



Clara
Luna
lenguas y más!!

Programs & Activities

January 24, 2016

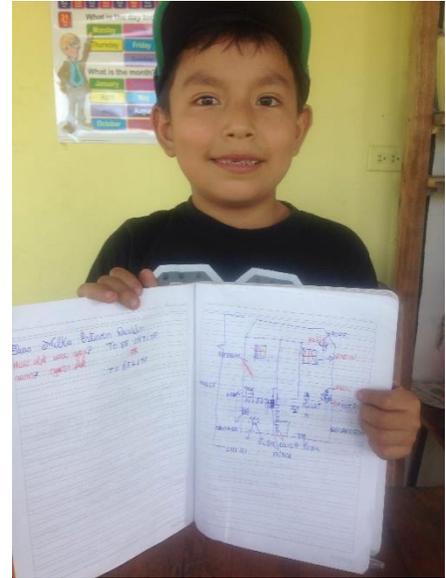
Director – Paola Martínez

ENGLISH CLASSES

TUESDAY-THURSDAY AT VARIOUS TIMES

Puerto López is a growing tourist destination and the ability to speak English helps locals connect to the tourist industry and improve their businesses. Just the same, the desire to learn English at a younger age is increasing.

Clara Luna offers English classes for a variety of different age groups, levels, and in different settings. Our volunteers try to make English fun while providing students with much needed small class sizes and one-on-one attention.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLASSES

The regular attendants in our Club de Niños and Club de Jóvenes program are invited to undertake small-group English classes that build on what they have been learning in school. These classes are a way to get together with friends from outside of their regular school in a welcoming environment with more personalized attention.



ADULT CLASSES

Puerto López has seen tremendous growth as a tourist destination in the past ten years. The economy is heavily dependent on tourism. With more and more English speakers visiting the town, the professionals in tourism are finding an increasing need to speak English with their customers. We offer grammar classes, opportunities to build on their current knowledge base, and conversational practice via our free language exchange.

SCHOOL PROJECTS

The Ecuadorian school system is unlike the North American school system in many ways. In Ecuador, the class sizes are larger, there are fewer assistants, the classrooms are generally noisier, and they can seem overwhelming. English is often taught by teachers that have a very limited knowledge of English and pronunciation can pose a problem. Clara Luna offers to assistance to schools in Puerto López and in the rural schools surrounding the town to provide longer-term volunteers to help with the teachers with English classes and literacy activities.



CLUB DE NIÑOS

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 4-5:30PM

Club de Niños is an after school program for children ages 8-12 in Puerto López. The program's focus is to encourage and support literacy in the community. The program also provides a space for the children to engage in educational and creative activities, something very uncommon in Ecuador. Participants come to enjoy reading time, are read to aloud by volunteers, and then participate in a wide range of activities, some of which are listed below.

ART PROJECTS

Although some regard arts and crafts as a luxury, they really are building blocks of child development. Art projects encourage creativity, develop motor skills, help in language development, build cultural awareness, encourage self-expression and above all, build confidence. All traits which are currently lacking from the classroom in Ecuador. Clara Luna is one of the few Foundations in Puerto López to offer the opportunity for creative expression.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Clara Luna provides interactive programming that strives to educate participants about their environment and encourages them to act as responsible citizens. Our program supplies are often the recycled from the volunteer house or salvaged from our beach clean-ups! This past year, we created a garbage orchestra instruments made from only recycled materials.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Organizing much of the Club de Niños programming around the UN International Days calendar provides ample opportunity to talk about issues that are relevant, not only here in Puerto López, by providing a window to a global perspective- and with so many international volunteers, the conditions have never been so favorable! Some of our favorite days have been International Literacy day and Earth day.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Clara Luna is fortunate to have a constantly shifting volunteer base with a vast number of skills and talents. Passionate volunteers are always encouraged to provide workshops in whatever it is they are passionate about: puppet shows, small theatre productions, dance workshops, etc.



CLUB DE JÓVENES

MONDAYS 10AM



The goal of Club de Jóvenes is to provide the older youth, ages 13-18, of Puerto López an educational and creative opportunity before and after school and during vacations. Literacy is emphasized at every meeting of Club de Jóvenes through the Foundation's reading program and small library. The reading program encourages youth to read chapter books with milestones when they have read ten or fifteen books. At each meeting of Club de Jóvenes, the youth present a summary of the book they have read.

The activities during Club de Jóvenes are decided based on a monthly theme. Some examples of previous themes have been nutrition, leadership, and the environment.

GLOW

MEETINGS ONCE A WEEK; 8 CLASSES TOTAL. COURSE OFFERED 4 TIMES A YEAR

The mission of GLOW is to facilitate growth and empowerment via leadership and healthy lifestyle choices with young women, ages 13-18. The activities conducted through the 8 week course allow the young women to become aware of their rights and the impact of gender roles in Ecuador, their community, and the media. We reflect on the representation of women in Ecuador and throughout the world; and how it affects their daily lives. Additionally, the course focuses on having the young women reflect and establish their behavior in regards to self-esteem, body image, and relationships. This helps to facilitate healthier life relationships as they are able to identify and distinguish what is appropriate and inappropriate. Finally, the course aides them in identifying skills and goals they have and which of those can be used as a driving force in their careers and their futures.

The young women of the GLOW group continuously work towards identifying inequality and bringing awareness to the issues in their community with the help of Clara Luna. This year, some of the young women from the GLOW group will also be participating in the first ever overnight GLOW camp in Ecuador. For four days, the young women will focus on issues such as gender, stereotypes, goal setting, self-esteem, and relationships. This is the first of its kind in Ecuador.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

PARTNERS AND PROJECTS CLARA LUNA SUPPORTS

Clara Luna has been working in collaboration with other community organizations to achieve common community goals for years and our connections are growing and becoming more intertwined. Here are a couple of our strongest connections:

FUNDACION JOSE RIVERA

Clara Luna has been working in conjunction with the Fundación Jose Rivera since March 2013. This non-profit organization strives to improve the lives of disabled children and adults through educational and recreational programming, physical and speech therapy, and friendship. Participants enjoy art, reading, excursions, and a broader sense of community connection and empowerment.



MACHALILLA NATIONAL PARK

Two endangered species of sea turtles nest in Puerto López and its surrounding area. In conjunction with the Machalilla National Park, Clara Luna is involved in sea turtle monitoring during the year but especially during egg laying season (December to May) by patrolling the Puerto López beach each morning and helping with overnight patrols at a remote neighbouring beach. We also participate in the annual beach clean-ups with the kids and youth from the clubs of Clara Luna.



THE BOOK BUS

The Book Bus is an organization that works throughout Puerto López and the surrounding rural communities to bring literacy activities to children in schools. The organization works with five different schools, one each day of the working week, that are in need of educational assistance. A volunteer from Clara Luna assists the project coordinator for the Book Bus, Arturo Rodriguez, in each school. Our goal is for the high school students from Club de Jóvenes who are not in school during this time of day to assist Arturo in the Book Bus activities, growing leaders in literacy in the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

IDEAS FOR SUSTAINING AND GROWING THE ACTIVITIES AT CLARA LUNA

New projects for 2016:

- Ludoteca – After doing a survey in 2015 of the community of Puerto López, we found that many kids were lacking after school activities and activities for the weekend. Therefore, we brainstormed the idea of a Ludoteca, which simply will be a place where kids and youth are welcome to come during open hours to play games, read books, create arts and crafts, and most importantly, have a safe space to play.
- Library – Along with the Ludoteca, another idea is to create an improved library in the downstairs part of Clara Luna that will function during the same hours of the Ludoteca. We hope to cultivate the habit of reading for pleasure throughout the community. With a donation of \$700 from Techworld Language Solutions, we are well on our way!

Fundraising opportunities for 2016:

- Movie Night – In order to involve the community of Puerto López more in the economic sustainability of Clara Luna, we are brainstorming ideas for fundraisers. There is no movie theatre in Puerto López and people are always looking activities to do. Our idea is to start a small movie theatre one night of the week at Clara Luna. The entrance fee would be 1 USD and snacks will be served.
- Book Writing Club – The club will allow time for children and youth to write their own story book. After, this book would be printed and sold to Ecuadoreans for a profit to benefit Clara Luna's projects and activities.

