



MAY UPDATE

Amigos launches new website!



AMIGOS DE SANTA CRUZ

WHO WE ARE ▾

WHAT WE DO ▾

VISIT ▾

SHOP

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CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME
ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

This month, we are proud to launch our newly redesigned [website](#)! Take a look to learn more about Amigos' history, explore information on the Santa Cruz communities, and read about our ongoing programs and community impact.

From Skill Building to Starting a Business

Amigos' Women's Empowerment Program works with indigenous women in our most remote communities to provide skill training and small business development that leads to better economic opportunities.

This month, Amigos is supporting seven women entrepreneurs from Jaibalito to launch a new handicrafts business! The business is the product of two years of artisan classes in embroidery and weaving, as well as business skill development.



“Jaibalito Handicrafts,” located near the public dock, will sell the women’s woven and embroidered products as well as other handmade artisan products made locally in Jaibalito. The store is part of a wave of new businesses revitalizing Jaibalito’s main street and spurring local economic

development.

Not in Guatemala? Remember that these artisan's products are also available for purchase through Amigos' [Manos Cruceñas Artisan Store](#).

We are also proud to collaborate with the [Amigos de Jaibalito Foundation](#) in this exciting new project!



Planting the Seeds of Healthy Eating



In addition to developing their own business, Amigos' Women's Empowerment Program also seeks to provide resources and education to support healthier and happier home environments. This includes supporting home gardens where women can grow their own organic vegetables and herbs, cultivating a healthy diet while lowering their monthly grocery bill. Amigos staff provide technical assistance and materials, including seeds, fencing and organic compost, to support the women in creating their own veggie garden.

And this month, the crop has been phenomenal!

The women also participate in nutrition workshops and health recipe practical demonstrations by Amigos staff. The goal is to provide them with the support and knowledge they need to develop a nutritious diet for themselves and their families.



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.



Juan Bautista Rocché Chavajay was a teacher in Santa Cruz back in 1998. Originally from the neighboring town of San Pedro, Juan worked long hours to ensure students

students enjoyed coming to school. He visited parents to encourage them to send their children every day, and pressured Ministry officials for more resources.

20 years later, Juan now teaches at Escuela Milagros, Tzanzomel's only school that Amigos built in 2011. Juan walks 45 minutes every day to reach the school in this remote mountain village. His continued enthusiasm and dedication is now inspiring young children and parents in this once forgotten village that they too have a right to an education!

Additionally, in the photo on the left some of you may also recognize one young girl, second from the left in the front row. That is **Juana Hernandez Pérez**, who went on to become one of Amigos' first university scholarship students! Juana will soon be graduating with a degree in Business Administration.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

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