



JANUARY UPDATE

These girls are going to university!



Meet three of our newest university scholarship recipients! Eva, Estefany and Victoria come from different Santa Cruz villages, but share the same goal of higher education and a university degree. The road ahead of them will be difficult, especially as women, but they have proven that they are ready to succeed. The Amigos scholarship program provides counseling and guidance as well as financial support, and requires recipients to complete community service projects and participate in leadership development activities, formation to become strong future leaders of their community.

Meet the 2020 Santa Cruz Youth Corps

These seven young men and women have spent the last week of January in orientation to begin their first ever professional jobs! They are all recent graduates of Amigos' High School Scholarship Program, ready to gain a year of training and professional experience to help them find meaningful work opportunities in their field of study. They will be working in areas such as tourism, accounting and social work. With the year-long internship in the Santa Cruz Youth Corps, they will gain skills, leadership abilities, and develop both resumes and confidence



to lead to better jobs and a brighter future.

A New Year and More Work for Santa Cruz Artisans



This year we are proud to have over 70 women artisans working in production for the [Manos Cruceñas Artisan Store](#). These women, all graduates of CECAP training programs, started off the year with a meeting to be sure they understand how they can maximize their time and skills to make the most income for their families. In 2019, artisans made over \$25,000 in income by working in production for our store, a 33% increase over

the previous year! They are making products to be sold in the retail store, custom-made orders for our [wholesale clients](#), and products that you can order today through the [US Online Store](#).

CECAP Goes 100% Solar!

This month we installed 28 330-watt panels and a new inverter, making the CECAP Vocational Center & Amigos' office now 100% solar powered! This reduces our carbon footprint, makes Amigos more financially sustainable by reducing our electricity bill, and provides a positive example of environmental leadership in the community. In the next phase, we will be partnering with solar installers to rollout solar projects in the local community through solar installation training.



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