

Dear Participants,

On behalf of AlliancExchange board members and all our volunteers and partners, we extend our sincere gratitude to the Dream Factory Community members and other Conference participants for the support we received last year for the 2011-12 School Year in the amount of \$2,400 from the Silent Auction and Raffle.

Thank you for making a difference

in the lives of these young women. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 for the Rainforest Scholars Program. Your participation in this year's Silent Auction and Raffle will help us reach this goal.

Sincerely,

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About AlliancExchange

Mission: Alliance Exchange's mission is to provide rainforest children with educational opportunities and prepare the next generation to be stewards of their Kichwa culture and their Amazonian rainforest environment.

Background: Due to poverty issues that face the Kichwa communities, very few children, especially women, attend secondary school and thus do not move beyond a 7th grade education level.

Program Status: Our program doubled in size in 2010-11. Several students graduated including Margoth, sponsored by the DFC since 2010. At the same time, several students left school for a variety of reasons, including Yalic, supported by the DFC since 2009, whose mother has been ill. We want to continue to bring new young women into the program and believe the DFC is an ideal sponsor for them

Methodology: AlliancExchange implements the program objectives in conjunction with our partners and project administrators in Ecuador. A scholarship between \$250-\$500 per year is provided for each child. The money is given to the family through their community leadership to help the family keep the child in school.

- **100% of the financial aid goes the families in Ecuador.** 1.5% of each scholarship is contributed by the family to cover local expenses for administering the program.
- Since inception, **58** young people have received scholarships.
- Currently, **42** are being funded.
- We have several young women who have no personal sponsors who are seeking support to assure that they fulfill their secondary education, including Jessica, Elizabeth, Angelica, Zulay and Liz, a younger sister of Yalic.



The DFC Scholars



Zenaida

Zenaida is a charming young lady. She is married to Roberto Chimbo, a Rainforest Scholar during the program's first year. She has two children. DFC has supported her since 2010.

Erika



Her father is a subsistence farmer. With an annual income of \$360 per year, he is supporting a family of seven children. DFC has supported her since 2010.

Elsa was married and had 2 children, but was widowed and returned to live with her parents. She returned to school (8th grade) in 2007 with our help. In 2010 she married the Rio Blanco grade school teacher and they have a baby. The DFC began her support in 2009.

Elsa



Emely

Emely is 14 years old. Her mother cannot afford to send her to school, so she depends on her scholarship to get through high school, which she has just started this year. DFC support began in 2011.



Saya

Saya's grandparents were founders of her Kichwa community. She loves biochemistry, but had to put her studies on hold in 2010 to return home and help her family. This will be her first year with a scholarship, of which she is very appreciative.



Heydi is 15. Her mother and grandparents are farmers. She lives in poverty and has difficulty paying for school expenses and sometimes even food. Since she is busy studying in San Jose she doesn't see her family as often as she'd like. But she is determined to continue her education nonetheless. DFC support began this school year.



Heydi