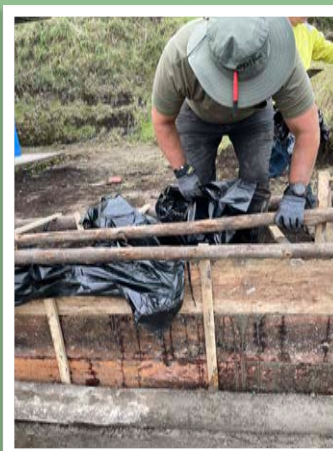


COTAH NEWS

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



Aptive Volunteers Transform Three Village Schools

Imagine having a makeover at your local school with 80 plus Aptive, community, and student volunteers. That's exactly what happened the first week in November when a plane load of Aptive volunteers landed in Ecuador ready to put heart and soul into refurbishing three community schools.

The three schools selected to participate in the renewal were located in Imbabura, a northern province of Ecuador. All three schools are feeder schools to Saminay and send students to Saminay when they complete seventh grade.

At the time of the project the three schools were looking noticeably neglected. Because of COVID, they had been vacant for 18 months.

Eagle Condor, a Utah-based NGO worked closely with Aptive Environmental on the undertaking. They made a thorough evaluation of needs and put together a cost estimate for each school. Each school needed fresh paint, and some required new roof panels, plumbing repairs, new fixtures, playground equipment refurbished and broken windows replaced. All of the buildings received new concrete work in the form of retaining walls and play areas.

Once Aptive approved the budgets, a representative from Eagle Condor purchased materials and had them ready for the volunteers at each site. One miracle of the project was the time frame. Aptive volunteers had only three days to complete the immense project, one day at each school. Volunteers arrived early each morning at the site, mentally ready for the challenge. They studied a task chart prepared by Eagle Condor, and immediately went to work. They cooperated enthusiastically among themselves and harmoniously engaged with the local participants. The atmosphere was one of an energized/ buzzing work camp. They stopped for lunch in the middle of each day and then quickly got back to their various jobs. At the end of each day there were always uncompleted projects. These were left for the locals to complete under the direction and support of Saminay.

At the end of the whole project the volunteers were exhausted, but knew they had made a significant contribution. The schools were all spruced up. There was a great satisfaction in being part of a project that made such a difference.

COVID VACCINATIONS ALLOW SAMINAY TO REOPEN

COVID has caused students and teachers to make difficult adjustments everywhere. Saminay is no exception. For about 17 months there was no school at all. In 2021, as vaccinations appeared in Ecuador, it was hoped that schools could reopen. In October, that became a reality for our students, as they too received their shots.

Despite the vaccinations, Saminay is still making COVID accommodations. Our student body is divided into two groups, the younger students and the older students. Each group meets for one week of instruction at school and the following week they work on projects in their communities. This reduces the number of students gathered at any one time. At school they always wear masks. With these accommodations in place Saminay has at last reopened.



Guess What Aptive Built for Saminay?

active



Anyone who has visited the Aptive Environmental office in Provo, has seen the wonderful basketball court they have for employees and community coaching. Aptive is also a big supporter of some basketball initiatives. I guess its the make-up of their organization, but they are HUGE basketball aficionados. So it shouldn't be too surprising that one of the things Aptive kept wanting to add to the Saminay campus was a sports court. This year that dream was realized. It was built. And it is wonderful.

The court was constructed by Marco León, a local contractor with a lot of building experience. It was completed the first week in November when the Aptive volunteers were in Ecuador. In fact, the afternoon of the big celebration, the Pamba Mesa, some little kids from the community snuck down and were playing on it. It was like a magnet. Saminay looks forward to years of enjoying the sports court. Thank you APTIVE!



Please Help Students with University Costs

Four of the Saminay graduates hope to attend a University this January. They have been taking classes on the weekends in Otavalo since last January to help them prepare for their entrance exams. Some Universities offer full scholarships to our students because of their ethnicity. The nearby cement plant will help each student with books and supplies. Even with this help, our students still have no money for food, transportation, and lodging.



Pamela is a recent graduate who wants to study computer science

Please consider making a donation to help students meet their dream of a college education! Contact us at childrenoftheandeshumanitarian.com



New Cafeteria Open for Business

In 2020 Aptive Environmental announced plans to build a new cafeteria, water cistern and bathrooms at Saminay! HUGE projects!! The problem with the old cafeteria was its location. It was at the top of a large hill and the classrooms were at the bottom. It was a strenuous uphill walk to reach the cafeteria. The most practical and long term solution was to move the cafeteria downhill next to the classrooms. But it was the most expensive solution. If we moved the cafeteria downhill we would no longer have bathrooms for the students and visitors and new bathrooms would be needed. And if all the educational facilities were at the bottom of the hill we



would need another cistern to supply the necessary water. Aptive Environmental generously agreed to fund the project.

These beautiful new buildings provide Saminay with a fully functioning and accessible campus. Everything is centrally located. In addition to the lovely buildings, school employees mention another advantage, the new buildings down off the hill are so much warmer. Thank you APTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL !!



New Board Member



GENEVIEVE BROWN has two decades of experience working with nonprofits, including municipalities, schools, NGOs and communities around the world. She graduated with her Masters in Public Administration from Brigham Young University and enjoys traveling, hiking and photography. Welcome Genevieve!

Saminay Has Some Little Lambs 🎵🎵

In November, 9 little sheep from Cayambe, Ecuador arrived at the school. The sheep are the final part of a grant from the Prefectura of Imbabura to introduce a



meat-producing project to the school and community.

Mutton is a popular meat in the restaurants of Imbabura. A current lack of producers makes the meat a very marketable commodity.

Sheep are adaptable to the steep mountainous slopes of the Andes. They do not require specific grasses, but thrive on available forage. They do not need as much land as cows.

Acquiring wool is another benefit of the project. The indigenous people are world-famous for their beautiful wool textiles.

18 Students Graduate Despite COVID Challenges

On July 23, 18 Students celebrated their graduation from Saminay. Despite all the disruptions caused by COVID these students were still able to earn the needed credits to graduate. Just before graduation they had a two-week internship at the school farm to gain the experience they needed for their agricultural certification.

Six of the graduates would like to continue their studies. Ten students would like to have additional vocational training to prepare themselves to make a living and help their families. Two of the students would like to be involved in an entrepreneurial experience. Good luck to the new graduates!



Special thanks to David and Elaine Putnam. Their financial support, through the Asahel and Thankful Putnam Education Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, has provided the means to operate the school in Ecuador.



If you would like to contribute, contact us at: childrenoftheandeshumanitarian@gmail.com or write to:

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