



APRIL UPDATE

Teaching Vocational Skills & Job Training



The CECAP Vocation Training Center's main goal is to build the capacity of community members through technical training, to increase work opportunities and contribute to the improvement of the local economy. In 2019, CECAP is expanding our support by offering training in higher skilled trades such as computer repair, electrical installation, and auto-mechanic repair. We are also increasing post-graduation employment assistance for CECAP graduates, including employment preparation training, internships and practical placements to help to put more Santa Cruceños to work!

Save the Date! On Friday, May 10th, all donations will be **DOUBLED up to \$8,000!**

May 10th is the date of the annual Santa Cruz Feria, a festival celebrating the town's local patron saint, Santa Elena De La Cruz. The celebration showcases music, dance, and even sports competitions. It is a day of important cultural celebration for the community.

This year, in honor of this celebration, a special donor will be DOUBLING all donations to Amigos de Santa Cruz up to \$8,000!



While rich in culture and tradition, Santa Cruz needs your help to overcome a serious lack in educational and economic opportunities. Join the celebration by donating with your heart to Amigos de Santa Cruz on May 10th. Mark your calendar today!

CECAP Opens Extension Classes for Remote Communities



Middle School students from Chuitzanchaj (left), one of the most remote Santa Cruz communities, are now traveling to attend vocational training classes in CECAP. These bi-weekly classes in baking, painting and carpentry provide an opportunity for the students to leave their village and engage in new learning experiences. The goal is to open them to different opportunities and inspire them to enjoy learning and pursue an

education, whether vocational or academic.

CECAP instructors are also traveling to the neighboring town of Jaibalito to teach new skills to local artisans. Pictured right, our Beading Instructor, Esther, teaches various techniques to artisans who will be able to make new products for our [Manos Cruceñas Artisan Store](#).

These women will be able to use these skills while working from their homes and taking care of their children, making access to an income more attainable for women in their village.



Launching a New Incubator for Women Entrepreneurs



Amigos expanded our support for women's economic inclusion through our new Business Incubator for Women-Led Businesses in Santa Cruz. Part of our Women's Empowerment Program, the incubator provides business skill training workshops each month and regular technical assistance visits to identify how women entrepreneurs

can grow their business and how women in the business can take on a greater leadership role. Nine businesses are participating in this first cohort, including an artisanal kombucha business, a shoemaker and several local restaurants. Supporting the increasing entrepreneurship among women in Santa Cruz is a key part of Amigos role in empowering women and promoting gender equality.

MAKE A DONATION



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