



FEBRUARY UPDATE

A Mother-Daughter Business Team



Alberta Hernandez has owned a traditional weaving business in Santa Cruz for many years, making a small amount of money to support her family. Last year, Alberta joined Amigos' Business School, a program designed to help strengthen and grow existing women-owned businesses in Santa Cruz. Alberta only attended a year or so of school and struggles with the financial aspects of her business, so she brought her daughter 14 year-old, Maria, to attend the business trainings with her. Together, they managed to identify over \$14,000 owed to Alberta from 353 clients to which she had extended credit over the past 12 years. She and her family were shocked. With assistance from Amigos, Maria helped her mother to develop a new credit and repayment system which has already resulted in the collection of over \$3,500 in her back debts - three times her normal yearly earnings! This mother-daughter business team is excited to see their success, and enthusiastic to keep building their local business. *Go Maria and Alberta!*

Energizing Children's Minds With Story Time

The 2020 Preschool classes are now in full swing in Santa Cruz, and teacher Juan Manuel's class cannot get enough of story time! Juan has been working with Amigo's Early Education Program for many years now, developing skills in how to

read out loud with his students in a way that stimulates their interest, creativity and critical thinking skills. He utilizes Amigos' growing mobile library to share books among all of the preschool teachers, increasing the diversity of books available to them and ensuring more reading in the classroom.



We know that these small children are the future leaders of Santa Cruz. Their social, emotion and cognitive development now will build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.

Training Youth Leaders in Reproductive Health



Ensuring that all youth have access to sexual and reproductive health information and resources requires not just classes in school, but ensuring that those outside of the formal school system are included as well. In Santa Cruz, over 50% of youth do not stay in school all the way to the 7th grade. And this is the population most likely to experience adolescent pregnancies and underage marriage, limiting opportunities for continued education and career development. Our Peer Youth

Leadership Network is looking to change that by training the youth themselves to provide information and resources to their peers that will help them make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures, improve their health, and the health of their family.

CECAP Computer Classes Underway

Come by the CECAP Vocational Training Center one Monday morning this February and you will find our hallways filled with eager middle school students coming to learn in our Computer Technology Center. This year, 138 girls and boys are taking computer classes each week, learning basic computer literacy that is essential for their future success. Almost none of

these students have computers in their home, meaning they have had almost no access to computers outside of our center. We are honored to be able to provide this important service to the community.



[MAKE A DONATION](#)



amigosdesantacruz.org
info@amigodensantacruz.org

