

# Bacaanda Foundation

# We are back!



## Dear Bacaanda Supporters:

We're sorry it's been so long since our last newsletter. We have lots of great news to share with you!

Most of our efforts during the second half of last year were focused on disaster relief in the wake of Agatha, one of the most destructive hurricanes in Oaxaca's history. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane we launched a massive food campaign, distributing over 750 parcels to the families in over 60 communities. We then led the reconstruction of the Pochutla training center that prepares over 300 teachers for the upcoming academic year.

This year we celebrated a return to normalcy with our first live Dream Festival in three years. It was an amazing event and we were so happy to reconnect with our friends and volunteers!

Our main focus for the year is the Intelligent Schools Project. We are close to our goal of introducing technology in 60 schools, benefitting over 1,000 kids.

Read on for more details!

# CONAFE Pochutla Training Center



# Reconstruction of four classrooms and bathrooms at the Pochutla teacher training center

In early January we inaugurated the renovated teacher training center at Conafe Pochutla that had been wiped out by Hurricane Agatha. The project included the reconstruction of four classrooms, a new bathroom building with septic system and the addition of satellite internet with a new Starlink antenna. This was one of our largest projects ever, and one we had to complete as quickly as possible so that over 300 teachers could be trained ahead of the academic year..

Thanks to the generous donations from our supporters, the tireless efforts of our volunteers, and the hard work of our teachers and foundation staff, we were able to complete the project on time and within budget. The new facilities are now fully operational and will provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for the students and teachers at the center.

We are proud to have been a part of this important project and would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success. Your support has made a real difference in the lives of the students and teachers at the CONAFE Pochutla training center, and we are truly grateful.

## The Dream Festival



#### January 28th

#### A great success

After a two-year Covid hiatus, the Dream Festival returned to Huatulco with resounding success. Over 700 people came together to enjoy a day filled with music, drinks, food, games, art, crafts, and shows. The festival was a true celebration of community spirit, as everyone worked together to create a fun and memorable experience for all. The success of the festival is a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared goal and a willingness to help others.

## **Donation Announcements**



## February 28th

#### A New Partner

We are incredibly grateful to The Home Depot for their generous donation to our Intelligent Rural Schools project. This grant covers all the costs of equipping the Barrio Nuevo Cimarrón school with internet service, iPads, and other technology equipment. This contribution will make a tremendous impact on the education and opportunities available to the students in the community, and we are thrilled to have such a dedicated partner in Home Depot.







## Visit from the San Jose Palo Grande Kids!

Today was a day filled with joy and excitement as we welcomed the kids from the rural community of Palo Grande to Casa Bacaanda for a day of educational, artistic, and academic activities. We had an amazing time sharing our knowledge and learning from these bright young minds. Seeing their smiling faces as they explored new experiences was truly heartwarming. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible. We can't wait to do it again soon!

## Sister Schools



February 28th

We are excited to update you on the progress of our program and the amazing connections that have been formed between CONAFE students and students from different corners of the world. Our goal of fostering global friendships and promoting cultural understanding has been successfully achieved through our letter exchange, video calls, and gift-giving activities.

Over the past few months, students from various Sister Schools have been exchanging letters with their pen pals, learning about their daily lives, interests, and traditions. These letters have allowed them to develop a deeper understanding of each other's cultures and values, while also practicing their language and writing skills.

In addition to letter writing, our program has facilitated video calls between students, giving them the opportunity to connect face-to-face and share their experiences and perspectives. These virtual meetings have been a highlight for many of our participants, and have allowed them to break down barriers and build lasting friendships.



May 4th

## **Children's Day**

The Children's Day celebration at the foundation was a huge success. The kids had a great time, and their smiles and laughter were proof of that. Thanks to the efforts of the organizers, donors, sponsors and volunteers, the event was able to bring happiness and joy to these young minds.

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#### **Bacaanda Foundation**

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