



FEBRUARY UPDATE

Technical Skills & New Opportunities



CECAP vocational classes are now in full swing and classrooms bursting with adults and youth eager to learn. Adult classes include sewing, beading, carpentry, welding, culinary, and other technical areas, teaching skills that will lead to new sources of income. CECAP also provides classes for youth from local primary and middle schools as an opportunity to learn technical skills in computers, sewing and carpentry. These vocational classes complement their academic formation and foster interest in technical careers.

Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship

It's time for more MUSHROOMS! Last year, Amigos helped a group of women from Jaibalito to start a new mushroom cultivation business. The demand has been so high that they just can't keep up, and another group of women from Santa Cruz is eager to help fill that gap. The group formed in September of last year and received several months of training, and their hard work is now paying off. The first batch of mushrooms was harvested earlier this month and sold out in no time!



Amigos' Womens Empowerment & Small Business Program seeks to improve women's lives and promote gender equality by growing their access to income



outside of the home. When women establish their own business, they gain greater economic power and build their self confidence. The economic program is integrated with a series of workshops on nutrition, gender equality & rights, and social empowerment.

Introducing the New Culinary Class of 2019



This month we were proud to welcome nine new participants to our year-long Basic Culinary Program. This year's group includes seven young women and two men from five different local communities!

The Culinary Program is CECAP's flagship vocational course. It covers not only culinary techniques but also complementary skills including public speaking, math, English and computing. It has a great reputation

and high rate of success placing young Cruceños and Cruceñas in jobs around the lake. 12 of the 14 graduates from 2018 have already found full-time work.

Meet Paulina, Our New Wholesale Assistant

This month we are excited to introduce Paulina Tepáz Pérez. Paulina is one of our newest staff members, but she is a longtime participant in Amigos' programs. As a Santa Cruz Youth Corps member in 2017, she worked as an intern in our artisan store, Manos Cruceñas. Paulina is also a university scholarship student of Amigos. The first in her family to graduate high school, she now studies at the Universidad de Mariano Galvez on weekends, working toward a degree in Business Administration.



In her new role, Paulina works with our wholesale clients, coordinating orders and sales in English with North American clients. Wholesale orders provide an important source of stable work for our Santa Cruz artisans, so Paulina has a particularly important job. It requires very high level organizational and English language skills, but we know she is up for the challenge.

Paulina also manages our Manos Cruceñas online store, [shop online today!](#)

Welcome, Paulina!

MAKE A DONATION



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