**Environmental Education Project**

**James Dean Byrd Foundation**

**Escuela Particular Los Algarrobos**

“**This report by the world’s leading climate scientists is an ear-splitting wake-up call to the world. It confirms that climate change is running faster than we are – and we are running out of time” - *UN chief Guterres***

The United Nations report released on October 8, 2018 was a call to action to every person in the world, to change our bad environmental habits…and fast.

While many European and North American residents have made changes in their daily activities to save water, electricity, paper, etc., in developing countries, old habits die hard. The Los Algarrobos school is situated in Canoa, Ecuador, an isolated beach town community that depends on a precarious tourist economy. In Canoa, it is still normal to burn garbage or throw it just anywhere. Living next to the beach this is particularly worrisome for the health of the ocean. In the rural areas, many locals practice slash and burn agriculture, monoculture, and heavy use of agricultural chemicals. There is no organized recycling in the entire province. The government mandated curriculum teaches very little about the environment and the effect humans have on it, so we must create our own program.

This program will bring the urgency of environmental care to the students' attention by going outside of the classroom. When students face problems and create solutions with their own hands, they are empowered to make change. The program will work in three phases:

**Love and appreciate nature**

1. Nature Walk in Cerro Seco, Bahia de Caráquez

We will take the students by bus to the Cerro Seco Nature Reserve just an hour away in Bahia de Caraquez. The walk is about an hour and a half through virgin dry tropical forest. There are ceibo trees that are more than 200 years old there. The program director and science teacher will discuss the habitat, what kind of wildlife lives here, and how leaving land wild affects our ecosystem.

1. Visit Rio Muchacho Waterfall

Just outside of Canoa there is a small waterfall surrounded by humid dry tropical forest. Here the students will see how much the ecosystem changes just an hour north of the Cerro Seco Nature Reserve. The program director and science teacher will discuss water systems and how deforestation and contamination can affect small waterfalls like the one in Rio Muchacho.

**How to control human effect on nature.**

1. Recycling Competition

First we will build big recycling bins at school. Then, for one week, each classroom will be challenged to separate garbage in their homes. They can bring to school plastic, glass, cardboard, and organics. The class that collects the most recycled materials will win a prize. These materials will then be used to start a small recycling area at the local community center. Program director and science teacher will discuss how to choose alternative materials and how recycling can reduce the negative impact we have on our environment.

1. Beach Clean-up

We will take the students down to the beach, a five-minute walk, to collect garbage. Program director and science teacher will discuss the importance of placing garbage in the bin and how the ocean in particular is currently at serious risk because of the amount of garbage that has accumulated.

**How to regenerate vegetation where it is now destroyed.**

1. Plant Trees at Finca Caracol

We will take students to plant as many fruit trees as possible at Finca Caracol, a former cow farm that will be converted one part into fruit orchards and the other part left to be wild jungle. Program director and science teacher will discuss how planting trees can regenerate the landscape and how deforestation for cow pasture and monoculture has affected the area.

1. Create Community Garden

Students will be invited to join a community garden at the local community center. They will learn how to plant fruit and vegetables in their own backyards and why this can be smarter than buying fruits and vegetables from the supermarket.

Before and after each activity, the topics discussed will be integrated into the classroom in both natural science and English classes. Students will prepare for each excursion by conducting project based learning and research. At the end of the year, the program director and science teacher will conduct surveys from students and parents to hear their opinions on the program and learn what we may add or detract from it next year.

Budget:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Material | Cost |
| Nature Walk Cerro Seco |  |  |
|  | Transportation | $100 |
|  | Drinking Water and Snacks | $50 |
| Waterfall Rio Muchacho |  |  |
|  | Transportation | $100 |
|  | Drinking Water and Snacks | $50 |
| Recycling Competition |  |  |
|  | Bamboo | $100 |
|  | Paint | $30 |
| Beach Clean-Up |  |  |
|  | Biodegradable Garbage Bags | $10 |
| Plant Trees Finca Caracol |  |  |
|  | Trees | Donation from Planet Drum |
|  | Transportation for Trees | $20 |
|  | Transportation Students | $100 |
|  | Drinking water and snacks | $50 |
| Create Community Garden |  |  |
|  | Seeds | $10 |
|  | Drinking water and snacks | $50 |
| **Total Cost:** |  | **$670** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Staff Member | Salary for one year of programming |
| Program Director | $2,000 |
| Science Teacher | $2,000 |

**Total Budget: $4,670**

**Total Fundraising Goal: $5,000**