

Megan Christenson
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January, 23 2012

Dear Members of the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation Board,

It is with deep sincerity that I express my gratitude for your support of my Fall 2011 impact investing project with Village Capital and the Yachana Foundation. Because of your contribution, we were able to conduct three entrepreneurship programs for 30 students from the Ecuadorian Amazon and develop plans to implement two business incubator programs in the Eastern and Northern rural provinces of Ecuador. While both incubator projects are still underway, we made great headway on the ground creating a network of local support, garnering interest from social impact investors, and meeting with a variety of potential entrepreneur participants.

By this time next year we hope to have our first incubator in operation in Northern Ecuador where 30 entrepreneur teams will work together for 12 weeks to critique and perfect one another's business model; resulting in the 2 most favored teams receiving an equity investment of startup seed capital.

JJCF's mission to support talented adults working in community development is one that I also feel personally drawn to, as it parallels with the missions of Village Capital and the Yachana Foundation. By facilitating an education-based workspace and access to much needed capital, Ecuador's talented entrepreneurs will have the chance to comfortably scale their business models and receive the technical assistance required to grow their business in the direction of success.

Entrepreneurship's contribution to economic development is immense, though often overlooked. Village Capital and the Yachana Foundation are trying to harness entrepreneurship in order to more effectively channel its benefits for continued economic development in Ecuador. Thank you, for helping us to work toward this mission. Your impact will continue to be felt throughout the years to come.

Sincerely,
Megan Christenson