



Andrew  
Finch  
Education  
Trust

## Newsletter 34

5<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Welcome to our November newsletter. We have lots to share with you today! I will start by going over our charity's aims and then tell you about a very special trip we organised for the community we support.



### **We have been fundraising for almost 20 years!**

Our aims have always been to break the cycle of poverty in a poor community near Ambato in Ecuador. We started fundraising in 2003, following the sudden death in of Andrew Finch in a remote local village. We gained our charitable status in 2007, enabling us to gift aid many donations.

### **In 2022 the charity helped 70 children and their families**

We support the education and wellbeing of the community through providing and resourcing a community education centre. Families use the centre for short courses, computer skills and as a library. Local volunteers and paid teachers run the courses in IT, English, maths and crafts, reading, creative competitions and online contests. Since the pandemic we have also been providing the families most in need with home IT equipment and support with WiFi costs (now essential for children's education.) We also support 11 families through a sponsorship project – children are matched to sponsors mainly in the UK who pay for families to receive regular food parcels and help with school expenses such as transport and uniform. Our charity tops up this amount because of the current rampant inflation in the cost of food in Ecuador and to provide support for medical expenses.

## How we raise money

Our main fundraising campaign is Christmas, where we sell our cards designed by the children we support. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, the cards are a lovely thing to send

A really big thank you to everyone who has already bought cards. It is only the start of November and they have been selling really well. Apologies to those who missed my email launching them! We do have around 20 packs left, including a quantity of last year's design; so please do get in touch if you would like to buy some.

**If you prefer to send an E-card**, we can send you one of the images in return for a donation to the charity. And we also are happy to receive donations if you aren't a card sender!

## Here are the cards:



Snowman, mountains and stars by Jeremy Alejandro Carvajal Yanez



Christmas tree and moon by Genesis Mishel Toabanda Anilema



Fireplace scene by Sara Thalia Jumbo Ponce



Snowman in the forest by Juan David Chicaza Yaguar

## Anniversary outing for 20 years since Andrew died

We were so excited that we could fund a special outing for the 20 year anniversary since Andrew died. The outing on 4 September included -

- visiting a swimming pool with waves,
- visiting Puyo, a jungle area near the Pastaza river in the Amazon Basin
- going to a monkey sanctuary
- and a lunch

## Maria Teresa's report on the outing

First of all, I want to send you the thanks of the parents, children and I, for Andrew's outing. Their hearts were touched by the memory of Andrew, that although they did not know him in life, thanks to his memory they have received so much help. I enclose some messages that the children wrote for Andres and for you.

We were not able to invite many people from Mocha because there were many of us, the children who were members of the library, the sponsored children and their families. Abel Tapia accompanied us from Mocha with his wife, son Lenin (7) and father, he sent special regards to Adrienne, since he was his sponsored child, and Abel was Andrew's student. Abel works as a bus driver, his son Lenin is 7 years old.

The sponsored children attended with their parents and siblings. There were some who could not attend because they were still on vacation in other cities.

The trip was fantastic, the shelter "Paseo de los monos" (monkeys walk) loved children and adults, thanks to the girl who was our guide we learned a lot about animal trafficking, it is also a jungle area, full of vegetation, beautiful. The

water park was what everyone wanted the most because of the wave pool, the adults looked like children. For all of us it was our first time in both places.

The food was very good, a few days before the trip we traveled in commission to choose restaurants with good ventilation (we needed two because we were about 80 people), the breakfast and lunch menu. Diana asked permission from her internship at the university.

We left Ambato at 6 am and returned at 8 at night, you can't imagine how much we enjoyed this trip, being able to share a day getting to know new places, an adventure, thanks to you and to the memory of Andrew.

### Here are some of our favourite photos from the day





We would like to thank Maria Teresa who organized with the help of Diana Marquina, Carlos Murillo and John Potts. A lovely day out with friends and family is not something this poor community experience often, and after the last two years of pandemic and lockdowns we are so happy to have supported this. The community also remembered Andrew by having a special Mass which was very important to them.

### **Supporting our aims of Education and Wellbeing for the families in Techo Propio**

We understand that the current economic conditions in the UK making giving to charity more challenging for many. But if you are able to give; as always we welcome donations. Ecuador's currency is the US dollar and the very low exchange rate makes this a difficult time for our charity meaning we need to raise more this year than last to continue the same level of support. Please do get in touch if you would like to make a donation.

Best wishes,

Ros, Adrienne, Rose and John (trustees of the Andrew Finch Education Trust)

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