



**AMIGOS DE SANTA CRUZ**  
**2020 Impact Report**



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# OUR MISSION

Amigos works to improve the lives of the indigenous people of Santa Cruz La Laguna and surrounding villages through support for **education** and **sustainable economic empowerment**.

# OUR VISION

We envision Santa Cruz communities where all families live in a healthy environment and have access to sustainable sources of income; where schools provide quality education to all children; and where women, men and youth have an active voice in decisions that impact their communities.



## THE AMIGOS APPROACH

For over 20 years, our programs have grown in response to changing local needs, led by Santa Cruz community leaders themselves.

### LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

Amigos is playing a crucial role in the powerful generational change currently underway in Santa Cruz. We are helping a generation attain an education for the first time.

### FOCUS ON ONE COMMUNITY

By focusing on the community of Santa Cruz, Amigos is able to understand and respond to the specific challenges facing the larger community as a whole.

### EMPOWERMENT, NOT HANDOUTS

Amigos does not give handouts. We build the skills and confidence that people need to improve their own livelihoods and community over the long term.





# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2020 was a year like no other. It brought challenges that we could have never predicted, but also many opportunities. Opportunities to come together as the Amigos team, and as the Santa Cruz community, to respond to immediate needs and to provide innovative solutions.

I am proud that in the face of this crisis, the Amigos team stepped up. With regular programs suspended, our local staff quickly shifted to implementing emergency initiatives with a threefold response: ensuring all families have food on their table, creating jobs for the many who were suddenly out of work, and supporting health centers and public education campaigns to prevent the spread of COVID.

Most importantly, amid a lack of official local leadership, Amigos staff stepped in. We organized emergency community meetings and led the regional coordination of COVID response measures, demonstrating Amigos' central role in the local community – particularly in times of crisis.

I am also incredibly inspired by the creative ways that the Amigos team continued work towards our core mission of education and economic empowerment in 2020, despite the restrictions that the pandemic caused. Public schools were shuttered, yet our team went house-to-house delivering books and engaging children's critical thinking skills. Sexual and



Reproductive Health trainings moved online, providing youth with a safe space to ask questions and seek support. Our artisans were able to continue earning an income making masks and producing wholesale orders despite the temporary closure of our retail store.

2020 demonstrated that we are a local organization with the knowledge and flexibility to respond quickly to the changing local needs of our community, particularly during crisis. This year has shown that Amigos is stronger than ever. Thank you for being a part of our global community. We couldn't do any of this without you, and I hope that you will continue to support our work.

**Jessie Cohn**  
Executive Director

# THE COMMUNITIES OF SANTA CRUZ LA LAGUNA



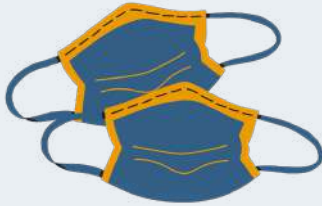
Santa Cruz La Laguna is a rural municipality in the western highlands of Guatemala. Perched on the steep slopes of the volcanic crater forming Lake Atitlán, many of Santa Cruz's communities can only be accessed by boat or, with difficulty, by rudimentary roads.

# 2020 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## COVID-19 RESPONSE



WE PROVIDED  
FOOD BASKETS  
**TO 100%**  
OF FAMILIES IN NEED



WE DONATED  
**15,745**  
MASKS



WE CREATED  
**609**  
JOBS  
FOR THOSE WHO  
LOST JOBS



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**108**  
STUDENTS  
RECEIVED WEEKLY  
BOOK DELIVERIES



**35**

SCHOLARSHIP  
STUDENTS  
CONTINUED THEIR  
EDUCATION  
ONLINE



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

**57**

**WOMEN**  
ENTREPRENEURS  
SUPPORTED  
THEIR FAMILIES  
WITH INCOME FROM  
THEIR BUSINESSES



## ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



**CECAP**  
INSTALLED  
**100%**  
SOLAR POWER



WE PLANTED  
**3,600**  
TREES



# AMIGOS COVID-19 RESPONSE

## COVID-19 EDUCATION & PREVENTION CAMPAIGN



We visited  
**1,000**  
families



We donated  
**15,745 masks**  
& 45 gal. of hand sanitizer

Information about COVID-19 was scarce during the first months of the pandemic. Many families, especially in the most remote areas, were not completely aware of the health risks of this new virus or of how to prevent it from spreading. The limited access to media in these communities meant we had to go from house to house to inform and educate families.

Amigos conducted a large-scale COVID-19 Prevention Campaign across Santa Cruz that started in March 2020 and continues during 2021. Our staff provided personalized 10-15 minute COVID education sessions with approximately 1,000 families in all seven communities. The sessions covered COVID knowledge awareness and prevention measures.

We delivered more than 15,000 masks made by Amigos artisans to every household in Santa Cruz. We also donated personal protective equipment and medical supplies to the extremely understaffed and under-equipped local health clinics.



## EMERGENCY FOOD DELIVERIES



When Guatemala shut down in mid-March 2020 due to COVID-19, the economic shock wave hit Santa Cruz. Due to the local economy's reliance on tourism, together with travel restrictions and business closures, 1/3 of workers had lost their jobs and unemployment rose to 50% by May. Most families struggled to cover their most basic needs.

Grocery shelves were empty of countless basic foods for several months, and people in Santa Cruz did not have the means to even buy the limited amount of corn or beans that were available. Prices rose by upwards of 50%, causing the poorest families to go hungry.

In response, Amigos quickly moved to provide emergency food deliveries. We delivered 46 tons of corn, four tons of beans, and four tons of rice to the most vulnerable families in Santa Cruz. These emergency food supplies kept food on the table for families at a desperate time for Santa Cruz.



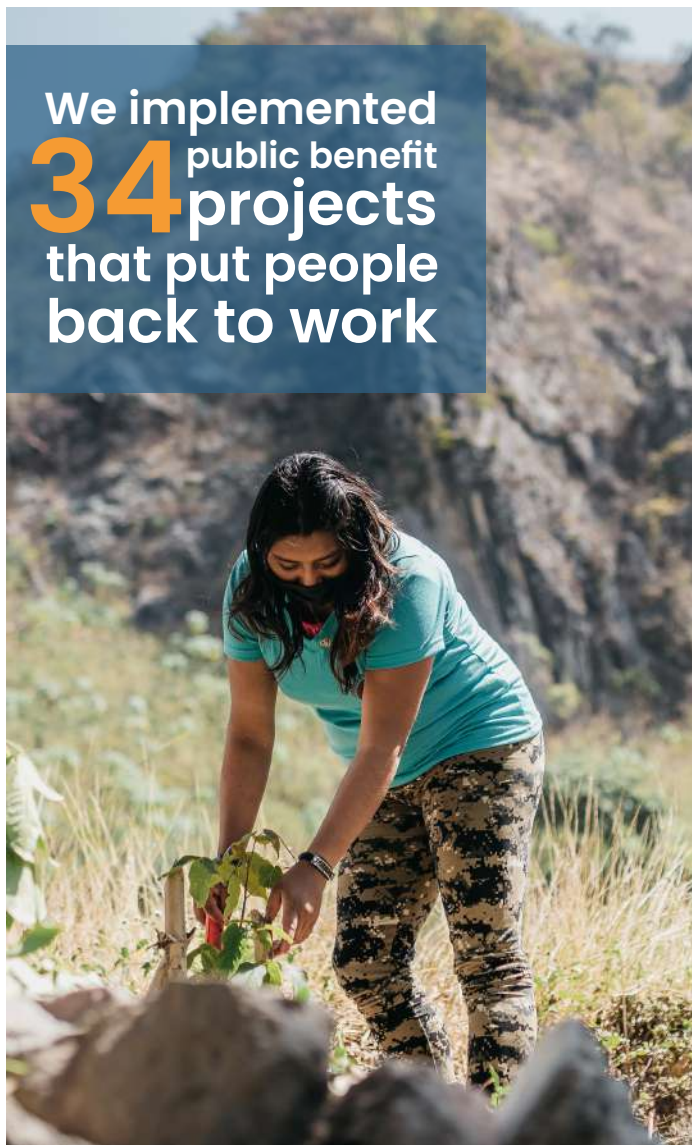
**630 families**  
(2,055 individuals)  
received emergency  
food deliveries



# AMIGOS COVID-19 RESPONSE

## JOB STIMULUS PROGRAM

We implemented  
**34** public benefit  
projects  
that put people  
back to work



Santa Cruz's tourism dependent economy was hit hard when the country closed its borders due to COVID. Many hotels, restaurants, and other businesses in the tourism industry were forced to close or reduce the number of employees. According to a survey conducted by Amigos staff in April 2020, only 13% of the workforce was still employed full time.

Amigos' Job Stimulus Program provided much-needed work opportunities to over 50% of those who lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Such jobs as adding a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the school, designing and completing mural and mosaic projects, improving trails, and closing open sewers near family homes provided immediate and necessary benefits to the local community.



WE CREATED  
**609**  
JOBS

### GREEN JOBS

We designed several of our projects to address pressing environmental needs, such as:

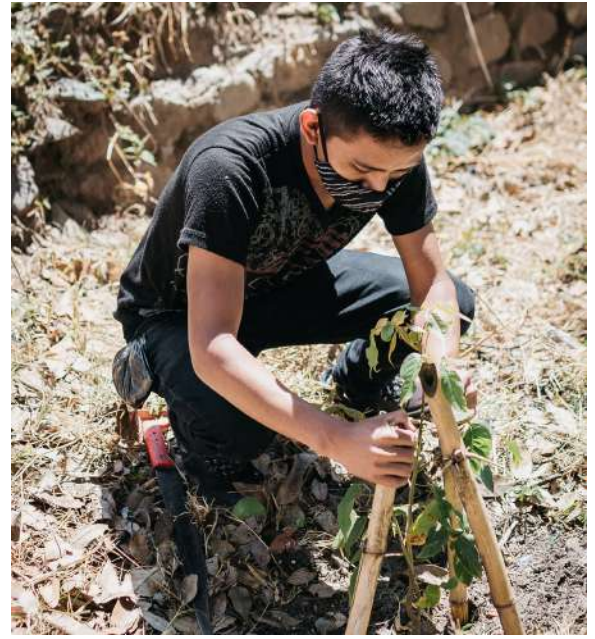
- A reforestation project in which we planted and maintained 3,600 trees.
- A tul planting project, in which we planted a water-based grass-like plant that helps filter harmful pollutants and preserve the lake's ecosystem.

### PUBLIC BENEFIT PROJECTS

- Road and bridge repairs
- Removing trash from waterways
- Planting lake-cleaning "tul"
- Constructing new drainage infrastructure
- Providing handicap-accessible entry to a school
- Paving dirt streets near village homes
- Planting 3,600 trees
- Upgrading a public farm-irrigation system
- Installing school playground safety fencing
- Building new village paths
- Closing open sewers near homes
- Improving hiking trails between villages



## MEET WALTER: COORDINATOR – JOB STIMULUS PROGRAM



At 21 years of age, Walter worked as a receptionist at a local hotel between the villages of Jaibalito and Santa Cruz. The path he took to work was frequently traveled by locals and tourists alike and could be dangerous due to loose rocks, cliff sides, and mud during the rains.

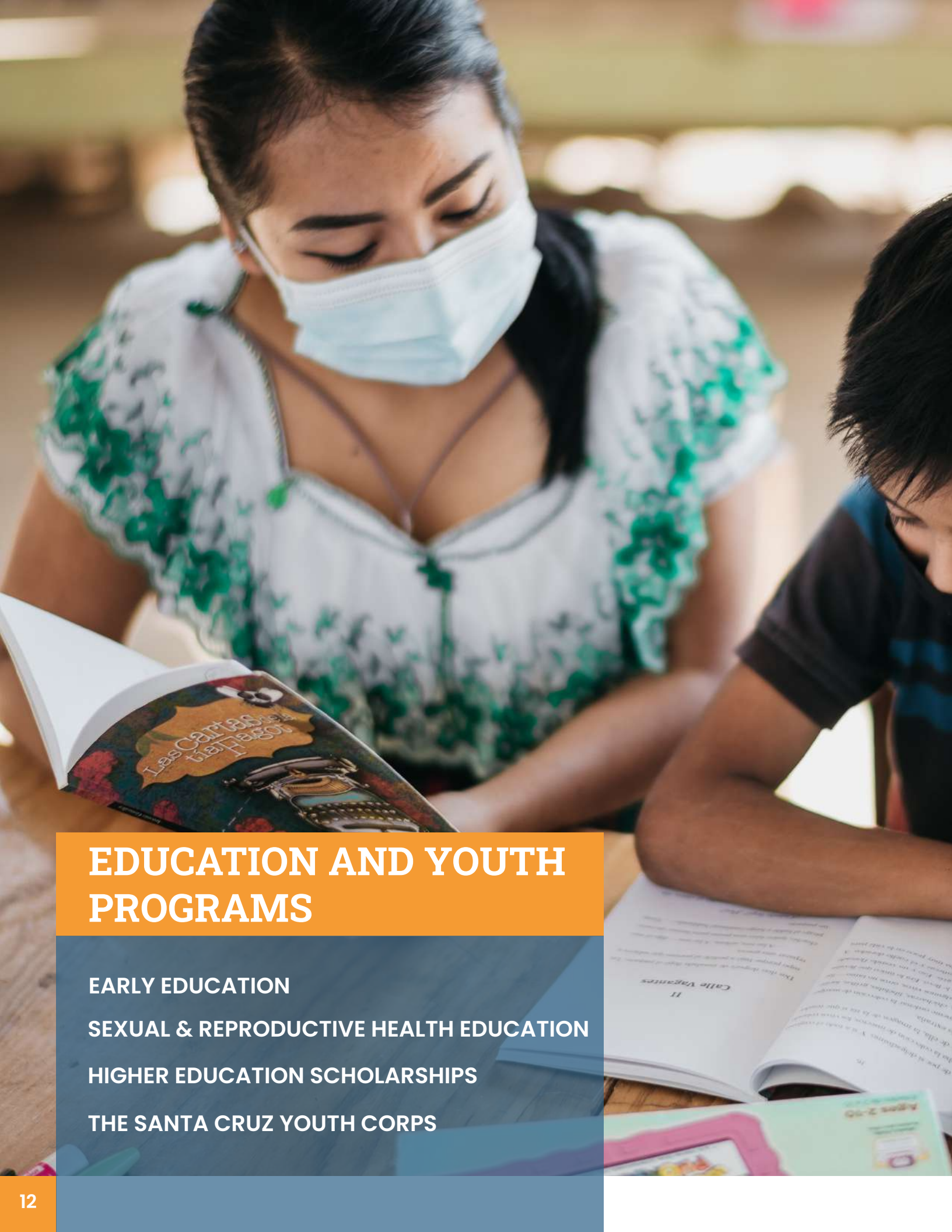
When the borders closed due to COVID in mid-March, tourism — local and international — was indefinitely suspended across Guatemala, and the hotel had to let Walter and many other employees go. When Walter arrived home with the bad news, he found out that his siblings had also lost their jobs. Weeks went by without any hope for change.

“It was really hard on all of us. The country was suddenly in lockdown, and no one knew what to do or what to expect. None of us had a job, and we didn’t know how to support ourselves or our mom.”

“I’m very thankful to Amigos for all the projects they implemented this year. Not only did they provide us with work, but they also improved the lives of many people in Jaibalito.”

Through his active participation in a local Santa Cruz youth group, Nuevo Día, Walter heard about Amigos’ plans to create a Job Stimulus Program to support those who had lost their jobs during the pandemic. He joined the program and was hired to supervise the construction of an improved path on the same road he used to walk every day, thereby providing much needed income to his family and much-needed service to his community.

Now that the country is slowly opening up again and tourists are coming back to the lake, Walter has his old job back, walking to work every day along a safe and accessible path that he helped build!



## EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

EARLY EDUCATION

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

THE SANTA CRUZ YOUTH CORPS





## LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

### ROSALÍA SIMÓN PÉREZ

#### Education & Youth Programs Director

Amigos' Education and Youth Programs made a big difference in Santa Cruz during the COVID-19 shutdown. When the local public schools failed our community last year, with schools shuttered and teachers completely absent, Amigos was the only organization providing educational resources for children. Utilizing Whatsapp groups and individual home visits, our team found creative and resourceful ways to support students.

Our Early Education teachers went door to door and made over 1,900 book deliveries to students through our mobile library. Mothers from the community opened their minds and their doors to the Sexual Reproductive Health Education promoters and participated in one-on-one education sessions. Sixty Amigos' Scholarship students persevered through the difficulties and continued their studies online during the pandemic. These are just some of the things we achieved last year, and I am very proud of my team's work.

With the support of Amigos staff, many parents became more involved in their children's education during this time. Although most are illiterate themselves, over half of parents are now reading with their children at home. I consider this a huge success.

The COVID-19 shutdown provided an opportunity for us to work closer both as a team and with the community, and to be creative with our solutions. We will never forget the lessons we learned in 2020.

# EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS



**94% of students  
read at home  
independently**

## EARLY EDUCATION

### 2020 IMPACT

- When the Santa Cruz public schools closed down due to Covid-19 restrictions, Amigos quickly adapted our classroom-based reading program to be home-based. Regular home visits and engagement through online platforms with Amigos staff became the only academic engagement that most students received during 2020.
- We reached a total of 108 children, from preschool to 5th grade, through book deliveries, home visits, and reading-focused WhatsApp groups.
- 94% of the students participating in the program independently read at home, a 24% increase from last year.
- 50% of parents are now reporting reading at home with their children, compared to only 10% in 2019.
- Amigos implemented a new multi-grade reading program in the community of Jaibalito, with 11 new students between 3-4 years old.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Model Classroom Program seeks to improve the quality of public education for Santa Cruz's youngest learners through providing training to local teachers, support for classroom resources and infrastructure, and delivery of daily nutritional snacks. The program includes a lending library and an afternoon reading program that builds literacy and critical thinking skills while inspiring a love of reading.

We provide support for school supplies and materials to more than 1,700 primary and middle school students to help teachers and students access the resources they need to learn.



# SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) Program encourages youth to make educated decisions about their bodies, their families, and their future dreams. We train public school teachers to ensure a higher quality SRH education in schools, and we provide regular workshops to parents, especially mothers, to promote family planning and encourage them to talk to their children about SRH.

Amigos also trains peer youth leaders in essential sexual and reproductive health topics. Once they complete their training, they are expected to replicate workshops within their own communities among people their own age. We also provide leadership training and experience to all of our youth participants, preparing the next generation of educated, effective leaders in Santa Cruz.



**800 home visits  
with local women  
to promote SRH**

## 2020 IMPACT

- In response to COVID-19, peer youth leaders moved their workshops online, conducting 11 online SRH replica workshops with 55 youth from their communities.
- 800 house visits to mothers of middle school-aged children provided information about the importance of their children's SRH education and support to the mothers themselves in family-planning information, domestic violence, and other issues that arose or increased as a result of the pandemic.
- 75 students, youth and mothers participated in virtual consultations about menstruation, contraceptive methods, anxiety and depression.
- Amigos staff created a three-month long radio series on sexual and reproductive health that was transmitted across Santa Cruz municipality to target youth and families outside the school system.

# EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

## HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS



**70%**  
scholarship students  
are women

### 2020 IMPACT

- Amigos supported 35 students with high school and university scholarships; 70% were women.
- 14 students now have Amigos University Scholarships, a record number in the 18-year history of this program.
- 80% of scholarship students successfully finished the year despite difficulties caused by the pandemic and seven high school students graduated at the end of 2020.
- Despite the challenges with education in 2020, 16 new students applied and were accepted into the 2021 Amigos Scholarship Program, 8 women and 8 men.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Amigos provides high school and university scholarships for students wishing to continue their education beyond 9th grade. We offer competitive scholarships to support students with school-related expenses and require a rigorous commitment to high standards for participation in our program. Scholarship students also give back to their community and learn life skills through participating in our youth leadership conferences and community projects on topics such as the environment, cultural identity, and gender equality.



## EVA'S STORY



Eva was a first-year university student in 2020 and one of our outstanding scholarship recipients. Despite the difficulties imposed by COVID-19 restrictions, she completed her first two semesters studying Social Work at Mariano Galvez University, in the town of Solola.

Originally from the village of Jaibalito, Eva's dream is to become a social worker to help her community. She is passionate about preventing child labor and supporting women who suffer from domestic violence. "These are two issues that I witnessed almost every day growing up. I want to be able to help the next generation."

Eva first received an Amigos scholarship when she was in high school, preparing to become an elementary school teacher. After graduating, she decided she wanted to continue her education and obtain a bachelor's degree.

Eva also started working as a teacher in our Early Education Program in 2020, doing house visits and providing book deliveries for most of the year. In July of

“I live with my mom, who has always supported and encouraged me to continue studying. However, she couldn't afford to pay for my university expenses on her own.”  
-Eva

2020, Eva became the teacher for our first multi-grade reading program in Jaibalito. Her enthusiasm for teaching is noticeable to everyone who visits her classroom, and her students are always excited to see her.

Eva will begin her second year at university in 2021, and she'll continue teaching her 29 students in Jaibalito. Amigos' scholarships support outstanding students like Eva and allow them to follow their dreams.

# EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

## THE SANTA CRUZ YOUTH CORPS



### 2020 IMPACT

- Five out of the seven 2020 Youth Corps interns are now employed in long-term jobs. Two were contracted by their placement organizations and three are now employed at Amigos.
- Seven interns successfully completed a full year of professional experience despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic.
- The interns completed 14 professional-development workshops, covering counseling and professional orientation, entrepreneurship and finance, sexual responsibility, life projects, leadership, teamwork, writing, planning, and self-esteem.
- The interns were an essential asset in Amigos' COVID Emergency Food Delivery program, and our Prevention and Awareness Campaign, going door to door to deliver emergency food and educate families in the seven communities of Santa Cruz.
- Interns also participated in our reforestation program as part of their community-service project, helping to plant 3,600 trees around water springs above the villages.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Many Santa Cruz youth are now graduating high school and are the first generation in their community to do so. Coming from a rural community with few connections, social capital and family support, young people often find it difficult to break into professional jobs and to even know where to start looking.

The Santa Cruz Youth Corps places recent high school graduates in professional internships around the lake for 12 months, combining their internships with community-service projects and professional-development training. Through the year, the interns develop professional skills and on-the-job experience, which helps them get their foot in the door with prospective employers.



## 2017 YOUTH CORPS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Four years after they completed their internships, six members of the 2017 Santa Cruz Youth Corps (50% of the entire group) are employed full-time working for us at Amigos!

**Claudia, Jose, Daniel, Tomasa, Paulina R., and Paulina T.** were all placed in different programs and spent a year working as interns. They are now an essential part of the Amigos team, working as Store Production Assistant, Accounting Assistant, Youth and Sexual Education Program Associate, Women's Empowerment Program Associate, Store Wholesale Representative, and Early Education Teacher, respectively.

Their continued success in Amigos today proves the importance of obtaining on-the-job experience after graduation and the difference that a program like the Youth Corps makes for young graduates. It also demonstrates Amigos' commitment to employing and training young staff, who bring a unique perspective to the

organization while contributing to the development of their community.

“The Youth Corps opened doors for me and helped me develop professionally. It changed my life and the life of my family. Now that I work for the program, I'm able to share my experiences with the young graduates and encourage them to grow and improve.”

—Daniel, Youth & Sex Ed. Associate

Amigos has helped to shape a new generation of leaders over the last 20 years. Many young people in Santa Cruz now have access to higher education, though they often still struggle to find meaningful employment after graduation. The Santa Cruz Youth Corps addresses this issue and helps recent graduates to obtain on-the-job experience through internships.





## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

CECAP VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

MANOS CRUCEÑAS ARTISAN STORE

CAFÉ SABOR CRUCEÑO





## ESTELA SIMAJ

### Economic Empowerment Programs Director

The adversities we faced in 2020 motivated us more than ever to develop and innovate our Economic Empowerment Programs to better support local workers and businesses in this time of critical need. I am very excited to grow and learn as the new Program Director and I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the programs. I believe we can do more to create better job opportunities within our community.

One of our priorities in 2021 is to keep supporting local women entrepreneurs. Currently, we support 14 women-owned businesses, allowing them to earn a living wage for the first time and to see that the work they do is valuable and important. I see that women are more empowered to make their own decisions for themselves and their families.

We are also committed to ensuring that young people have the opportunity to earn a sustainable living wage. We encourage them to start their own business or learn a vocational trade, such as through our new community tour-guide course. They know now that they can have a bright future in Santa Cruz, and they do not need to emigrate to the United States to find work.

This new generation is fearless, and we are breaking traditional gender roles. Together we can build a better future for Santa Cruz.



# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



**3x increase  
in income  
for mushroom  
business entrepreneurs**

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our Women's Empowerment Program supports women in starting their own business. We work with groups of women to develop entrepreneurial skills, build self-esteem and earn an income outside the home for the first time. In addition to business skills, women engage with Amigos staff and each other in regular workshops focused on gender equality, domestic violence and gender roles. The women also start home gardens with their families and attend regular nutrition classes.

### WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

- Organic Worm Farm
- 4x Mushroom-Cultivation Businesses
- 2x Organic Egg Farms
- Shampoo-and-Soap Business
- Kombucha-and-Honey Business
- Handicraft Store
- Tour Operator
- Restaurant
- Bakery
- Traditional Garment Store

### 2020 IMPACT

- Despite the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the women entrepreneurs supported by Amigos were able to sustain and grow their businesses.
- Many women in our program became the sole income earners in their households. The importance of their work and respect from their husbands increased, and their voice in the home grew stronger.
- Sales of mushroom and soap businesses grew in 2020 as the COVID-19 shutdown increased demand for local products.
- We supported a group of 15 women entrepreneurs to establish a new Organic Egg Farm Business in Jaibalito.





## MEET ROSITA: A WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR



“

My ex-husband did not allow me to participate in activities outside of the home. Being a part of this business now has made me feel more free and happy, and the income helps me to support my children.”

—Rosita

Rosalía “Rosita” Solis is part of a five-woman cooperative that runs an oyster mushroom business in Santa Cruz. Over the last year, Rosita became the star sales agent of the team and managed to maintain high sales even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When Rosita separated from her husband two years ago, she realized she needed to find a way to support her family independently. The mushroom business provided her with a stable income, which helped her to become financially independent and control her life. Rosita is grateful for the opportunity

to support her five children now that she is a single mother.

Rosita especially likes the opportunity to interact and collaborate with other women, which she did not have before. She also appreciates Amigos’ workshops, where she has learned techniques to improve mushroom production and business management skills.

Hers is one of four mushroom businesses that Amigos supports, benefiting 20 women to earn a living as mushroom demand remains very high.



# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

## CECAP VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER



### 2020 IMPACT

- 54 Santa Cruz and Jaibalito middle school and culinary students finished their online computer class in November, all achieving grades of at least 85%.
- While most CECAP classes were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic, CECAP staff dedicated their time to implementing the COVID-19 Job Stimulus Program as an emergency response measure to the dramatic job losses caused by the pandemic.
- Through the Job Stimulus Program, we constructed and improved many local hiking trails that will help the local community to attract more tourism jobs when travel resumes.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The CECAP Vocational Training Center trains more than 300 local men, women and youth each year in various trades such as culinary arts, carpentry, sewing, and welding. Students develop the skills needed to obtain living wage jobs in Santa Cruz. CECAP provides all its training programs in exchange for accessible course fees and offers scholarships for students in financial hardship.

### CECAP COURSES

- Weaving
- Community Tour Guide
- Sewing
- Solar Installation and Repair
- Culinary Arts
- Carpentry
- Crochet
- Beading
- Cosmetology
- Electrical
- Welding
- Basic Excel



# SOCIAL IMPACT BUSINESSES

## CAFE SABOR CRUCEÑO



### ABOUT THE CAFE

Café Sabor Cruceño is a social impact business run by graduates of the CECAP Culinary Program. The Café provides practical training for current students and supports local economic development by attracting tourism to Santa Cruz village. Café income is invested back into the Culinary Program to train future graduates.

### 2020 IMPACT

- Café Sabor moved to a home-delivery only service during the COVID shutdown, providing food deliveries to many people suddenly experiencing few local food-purchasing options.
- Cafe staff not doing home deliveries worked with our COVID-19 Response Programs to ensure that all staff stayed employed despite the drop in Café business during the COVID shutdown. Café Sabor officially reopened in November, with a reactivation plan, implementing strict hygiene and COVID-19 prevention measures. Sales rebounded steadily and, as of May 2021, are 69% of pre-COVID-19 levels.

## MANOS CRUCEÑAS ARTISAN STORE



### ABOUT THE STORE

Manos Cruceñas Artisan Store provides living-wage work for local women practicing traditional artisan techniques. The 65 artisans sew, weave, bead and crochet beautiful artisan products while receiving a fair living wage for their work and have the flexibility to work from home when they need it. The women also receive non-economic support, such as nutrition, health, and empowerment workshops. In addition to the Manos Cruceñas Retail Store in CECAP, our products are purchased by wholesale customers around the world and through our U.S. online store

### 2020 IMPACT

- CECAP-trained artisans sewed 15,745 facemasks that were then donated to local families and community groups. The work ensured an ongoing income for artisans during the COVID shutdown despite the retail store's closure.
- Manos Cruceñas U.S. online store increased in sales by 224% compared to 2019.
- While our retail store was closed, we used the time to reimagine Manos Cruceña's offerings. Staff developed new products and designs focused on locally-made materials to increase product quality and income for Santa Cruz artisans. New designs will be released in 2021.

# OUR STAFF

We are proud to be an organization led by local indigenous staff. Currently, 33 out of the 35 full-time employees are from Santa Cruz and surrounding communities, and our two Program Directors are Kaq'chikel women.

The young men and women who now make up our team were among the first recipients of school aid when Amigos began working 22 years ago. Today, they are leaders of the organization and their community. We are helping to build the first wave of young professionals in Santa Cruz, men and women who are and will become critical leaders of community change.

“ **Professional development opportunities were limited for people in Santa Cruz. Now, thanks to Amigos, they can work in their hometown, receive a fair wage, and support the development of their own community.** ”  
– Rosalía & Estela





# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*The Amigos Board of Directors consists of eleven committed members, all of whom are full or part-time residents of Santa Cruz La Laguna*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

Extraordinary times calls for extraordinary measures and it is quite clear to see from this report that Amigos has coped amazingly well. The local government had only come into office 2 months before the first COVID-19 shutdowns and had not found their stride by the time lockdown occurred. Amigos was vital in helping them to think responsibly about how best to address this pandemic. I am proud to say that the standing of the institution of Amigos, not only within the community but at a governmental level, is incredibly high and we are looked to for advice and leadership on many levels.

Many members of our board have been in Santa Cruz during the pandemic and I believe that this local knowledge gives the organization a unique advantage. We know the local situation and can offer advice and guidance as well as having the ability to react at the drop of hat. All that being said we could not do any of these programs without the support of all of you. We are so grateful for all the funds raised and thank you for your continued support.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deedle Ratcliffe, President  
Nancy Bingham, Vice President  
Lee Beal, Treasurer  
Erynne Dowe, Secretary  
John Berry  
Debra Blake  
Santos Canel  
Cynthia Davis  
Rory Delaney  
Nancy Ochsenschlager  
Riley Sise

## Honoring our donors

Carson Foundation	John Brown Family Foundation
SG Foundation	Miracles In Action
The Summit Foundation	Maya Educational Foundation
Amigos de Jaibalito	Chances for Children International
SST Foundation	Friends of Amigos
Grousemont Foundation	Rotary Club of Palo Alto
Beyond Our Borders	

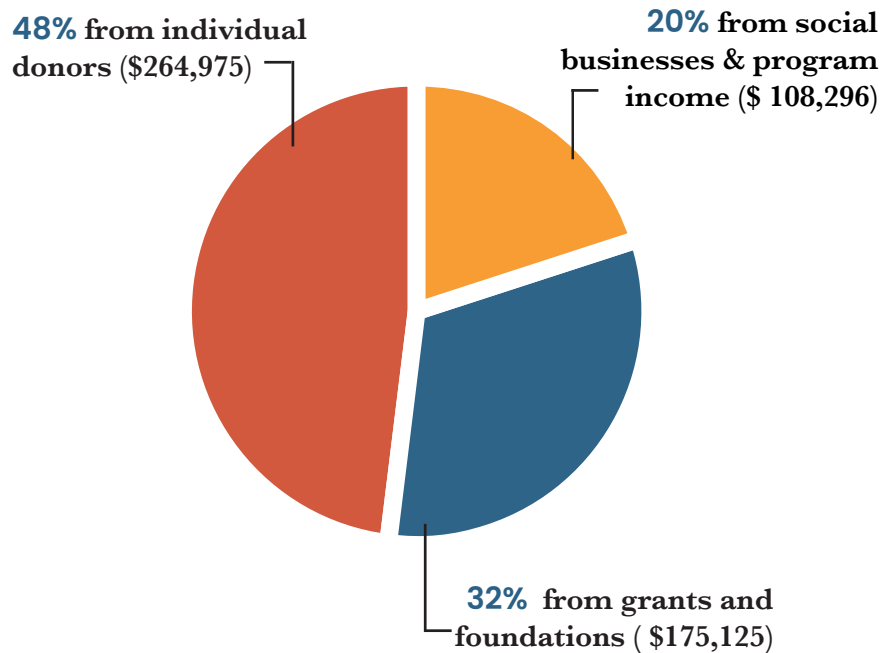
*and our many wonderful friends...*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT!**

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

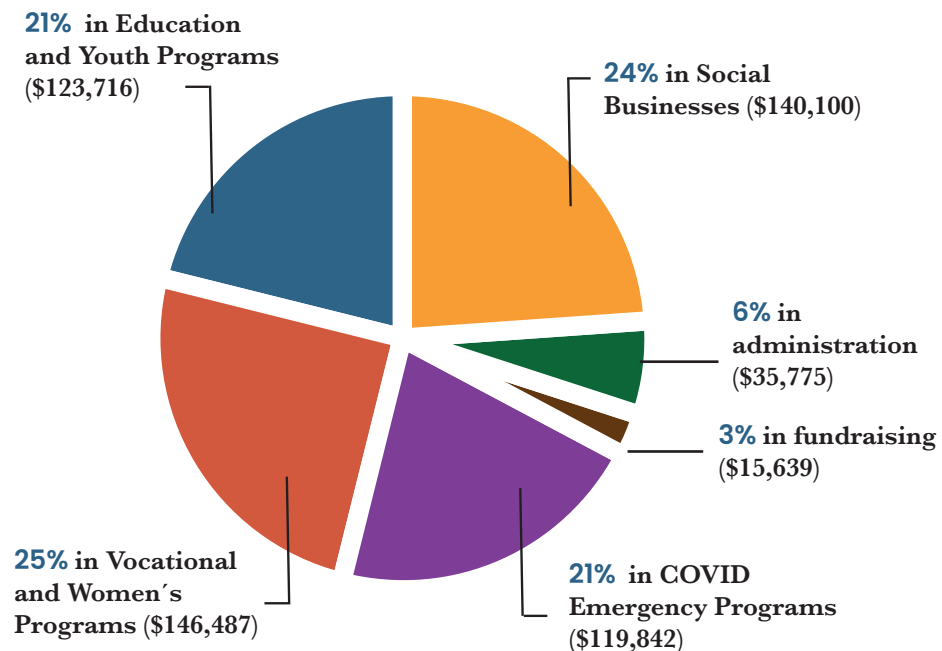
## REVENUE

For the fiscal year ending  
December 31, 2020 (\$548, 396)



## EXPENSES

For the fiscal year ending  
December 31, 2020 (\$581,559)\*



\*Additional 2020 expenses invested in emergency COVID-19 response programs.



# NEW PROJECTS IN 2021



## EXPANDING OUR READING PROGRAM

Our Reading Program keeps growing due to popular demand! At the end of 2020, we opened a new multi-grade class in the community of Jaibalito, and we hired a new teacher.

Eva, an Amigos teacher and scholarship student, was transferred from the Santa Cruz village to her home village, Jaibalito. Teaching in her own community gives her a unique perspective and allows her to bond more closely with the students and their families.

As most local schools will remain closed during much of 2021, our Reading Program provides the only locally organized opportunity for learning and academic engagement.



## NEW CECAP TOUR GUIDE COURSE

We are excited to announce our new Community Tour Guide Course. This is the first course of its kind to be held in Santa Cruz and marks a new chapter in Santa Cruz community tourism, as most tour guides currently working in Santa Cruz come from other regions. This new training program will open up job opportunities for Santa Cruz locals while promoting sustainable tourism.

Nine new students will participate in a seven-month program and obtain an official Community Tour Guide certificate, which will allow them to work in Santa Cruz.

Once they graduate, Amigos will help these budding tour guides find work as local tour guides or start their own community tour business!

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Many schools in Santa Cruz have fully equipped computer labs, though many teachers do not know how to use the software and are not prepared to teach students. In 2021, Amigos is implementing a new initiative to help local schools make better use of the computers that they now have on site. Our computer instructor will visit public schools and train teachers on basic software and computer-skills knowledge. He is also providing technical support and ensuring that the school's software is up to date.

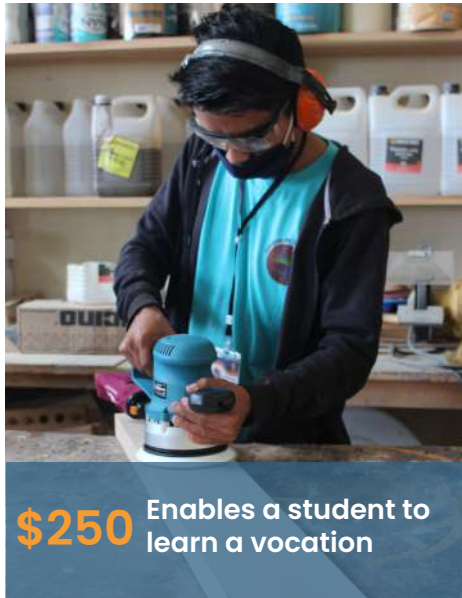


# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## DONATE



**\$100** Buys a set of books for the Reading Program



**\$250** Enables a student to learn a vocation



**\$500** Provides a scholarship to a student for one year

### SEND A CHECK

Amigos de Santa Cruz Foundation  
2226 Eastlake Ave. E., #319  
Seattle, WA 98102

### DONATE ONLINE

[www.amigosdesantacruz.org/donate](http://www.amigosdesantacruz.org/donate)

## BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Becoming a monthly donor is the simplest and most effective way to support our Programs.

**\$20** a month provides vocational training for a student in need.

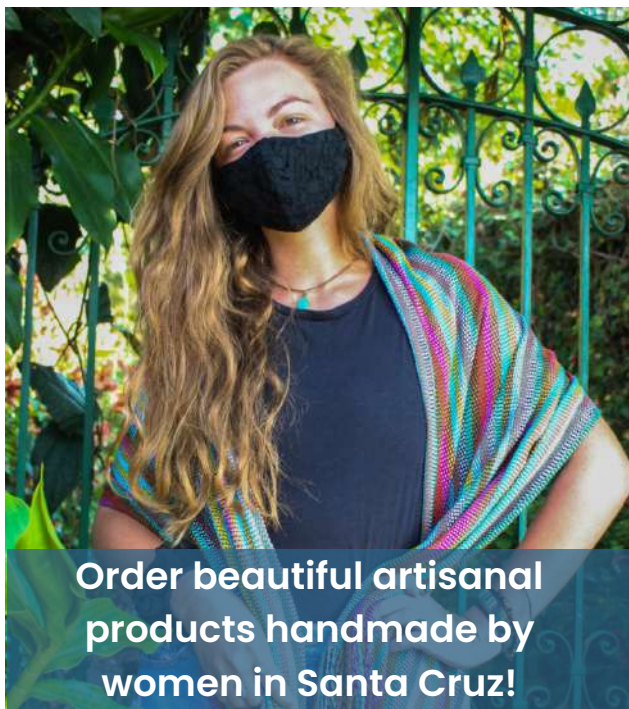
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# SHOP OUR U.S. ONLINE STORE



Order beautiful artisanal products handmade by women in Santa Cruz!

handmade products



[www.amigosdesantacruz.org/store](http://www.amigosdesantacruz.org/store)



[ManosCruceñasArtisanStore](#)



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## VISIT US

### MANOS CRUCEÑAS RETAIL STORE

We offer beautiful handmade products made by artisans trained at the CECAP Vocational Training Center.

### CAFÉ SABOR CRUCEÑO

A unique restaurant experience with breathtaking views of Lake Atitlán, food served by CECAP culinary graduates and all proceeds supporting the Santa Cruz community.

### TAKE A CLASS

Take an artisan class in Santa Cruz and get a hands-on experience of Guatemalan culture:

- Guatemalan Cooking Classes
- Artisan Weaving Classes
- Artisan Beading Classes



We cater to groups large and small. Make a reservation: [reservations@amigosdesantacruz.org](mailto:reservations@amigosdesantacruz.org)

café  
sabor cruceño



Santa Cruz La Laguna  
CECAP Centro de Capacitacion



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