

# Annual report 2022



Post-pandemic:  
*Again a holistic offer for every age  
of child*





## Homework support: Learning is adapting

Back to the classrooms: When classes resumed in Ecuador in February, the Fundación readjusted its way of working. For two years, the teaching team was forced to convert the rooms for the four basic subjects (language and literature, mathematics, social and natural sciences) into classrooms due to the lack of technological tools (internet, computers, mobile phones, tablets) that were essential for our children to access the right to education at that time.

By returning to face-to-face teaching, homework support and school levelling continued as in previous years. With the difference that the infrastructural and operational aspects were changed to provide the executions of the work with a greater learning effect. Among other things, the entrance times were changed and a new classroom for supervision was created, which reduced the number of children per classroom and allowed more individual and less expensive pedagogical support in the teaching-learning process.

Sometimes, losing also means winning: What may have been a loss of time or access to the classroom for many over the past two years, represented a significant gain for our children in learning content and processes. This was evident in the children's academic progress on the one hand, and in less stress for their families on the other. On the part of the teachers, there was great satisfaction in having fulfilled their duties and being able to play their part in building this dream every day.

There is no denying that there was some initial resistance or discomfort with these adjustments, because as a settled society (the opposite of nomadism) we are used to the stable, the constant, the routine. After this long period, we realised, without actively noticing it, that the real learning during the pandemic was and will remain adaptation. We understood that our mission at the Fundación Minadores de Sueños is not over and will not end, because change must be our only constant. Or as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus put it in 500 BC: "The only constant is change".



## Day care centre «Pinitos»: Re-Opening

The day care centre «Pinitos» had to be closed during the pandemic. This meant that care for children between 1 and 3 years of age in the neighbourhood of Rancho los Pinos was interrupted for two years. In June, the process of reopening began by carrying out various necessary maintenance, repair and cleaning work in the premises. Furthermore, the preparation of registration forms and home visits to conduct social studies with the families was another important preparatory work.

Over a period of several weeks, employees and volunteers put their heart and soul into various tasks, such as masonry, roof renovation and painting walls. The four classrooms, the kitchen, the office and the playground were finally ready for use by the children again.





In mid-August, two Swiss volunteers painted with great detail the beautiful indigenous figures on the facade. This detailed work gave the centre an inviting ambience.

In addition to the infrastructure, there was also administrative work to do and the data of the parents and their children were collected, who were to become the future beneficiaries of the day care centre's services. During this time, relevant socio-economic information was collected by the social worker.

With the home visits and a first parents' meeting, the first contact of the children, parents and representatives with the classrooms and rooms for teaching was established.

The team thus managed to complete the work before the opening of this beautiful and long-awaited project. On Monday 12 September, the day care centre was once again filled with life, enlivened with laughter, songs and games, and the children were given the space to learn and grow in a healthy way.



## Youth project: "Training course for young people with Fischertechnik".



The project gave children from the age of 8 a new, innovative approach to logical and technical understanding. This kind of knowledge transfer took place with the training of young people with Fischertechnik products, which was carried out by a local expert. By combining theory and practice, a new quality of learning and understanding was created. Process-oriented thinking was promoted and important skills such as patience, frustration tolerance, precise work and independent problem solving were learned. Academically, the focus was on mathematics, physics, robotics, programming and spatial awareness.

At the beginning, the five motivated young people were familiarised with the construction kits and allowed to assemble various modules themselves. This time included getting to know the Fischertechnik construction kits and understanding their methodology. In the second part of the training phase, the young people were taught technical knowledge until the beginning of January.

They were able to theoretically understand the technical correlations of mathematics, physics, robotics and computer science and link these to the practical application of the kits. In the last part until June, the young people were taught pedagogical tools to pass on what they had learned in a professional way. This process was also worked out according to the dual philosophy, that the young people offered parallel courses to the children.





The young people had grown up to become trainers. With the teaching material they had built themselves, the courses were planned and conducted independently and the knowledge was imparted to the children. The children learned how to handle the kits and the corresponding theoretical links in a building process. They were very enthusiastic while assembling the first robot vehicles. In groups of 10 children, they worked out their new knowledge practically.

With the final examination, the young people demonstrated their knowledge in the form of a project presentation, and the one-year training was rewarded with the presentation of the certificate from the German Chamber of Commerce.

Now it is important to maintain consistency so that the children can benefit from this method of imparting knowledge over the next few years and a generation emerges that combines practical and theoretical knowledge.

## **Holiday program: Health awareness**

After the reduced offer last year, the holiday programme could finally be carried out "normally" again this summer. Thus 135 children and 30 young people took part in the programme, which was held in seven rooms in the neighbourhood.

In the first week of August, a training course began for the youth of the neighbourhood to acquire the indispensable leadership skills needed in the holiday programme.

After the planning week, the activities started for the children from six to twelve years old.

The children could enjoy their holidays in a playful way instead of having to stay at home without supervision and protection.

In the morning, the children were educated about various health aspects with fun and entertaining activities. The topic of health was reflected in an open view, which included physical, psychological, emotional as well as social aspects. The daily handicraft activities were designed by the young people with a lot of creativity and resulted in a varied offer ranging from painting to writing techniques to slimes or chocolate fruits. An excursion to a protected park in the neighbourhood, where they learned about nature conservation, was also part of the programme. It is always gratifying to see how the young people put their heart and soul into designing and implementing these days with the children.

### **Donations in Switzerland**

Hypothekarbank Lenzburg  
5102 Ruppenswil, Schweiz  
Fundación „Pro Minadores de  
Sueños“ BC 8307, BIC/SWIFT:  
HYPLCH2251A IBAN: CH70 0830  
7000 2301 7001 3  
Accountnumber: 230.170.013

Reason for payment:  
"Donation" or  
"Membership" (or both)

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**Make the dreams of children and adolescents come true!**