This year's program will feature several skilled chefs, each teaching different units designed based on the needs of restaurants and hotels here on the lake.

Our Café team, all graduates of the culinary program, presented new dishes that they developed themselves. Guests had the opportunity to vote on their favorites to be included in the new 2018 cafe menu!

"I am proud to share our culinary accomplishments with the community, and with the next group of new students."

~Santiago, Cafe Manager and Culinary Instructor

Meet Juan Gabriel, 1st Year Medical Student

The first in his family to graduate from High School, Juan Gabriel Canel's path has been a difficult one. But last year he completed the year-long Santa Cruz Youth Corps internship with high praise, building experience and leadership. Juan has passed very difficult entrance exams, and secured several scholarships to help finance his studies in medicine.

Juan is determined to become the first doctor in his small community of Tzununa. Amigos is excited to offer him a scholarship to support him realizing this dream. Juan is determined, capable, and we believe he can do it!



It's Amigos' 20th ANNIVERSARY!



This year we are proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Amigos de Santa Cruz. It's hard to believe that 20 years have passed since Amigos first began helping the local schools with school supplies. That long-term investment that is what Amigos is all about, creating real generational change. Those children in 1st grade back in 1998 are now going on to university, becoming leaders in their community and on our staff.

Each month we will be sharing their stories, and the stories of just how much in Santa Cruz has changed over these 20 years. Stay tuned for more!

MAKE A DONATION

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