



APRIL UPDATE

Santa Cruz Life in the Time of COVID



The global COVID-19 pandemic has turned lives upside down all over the world. Here in Santa Cruz, we are lucky that the virus has not yet directly affected our communities. Close living quarters in our villages, together with an incredibly fragile healthcare system, mean that preventing the virus from reaching Santa Cruz is our best mitigation strategy. Amigos has convened community leaders and organizations to coordinate local COVID-19 response efforts over the last month. This has included developing strategies to reduce all non-essential travel outside the communities, and securing basic medical supplies for our essential workers.

We are also seeing that the secondary effects of shutting down the local economy have been immediate and devastating on the Santa Cruz communities. Amigos staff are coordinating efforts to ensure that families without savings are still able to put food on their table. We are also working on an economic stimulus program to put people who have lost their jobs back to work on socially distanced public works projects such as cleaning trash, repairing village paths and planting trees.

During these difficult times, Amigos is working to bring the Santa Cruz communities together to overcome the enormous short- and long-term challenges in getting Santa Cruz through this crisis. We encourage you to read below to learn more about what our team is doing to help keep our communities safe, healthy, and educated.



Together we give.

May 5, 2020

GIVING TUESDAY | NOW

Save the Date - Upcoming Fundraiser!

Because even in times of crisis, we must come together to support our worldwide neighbors most in need ...

On Tuesday, May 5th, Amigos will be participating in a special worldwide day of giving, #GivingTuesdayNow. If you are in a position to give, please consider supporting Amigos and the emergency efforts here in Santa Cruz. **All donations *now through May 5th* will be MATCHED dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000 by a longtime Amigos supporter!** Just write 'Giving Tuesday Match' in the note.

MAKE A DONATION

How are we responding to the COVID-19 Crisis?

Artisans Making Masks



CECAP-trained artisans are staying busy during this crisis, making face masks that are being donated to the local community. The Guatemalan government now requires that everyone wear a mask in public, so this helps the local community comply with the regulation and keep each other safe. With our retail artisan store closed, this also helps to keep artisans employed and ensures an ongoing source of income for their families.

In addition to face masks, Amigos has also donated other personal protective equipment and medical supplies to the extremely understaffed and under equipped local health workers.

Securing Basic Food

Supplies for Those in Need

Amigos has purchased a supply of food staples for the communities of Santa Cruz, to ensure food security in the likely event that food prices rise while the country faces significant travel restrictions.

At the same time, we are keeping a growing list of the families most at risk of food insecurity as Santa Cruz enters this period of deep economic crisis. Over the coming weeks, we will be coordinating food delivery to each of these families to ensure that no one goes hungry.



Delivering Books, Activities for At-Home Learning

Amigos' Early Education Team is hard at work to keep children engaged and learning while schools stay closed. Our staff are preparing and activities and worksheets for children to continue their studies at home, and are rotating book lending among parents so that their children continue to have access to books and keep their reading habits strong!

Almost all public school teachers live in other towns and are unable to do this themselves, and very few parents have internet access to receive online resources. Amigos staff are filling an important gap to be sure that education remains a priority in Santa Cruz!



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