

## Amazon Amigos Report for TREE Foundation 11.14.10

**Thanks to TREE Foundation, Amazon Amigos** - an initiative begun just over two years ago, has had a profound impact on the children and families of the Amazon. Our model is a good one, especially during this tough economy where frugality has become the rule. We have no paid staff, administrative expenses are nil, and even the postage and printing for this mailing are donated. When you give a gift, 100% of it goes to CONAPAC to fund projects that help Amazonians help themselves.

Over these two years, we've raised over \$20,000—modest in comparison to some philanthropic organizations, who might spend that much on a single mailing. Yet, your gifts and those of other workshop alumni have helped to jumpstart some significant projects. Just a few examples:

**Gifts that Strengthen Communities**—Local teachers traveling to distant villages for workshops in lesson planning, health and nutrition, and environmental education, usually sleep on the floor of the school, and have no comfort facilities. Your donations have built latrines in the villages of Las Palmas, San Pedro, Llachapa, and others hosting these workshops. A welcome upgrade!

**Carpentry Center**—Our purchase of woodworking tools and supplies has been critical for the success of training classes at the carpentry center in Iquique. A teacher from the village of Indiana trains 25 students here, 4 days a week, so they can learn the trade. Of note is that there is a woman in the class!



**Fish Farms**—An excellent example of how your support encourages self-sufficiency. Children at Las Malvinas school collect farmed fish for market (left). Students take part in hands-on harvesting, weighing, and measuring of fish to create their accounting and reports. Your contribution has given the opportunity for these children to learn the values of hard work, investment, bookkeeping, and project management.

**Water Purification Projects**— Amazon Amigos sponsored water testing at the 13 treatment plants currently installed, by paying for boat fuel for transportation, testing kits, CONAPAC staff time, and related expenses. CONAPAC has teamed up with 2 Ph.D. candidates from the University of Colorado, Christie Chatterley and David Sparkman, who are providing independent evaluation and oversight needed for the village water systems.

A successful auction of the Unitarian Society of Minneapolis allowed us to sponsor a Water Treatment Plant and a Water Workshop in San Pedro de Mangua. The village of 398 people is 75 miles from Iquitos, near Napo lodge. Families here are relieved of the burden of water-borne illness, such as severe diarrhea, caused by consumption of river water and learn how microbial organisms cause these problems. For more info on water projects visit [http://conapac.org/clean\\_water.html](http://conapac.org/clean_water.html)

