



DECEMBER UPDATE

Congratulations Estefany!



From a baby on her mother's back, to a beaming high school graduate! Estefany Santos Simón is one of 16 Amigos high school scholarship students that graduated in 2019, the most graduates that we have ever had in just one year! She is the youngest of eight siblings and only the second in her family to make it to high school. Estefany is an incredibly talented and driven young woman, eager to pave the way toward a better future for herself and other young women from Santa Cruz. She will be continuing on to university in 2020, and even already has a job lined up working for a local hotel. Please join us in congratulating Estefany!

"In Santa Cruz, we are very behind in education and not many people are able to achieve what I did. But we need more graduates in order to help improve our community. I want to be that example for other young women!"

Introducing the 2019 Culinary Program Graduates

We are excited to

congratulate the five graduates of this year's basic culinary program! These young men and women all completed an intensive year of training. They learned culinary skills, hygiene and customer service with experienced chefs, and studied in areas such as English, math and computation to complement their culinary knowledge. Each then ended the year with a month-long practical placement in local hotels and restaurants. They are now ready to start working in their new profession!



Celebrating 2019's Women Entrepreneurs



48 women entrepreneurs from across the seven Santa Cruz communities successfully completed the year in our Women's Empowerment Program. Most of these women do not know how to read or write, yet they are building new business to earn an income for themselves and their families.

Each woman who participates in our program receives not just business development assistance, but also participates in a series of empowerment and health workshops. These workshops include topics such as gender equality inside and outside the home, women's political participation, nutrition, domestic violence, and the importance of education for their children's future. This wholistic approach touches on the various areas that affect women's lives in rural Guatemala, investing in an empowerment that is deep and sustainable.



Please remember Amigos de Santa Cruz in your year end giving ...

We are still \$10,000 short of making our year-end fundraising goal!



Gifts from friends like you are essential to keep our programs going strong in 2020. Let's not let one more generation grow up without access to a good education and the economic opportunities to lead a happy, healthy life. Join us in helping to build a better future for the families of Santa Cruz.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)



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