



The Barrio Planta Project & the
Escamequita Community *presents...*

The Escamequita Project

Help a Child Grow

Our Vision

We envision a world where local communities are able to leverage the growth of the tourism industry into economic and educational opportunities for their children, youth, and families.

Our Mission

We empower the children and youth of Escamequita and surrounding areas through free educational programming that instills creativity, enhances confidence, and facilitates international communication.

The Barrio Planta Project (BPP), founded in 2009 has established a successful model creating a mutually beneficial exchange between the local and ex-pat communities in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. As tourism continues to grow in San Juan, more opportunities emerge for the local community as programs are established which fulfill a variety of needs for marginalized populations such as medical care, healthy recreation and education access. However, in the area of Escamequita, the rural zone south of town, very few of these opportunities exist. Many students lack access to basic education, especially secondary school and begin work in agriculture to help support their families at a very young age. With the support of Costa Dulce and other generous donors, BPP will expand its impact, implementing its educational model in the rural areas and incorporating an agricultural education component.

In the area south of San Juan del Sur, ranging from Escamequita to El Ostional, there is a population of over three thousand people, almost fifty percent of which are children. Most of these children will not attend high school and even less will

attend university. As tourism continues to grow in the and development continues, more opportunities arise in the immediate region in addition to those in nearby San Juan del Sur.

BPP will implement educational programming including English as a Second Language (ESL), entrepreneurship and agriculture education as a means to enhance the existing resources available to the children in the area. These courses are designed to strengthen critical thinking and spark creativity while building confidence in order for them to communicate effectively. The knowledge learned from this programming integrates the children into the rising tourism industry in a positive and healthy way which in turn creates a better environment for locals and foreigners alike.

Structure

In San Juan del Sur, BPP is a supplementary educational program designed around the school system where basic public schooling is available to all children in the area. However in Escamequita and surrounding areas, not everyone has access to basic schooling. While the Escamequita Project will start with English classes that will take place in the local public school building in the afternoons, it will evolve into a full program that incorporates agriculture education and is eventually registered with the Ministry of Education to offer high school equivalent programming so students will have the opportunity to attend university.

In addition to educational programming, Costa Dulce has purchased centrally located land for the initiative. BPP & Costa Dulce plan to utilize BPP's nonprofit and volunteer networks, as well as community participation, to launch construction of a community center, complete with a school building, garden and basketball court. This will provide a place for children and adults to engage in positive recreational activity and hopefully inspire the launch of other nonprofit initiatives in the area.

The academic schedule for year one will be modeled after that of BPP's, so learning objectives and curriculum goals, as well as teacher recruitment and orientation methods, can be initially aligned with BPP's main base and eventually be modified to fit the unique needs of the rural region. Additionally, BPP will implement its Cultural Exchange Program for volunteers visiting the town- which charges volunteers to participate- to help build financial sustainability for the initiative.

Timeline 2017

- **January 2017:** Secure space, recruiting process for local project coordinator and volunteer teacher, student sign-ups and house visits to announce the initiative.
- **February 13th- 17th:** Teacher & Director Orientation and Training
- **February 20th:** First Day of Classes
- **June 16th:** End of First Semester, Report Card Distribution
- **July 2017:** Phase One of Construction Plan
- **July 17th:** Second Semester Starts
- **November 17th:** Last Day of Classes w ceremony, certificates and report cards.
- **December 2017-** Evaluate year one, implementation of community and Parent Feedback Surveys

Budget

Including the quantification of in-kind donations, BPP's main base operates with an annual budget of \$200k to reach over two hundred children directly per year. Utilizing BPP's infrastructure, including development, administration, legal and accounting systems as well as primary networks, BPP can double its impact and officially launch the Escamequita Project for less than 15% of that core budget. BPP is currently seeking sponsors specific to the Escamequita region to cover the **\$25,000** required to fund the first year of programming. All of the funds raised will be designated exclusively to program operations, covering essential needs such as academic materials, teacher stipends, student supervision, parent communication, drinking water and other projected monthly expenses essential to administering a year-round academic program, which will have a measurable and sustainable long-term impact in the community. This project will improve the lives and futures of over a thousand children in the region. We hope you will consider sponsoring this important initiative and thank you in advance for dedicating your time and energy to Help a Child Grow.



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