



Perkin Educational Foundation Opportunities, Inc.

For a brighter and more peaceful El Salvador

A Message from the President

Like years before, 2024 came with its ups and downs. On the financial side in the US, we maintained the general income level of donations and supported stable pay for all Amún Shéa teachers and staff throughout the year, which is a proud accomplishment.



Thanks to our supporters, at the beginning of 2024, we held a very successful book drive, during which over 50 books (new and gently used) were donated to widen Amún Shéa's English library. Although it took us some time to physically transport the books from the U.S. to El Salvador (and some are still here at my house, waiting patiently for my next trip to El Salvador :)), it has been so wonderful to see the library grow at Amún Shéa. We know that books open new doors and I'm excited to see the places Amún Shéa students will go!

As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, we're happy to announce some exciting changes. Our team is growing and now proudly includes former Amún Shéa students! What a beautiful thing it is to see the seeds that were planted some years ago now grow, blossom, and thrive as change agents within our organization. And what a privilege it is to be a part of that growth! Thank you for making this all possible.

Amún Shéa is a special place in the heart of rural El Salvador. Thank you for your continued support in making it more special every day. As the tides change, and our boat weathers the ebb and flow of each wave, there's never been a better time to support PEOF. We're working to create a brighter and more peaceful El Salvador through relevant and sustainable educational innovation grounded in the rural reality of children, youth, and families living in Northern Morazán. **Join us in making a real impact today!**

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin Romero, Ph.D.

Board President, Perkin Educational Opportunities Foundation, Inc.

A GLANCE AT PEOF IN 2024

3,500

students, 14 directors and 30+ teachers received support through: sustainable agriculture training, educational gardens, and technical assistance in 14 public schools.



21

Permanent jobs created

41

Graduates from agroecology and environmental sustainability diploma program

3

Exchange experiences to learn about organic inputs, agroecological practices, income generation and engage local people.

300

low-income families at a Christmas gathering received food, hygiene supplies, and toys, in Perquín, Morazán.



18

hectares established under good agroecological practices in 11 districts of Morazán



73

local producers trained and supported, gaining expertise in agroecological production

PEOF ACHIEVEMENTS

Award from the Gloria Kriete Foundation to support the Inclusive Agroecological School.

660 Local producers trained and supported in agroecological practices

Initiation of poultry modules using 100% natural products for chemical-free agroecological production and training

34 productive initiatives have been supported through funding for local producers



Amún Shéa Achievements



87 Students
enrolled, 100%
received a
scholarship



6 Full-time
teachers and 1
director
employed

15,800 lunch and
15,800 snacks
served during the
whole year



3rd place in the Mango
Dorado at the ConTextos
Congress was awarded to
Marylin and Iris, Amún
Shéa Teachers, for
exceptional classroom
excellence



2nd place in the
Local Oratory
Contest



2nd place in the
Virtual Chess
Tournament at the
departmental
festival went to
Alexander Serrano

Creative Literacy
Festival, organized by
Amún Shéa, inspired
students to foster love
of reading and writing



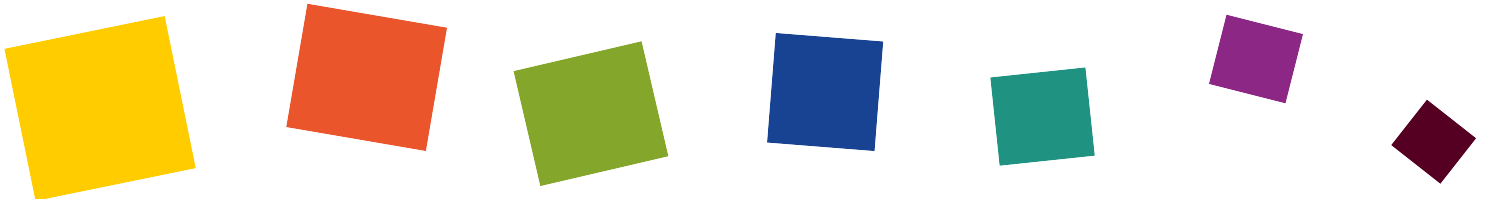
11 students
graduated from
Amún Shéa
school



Artist Manuela
Guillén visited
Amún Shéa,
sharing her
journey, inspiring
all in attendance



Celebration of the
Earth Day
showcasing
ecological practices
implemented with
students



AN EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STORY



Diego Hernández is a 21-year-old young adult from Meanguera, Morazán. He began his education at Amún Shéa when he was 5 years old in 2009, attending primary school until second grade. For various reasons, he studied at a public school for a few years and then returned to Amún Shéa in fifth grade until ninth grade. Diego wanted to leave his comfort zone and experience different educational environments. He was eager to expand his knowledge and challenge himself by exploring new institutions and opportunities.

One thing that set Diego apart from others was his natural ability to communicate. He has always been someone who connects easily with adults and children. Amún Shéa saw these skills and nurtured them. "One of the ways that the school impacted me the most was that we were not confined to our walls; classes outside were even more important than those inside a classroom. I learned a lot about Salvadoran culture and other cultures from other countries because I met people who came to visit Amún Shéa and encouraged me to learn more about their cultures."- says Diego. He was encouraged to dive deep into topics that intrigued him, and that level of support from teachers made a huge impact on his development.



After graduating from high school, Diego decided to push himself even further. He applied for a scholarship to study in China and that bold step paid off when he was accepted. Now, in his second year of majoring in Chinese language and literature, Diego lives in China and enjoys his studies at the Ocean University of China. His ability to speak English, Spanish, and Chinese has proven invaluable in helping him throughout new experiences, allowing him to connect with people and expand his professional development.



Looking back, Diego is incredibly thankful for Amún Shéa School. He's grateful for the way Amún Shéa supported him in developing academically and personally. "I'd like to thank Amún Shéa for supporting me and enhancing my skills. I'm glad to have been one of the first generations to graduate and to see how the school has evolved over time, how it has implemented education never seen before in the country, and how it opens up new experiences for students, including me." says Diego.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHT AT AMÚN SHEÁ



Did you know that you can make a completely natural mosquito repellent?

In October 2024, Stefany, Gabriela, Eily, and Blany, Amún Shéa students, participated in the Science, Technology, and Innovation Educational Fair in El Salvador called "EUREKA."

They saw a problem of Dengue spreading in local communities and created a solution focused on offering a safe and sustainable way to combat the mosquitos. But how? They created a natural plant-based repellent using accessible plants like eucalyptus, mint, and lemongrass.

They were finalists in the EUREKA fair, and during the interview, their pride and happiness were evident as they shared how honored they were to represent Amún Shéa and the northern of Morazán. They spoke with joy about how proud their parents were and the support they received to make this achievement possible.



The impact of a problem-based learning program is invaluable, enabling them to explore critical issues and create solutions that have the potential to innovate.

Your support has been a key part of their success. Thank you for believing in these young innovators and making a difference in their lives!

MEET SOME OF OUR AMÚN SHÉA SUPPORTERS



In 2010, Rebecca and her daughter, Amanda, embarked on their first trip to El Salvador. At that time, Rebecca was leading a volunteer group from Maryland, and she shared with a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador her interest in starting a project focused on education. That Peace Corps Volunteer mentioned a school called Amún Shéa, which piqued Rebecca's interest. During her visit to Perquín, Morazán, a small town that captured her heart, Rebecca was welcomed by a warm, friendly community of teachers and people. She quickly grew fond of the school, visiting with various volunteer groups to bring math projects, English classes, crafts, and games.

For the past 15 years, Rebecca and Amanda have been an integral part of the Amún Shéa community. While the students and teachers may change over time, the essence of the school and its philosophy have remained the same.

"Amún Shéa holds a special place in my heart. I have met many wonderful people who work tirelessly and passionately. I have learned much about education in El Salvador, its culture, and its people. The environment at Amún Shéa is welcoming. It is less strict, and you can feel the joy the children experience while they attend the school."

Rebecca believes strongly in the power of volunteering. Many of the initiatives she has worked on were dedicated to honoring her mother, a woman who was passionate about education. "Both my daughter and I have gained invaluable experiences, and it brings me great satisfaction to help others. It is not just about giving; I benefit from the cultural exchange, too. The people here are incredibly kind, and every time we visit, we feel at home," Rebecca explains.

She continues, "*We know that Amún Shéa has its needs, and it is a privilege to contribute. The school's commitment to outdoor education and learning by doing is inspiring, and its philosophy serves as an example to other schools across the country.*" One of Rebecca's greatest joys is watching the children and the school grow. "When I first visited, there was no high school. Now there is."

Rebecca wants people to discover Amún Shéa: "*People need to know about the incredible things happening in this small corner of the country. It is a place full of goodness, and I am confident they will be amazed by what they see. It is truly a special place.*"

AMÚN SHÉA NEEDS YOU

Here are some ways to help our core educational project, Amún Shéa:

Become a volunteer: Come to El Salvador and volunteer in person OR volunteer remotely from afar.





Become a monthly donor: Join our 10 current monthly donors in providing stability toward teachers' pay. [Click here.](#)

Make a one-time donation: [Donate online](#) or via check.

Perkin Educational Opportunities Foundation, Inc.
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

EIN: 56-2676146

Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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