

# COTAH NEWS

Saminay-El Legado supported by the Asahel Thankful Putnam Education Fund

## Fences

The old saying goes that fences make good neighbors. It seems to be true in Ecuador as well. Farms that surround the school appear to be encroaching onto school property. In January Aptive Environmental helped with extensive fencing around the 77 acre school property. Aptive provided fencing materials and a crew of strong volunteers to set fence posts, stretch wire and secure it to the posts. Thank you Aptive!



## The Aptive Way



## Christmas Animal Fundraiser



The animal fund raising event this past Christmas has helped to provide new animals for the school farm. With generous donations we purchased three new heifers, four goats, two new horses, a few pigs a new beehive, chickens, rabbits, and hens.

All of the new heifers were ready to have calves. One of these was born two weeks ago. It was a little female which will add to our herd. The herd is growing fast! We are supplying the school with fresh milk every day. Thank you to all the generous donors who helped with this effort.



While most people were enjoying New Year's Eve at home, a group of 35 Aptive volunteers, guided by Eagle Condor, were constructing, "The Aptive Way", a cobblestone, romanesque road for the school. Aptive financed the entire road and then Aptive volunteers, Saminay students and parents donned gloves and boots and made it happen! Even the most strenuous work is fun with an energetic group. Three and a half days later when the Aptive group left, a significant amount of the road was paved. What a great difference the road will make for the school! No more washed out roads from heavy rains and no more long uphill walks through gooey mud. (see link below) Thank you Aptive for a great effort and a terrific experience for all!!

<https://vimeo.com/264811309>



## New Milking Parlor

The new milking parlor for the farm is finished and operating. The building was financed by a grant from the Prefecture of Imbabura. There are six stalls and a milking machine. The milking machine was donated by the Junta Parroquial, another government division. A solar water heater provides the hot water for cleanup. Prior to the completion of the milking parlor the cows were milked by hand





## The Future



Sebastian Castañeda won a full scholarship to the San Francisco University in Quito! He took preparatory classes at UNACEM. UNACEM is a large cement company in our area that offered Saturday classes to any interested graduating seniors. These classes prepare the students for the University entrance exams. Sebastian's exam scores qualified him for the mechanical engineering program. Sebastian comes from Tangalí, a remote village, 10 kilometers from the school.. Two of his siblings also graduated from Saminay. His oldest sister, Belén was with the school's first graduating class. She will finish her university program this year. She's going to be a preschool teacher. Sebastian's teachers describe him as a hardworking and responsible student who works diligently to achieve his goals. This dedication has helped him earn some of the best grades and test scores in the school. Congratulations Sebastian!

in the fields. As the herd increases the parlor will provide efficient, sanitary milk collection. The new road connects the parlor to the school for direct and efficient delivery.

## Computers



Saminay-El Legado students are thrilled with the 15 new laptop computers donated by Aptive. These computers replace the outdated and frequently broken computers they have been using at the school. These computers will give them the tools they need for a competitive education. Our students live in small isolated mountain communities. There are hardly any navigable roads and almost no electricity. Electricity, where available, is unreliable. The internet, provide by the School, is a significant source of information. Computers enable our students to explore a world far beyond their small rural communities. A million thanks to Aptive for their generous donation!





## Honey Honey Honey

We are harvesting honey from our five beehives for use in the kitchen. The students are also bottling and labeling the honey to sell. It is good quality with distinct characteristics. We are also collecting pollen for resale with our new pollen trap. Pollen is used for homeopathic medicines, specialty foods, garnishes and dietary supplements.



## Volunteers

Join our team! We need enthusiastic people who want to make a difference in the lives of Ecuadorian indigenous youth! Do you have computer skills, accounting experience, Spanish, or business experience? Can you plan a party? Post on Facebook? Send emails? Inspire others? Would you like to help? Contact us at:

<mailto:childrenoftheandeshumanitarian@gmail.com>

## Goats and More Goats

Our Saanen goat herd, made possible through the generous donations and volunteer labor of Jim Gramoll, Gramoll Construction and World Challenge, continues to grow with the addition of two new arrivals. Saanen goats are known for their milk production and the fat and protein content of the milk. The Saanen breed originated in the historic region Saanenland of western



Switzerland. We are so excited to have this particular breed of goat at our School. The school is currently using the milk to supplement the diet of the students. The milk will eventually be used to process high quality goat cheese and possibly soap. Both options are being explored as the school moves closer to self reliance.

## Healthy Golden Berries



We had a bumper crop of golden uvilla berries. They have impressive health benefits including their ability to help with weight loss, detoxify the body, manage diabetes, strengthen the immune system, optimize kidney function, and reduce inflammation. Wow! Sounds like a miracle fruit. We made marmalade with the excess. Wonder if there's a market for that?

**Special Thanks to the Asahel Thankful Putnam Educational Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for continued support of the Ecuadorian youth of Imbabura.**