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*A student project from the INA class – a “carrying thing –  
sold before it was even finished*

## **RECENT NEWS**

The INA class shows some results. We tell people – “Go take a hike!” A meeting at The Bridge. A “crowing tolerance” – and a rooster finds a home. Great big smiles – from thousands of miles.

## **THE INA CLASS BEARS FRUIT**

You probably remember that we’re providing facilities for a government trade school – INA – class. The students are learning artesanias, or “how to make things that tourists will buy.” The course is starting to pay off – literally. The creative “carrying thing” made by Katherine Torres Villanueva, and it sold before it was even finished. The buyer? One of our own volunteers – Kim Fluyt – who fell in love with it and wanted to bring it home with her. She gladly paid 10,000 colons, or about \$20.



Maynor Failanof, carved two figures – a little turtle, at the left, and a mysterious-looking head, at the right.



*Then he turned his attention to a tropical bird figure...*

There are another dozen or so projects in process with other students, ranging from baskets, to masks, and paintings. They are all great pieces!

Great job, guys and gals!

## “OH, GO TAKE A HIKE!!”

That’s what we tell people who come here to visit – “Go take a hike!” Alejandro, the first “Bridge Kid”, is 16 years old now, and is taking people for a guided hike to see the beauty of the jungle, and visit indigenous homes. It can be an eye-opening trip, since, according to the World Bank, about 54% of the world’s population lives in poverty or extreme poverty – less than \$2 a day family income, and that’s the kind of area the hikers are visiting. So... what is a hike like? Here are a few fotos that Katie Gaudin and Iris Briand, two Bridge Volunteers, took with Alejandro recently.



*Starting off at our house, the trail leads back to the jungle*



*There are a few steep places – here, Katie looks like she’s appearing to be having a hard time letting go of that root she’s hanging on to...*



*Katie looks cautiously at the second of two rivers you cross along the way. Shallow now, sometimes it’s four feet deep...*



*This is the living room at Alejandro’s home in the jungle... and yes, that’s a dirt floor.*



*Here's the kitchen at Alejandro's home...*



*and another corner of the living area.*

Then, on the way back, you can skirt other homes and see them from a distance, go to a waterfall and go for a swim – it all depends on how much time you want to take. A hike can take from 2 to 4 hours.

Alejandro works out his own deals with the hikers for getting paid – The Bridge doesn't get involved – it's his money!

This home is also where we send people who want to stay overnight in the jungle, since we know and trust the family.

So... when you come visit... Go Take A Hike!

### **A MEETING AT THE BRIDGE**

There's a meeting coming up here at The Bridge. We're discussing the re-start of the Microloan Program with a man who stepped up to the plate as a prospective Manager of that program. We'll present him to you when the deal's completed. In the meantime, a brief description will have to do. He's "an MBA, and deeply involved in micro-businesses in this country already, as part of the educational establishment. He's a native Costa Rican, solving the language and cultural difference issues. In this meeting, we'll be going through his resume, making sure it's up to date, and discussing the details of the position. This feels pretty darned exciting!

As always, we'll keep you posted!

### **A CROWING TOLERANCE**

I wrote some time ago about our solution to the insect and snake problems of living in the jungle. The simplest and least toxic solution for those turned out to be... chickens. The fowls feast on them.

Of course, when one deals with hens, one also comes into contact with... roosters. McNugget, a proud white rooster, was loved by all who came around. After he died, we got to meet some other roosters. Then the fun began. The boys start crowing about midnight, along with the neighborhood Rooster Chorus, At that point, I coined the phrase "When he crows, he goes!" Over time we gave away a rooster or two as he started into the early morning crowing thing.



Then, we met Corky, a little malformed chicken that caught Nanci's attention – and her heart – with some severe handicaps. The chick was determined to live, pecked his way out of his shell, and she was determined to help him. We named the chicken Corky, after the corkscrew path he seemed to follow when trying to walk and a head that matches. She straightened out most of the little guys eleven toes, helped it learn to feed itself even with its head on sideways, and its life had begun!

We brought Corky to bed in the morning, the little chick hopped all over the place with a cheery chirp. Slowly we fell in love with Corky. We were curious whether it was male or female. Maria picked it up, looked around, and said "it's a rooster." Gulp!

It's been some months now, and Corky's turning into quite a good-looking, if not odd, rooster. He tucks his head underneath his body and sleeps on his chin. He always seems to be walking sideways. He also has started to crow – so far he waits until 4 in the morning. At least Barry's up by then.

We are much more tolerant now – looks like Corky's part of the family.

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

### ***Great Big Smiles From Thousands Of Miles***

On a recent Community Kitchen day, these wonderfully helpful folks were having an impromptu meeting. I just couldn't help taking a foto. Looks like a girls club.



*From left to right, we have Katie Gaudin, from Oregon; Barbara Faltynek from Austria; Kim Fluyt, from Belgium; Claudia Michelberger here from Germany; Iris Briand – also from Oregon; and Leah Pearce also somewhere from the US.*

What do volunteers do? Everything from serving soup and coffee, to washing lots and lots of dishes, to helping kids with homework... sometimes there are projects on the computer.

Iris' specialty is nutrition. She's developing a series of visual aids to explain nutrition to illiterate people. Remember the answer one of the Bribri mom's gave when I asked her if they ate vegetables? "What are vegetables?" was her reply. That's why Iris' project is important!



*...and, in this foto ,they're working with the kids on arts projects. Here Kim and Reenske Aalfs from Holland work with Maria, at the right, and two kids from a Panamanian family new to the area.*

Over the course of a couple of months, these great folks – and others – have helped keep things running smoothly at The Bridge, even as the attendance numbers continued to creep upwards.

All we can say is...  
***“Thank You!”***

### **DONOR NOTES**

We are blessed with 18 people who are in the “Intrepid Bridger’s Club” – they have committed to a monthly pledge amount. You can see how the Pledge Program is going by [clicking on this link to visit the website](#).

You can [view comments from some of our Pledge Donors telling why they chose to “Take The Pledge” by clicking on this link](#).

We’re still working to reach the goal of \$1,000 a month in Monthly Pledges to go toward the Food Program

### **YOU CAN HELP US!**

There are several ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know who might also enjoy it.**
- **Post a message about us on relevant web sites or discussion boards.**
- **Look at our list of critically needed supplies – [go to the “What Can I Bring?” page on our website](#).**

### **VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

**Thank You for the continuing support we have been getting.  
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!**

**NOW’s a GREAT time to contribute.**

Make a **Monthly Pledge** by [clicking here](#).

Make an **Immediate Donation** by [clicking here](#),  
And you can donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

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**Do it NOW! You’ll be glad you did!**

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***Thank you for your support!***

Well,

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Enjoy!

*Barry & Nanci*

**IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES**

...go to [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly) and download the file with the date of this issue.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: [barrystevens@earthlink.net](mailto:barrystevens@earthlink.net)

[nanci.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:nanci.stevens@gmail.com)

Our toll-free number from the US is

1-866-462-7585

SKYPE: barry.stevens2