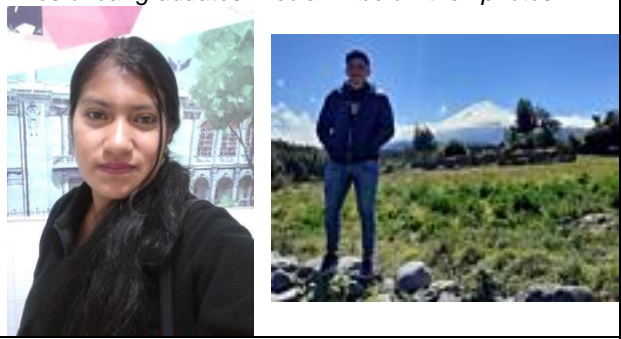


A slight delay: Paulino coordinated with the teachers to have your annual notes written, but there are some new Ecuadorian postal regulations, and he is struggling to get the package mailed. Meanwhile, have enclosed the photos which he was able to send me electronically.

Centro Educativo La Minga would like to proudly announce four new university graduates as of 2023. I would like to 'wax poetic' about the integrity, character, and strength of purpose of all of these individuals. They really are the cr me de la cr me! If you saw pictures of the humble beginnings of all these kids, living in a chosa (dirt floor hut with thatched roof) and, if lucky, one bare light bulb to illuminate the hut, then you'd be as impressed as I. Their daily chores would consist of feeding the animals which probably would involve moving them to the designated field prior to going to school. They would then help to plant and/or harvest crops in the afternoon, and also carry buckets to collect water from the closest source which might be uphill or downhill of their chosa. But, as you will soon detect, the strength, support and love of their families gives them unstoppable resolve.

- OTHER Good News since last year's update:
- Internet has been functioning since Oct '22
 - Second year of our Librarian Marcy who is doing a great job. She is essential in 'filling in the holes'
 - In our library, we have 12 functioning computers (thanks to New Almaden Middle School, San Jose, CA)
 - Working printer (would be trivial in the USA, but not so in Ecuador!)
 - New President Noboa elected (takes office 11/25/23); we have our fingers crossed; he couldn't be worse than the previous one – I hope!!!!
 - Paulino and other Malinguans built the **RETAINING WALL** necessary to save our Edificio Grande. (Worthy of a whole paragraph if cost and energy dictated space on the printed page. Photos at end of newsletter.)

Bios of our graduates in column below their photos:



Kerly Jhomayra Toaquiza Sigcha decided to get a degree in Accounting and Auditing at Universidad Tecnica de Cotopaxi which involved leaving her family and living in the 'big city' of Latacunga, the provincial capital of our province of Cotopaxi. The rigors of attending a university, especially in the department of accounting were challenging, but Kerly was able to surmount them with grace! One of the requirements for university graduation in Ecuador is to either write a thesis, scientific article, and/or pass an exam. Her project was to compare the profitability of three different cooperativas. You can read her final project by going to the Spanish version of this website.

Ana Yolanda Lara Andino graduated from our 'Colegio a Distancia' high school (it only operates two days a week!) in **2017**. So you know, each year that our colegio has been in operation we have been able to get better teachers, plus the depth of education is deeper. Anita began her post-high school education by becoming a nursing assistant. She got this certification in 2019 while pregnant her daughter. Anita is a single mother who wants to properly support & be a shining example for her child. She graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education from Universidad Tecnica de Cotopaxi. The scientific article that she wrote as part of her graduation requirements was published in Mexico! If you'd like to view this article, visit the Spanish version of our webpage.

Dennis Omar Huishca Toaquiza graduated from Universidad Tecnica de Cotopaxi (UTC) with a major in Journalism. (I think I should have given a bullet-proof vest for his graduation present.) He is a young man of incredible integrity! His thesis was on the role of agriculture in the lives of the indigenas. You

Maria Clara Ante Toaquiza graduated from our 'Colegio a Distancia' high school in 2010. A few years later, while pregnant, Clarita began to attend university. But for various reasons, she had to put her education on hold. She resumed attendance at Universidad Politecnica Salesiana (UPS) in

can find a link to it on the Spanish version our website.

Photos of Retaining Wall Project:




2018 with a major as a teacher in Basic Education. Note: UPS is an online university which the Ecuadorian Department of Education established primarily to help the indigenous get an education. As we have learned from the COVID pandemic, online learning is very difficult! If you add in the difficulties of unreliable electricity as well as internet service at 10,000 feet in the Andes– not to mention the expense- plus trying to learn from the small screen of a cell phone, Clarita’s accomplishment (at age 32) is both laudable and amazing! Clarita took the proactive step of buying a computer which she had to do in installments with high interest. I simply cannot praise our darling Clarita enough! **AMAZING NEWS:** Clarita was hired by the Ecuadorian Dept of Education and is a 2023-24 TEACHER at our Colegio!





Paulino was the lead on the **Retaining Wall Project**. He and Johncito Uno (our hero Engineer Without Borders) and Johncito Dos (Aloterra Restoration) discussed the design. Paulino was able to get some big machinery from the parrochial to help. CELM paid for the workers – all of whom are from the community. So the good news is that this project was a win-win: we saved the school building from the torrential rains/erosion and our workers earned a living wage for their efforts.

Don't ever forget:  **You are SO Fine!**

Abracitos,
Pamelita 

In case you inadvertently missed making a donation, here are the ways:

Reminder: There are **several ways** to donate:

- * **check** written to Centro Educativo La Minga, Inc. & use the enclosed stamped envelope **OR**
- * use  @Pamelita-Gilbert (if they ask for the last 4 of the phone number, use: 8638) **OR**
- * **click**  (using Paypal which takes ~3%) from our website: www.escuelaminga.org