

One Pencil Project

The Intersection of Education, Scientific Research & Philanthropy

December 2023

www.OnePencilProject.org

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

End of Year Update

Your support has helped us in 2023!

Tsimane Scholarship Program



One Pencil Project board member Michael Gurven meets with several of our scholarship recipients in Trinidad, Bolivia. Left to right: Hugo, Mabel, Yamile, Michael, Ariel, Antonio, Dianeyra, Milton, and Jose (kneeling).

In 2023, One Pencil Project's Tsimane Scholarship Fund supported twelve indigenous students, who are pursuing university degrees in the Beni region of Amazonian Bolivia. We cover their tuition, school supplies, travel costs, and living expenses. These students commit to use their education to help their indigenous communities upon completion of their degrees.

Jose Sarabia Vie (law) and William Pache Durvano (veterinary medicine) finished their 3rd year; Dianeyra Cayuba Mayer (medicine), Yamile Pache Beyuma (accounting), Mabel Cary Moye (education), Yenny Cuata Tayo (education), and Ariel Mayer Maito (agricultural engineering) finished their 2nd year; and Dolores Pache Canchi (accounting), Milton Cunay Sarabia (education), Hugo Pache Beyuma (business administration), and Carlos Antonio Nery Mayer (medicine) finished their 1st year. One of our students felt compelled to leave his studies prematurely, to return to his community to assist his parents in field labor.

These students are the first from their society to pursue university degrees in their chosen fields, and they must also adjust to life in the capital city of the region, far from their remote, rural communities. Thus, their overall success to date is remarkable. The mission of the Tsimane Scholarship Fund remains the training of a generation of Tsimane leaders, who will help their society navigate its mounting health, environmental, and legal challenges.

OUR MISSION CONTINUES!



Left to Right: Students at Grootberg Primary School picking up school supplies; Students in Kunene dancing at recess; Board members Dr. Ivan Kroupin, Professor Helen Elizabeth Davis, and Professor Michael Muthukrishna (and his family) visit Otjomuru and deliver supplies to Principal Anna in May 2023; One Pencil collaborators Cancy, Hilde, and Kasuko visit Himba communities near Opuwo; Journalism awards for sponsored research in Kunene presented at the National Journalism awards in Windhoek, Namibia; Board member Professor Joe Henrich unloads school supplies in June 2023.

With the help of HIPO (Hizetjitwas Indigenous Peoples Organization), and fellow board members (who funded their own travel to Namibia this year), we were able to deliver school supplies to over 6,000 students in Namibia and Angola in 2023. The delivery of school supplies takes time and dedication to serve so many schools, many in some of the most remote regions of Kunene.

Thanks to the enormous efforts of volunteers from HIPO and from One Pencil's Board members (pictured left) we were able to extend our reach further into Kunene than ever before, supporting more primary and secondary schools, sponsoring Namibian researchers and journalists working in Kunene, and we were able to support our first Namibian scholarship program graduate, Dr. Uaendanao "Muiira" Tjivikua, as he began his residency program in Namibia!

TSIMANE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT RECEIVES UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP TO ATTEND INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN THE US

Of special note, scholarship student Jose Sarabia Vie was hosted by One Pencil Project President Chris von Rueden in the United States in November. Jose and Chris attended an indigenous leadership summit at the University of Richmond in Virginia, which funded Jose's travel and expenses in the United States.



Left: Jose in conversation with University of Richmond students in Richmond, Virginia. Right: Jose discussing threats to Tsimane territory, at a meeting with Conservation International in Washington, D.C.

The summit facilitated dialogue between indigenous leaders confronting challenges of climate change and illegal colonization in their territories. Jose subsequently joined a subset of these leaders (from regions of the Amazon in Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil) on a trip to Washington, D.C. They solicited help from agencies (USAID, NASA) and NGOs (Conservation International), who work with indigenous peoples in the context of forest management and climate change mitigation.



Jose (kneeling, center) and Chris (kneeling, right) with University of Richmond professor David Salisbury (kneeling, left) and leaders of the Ashaninka and Yaminahua people of the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon (standing), at the University of Richmond campus.

FINDING NEW WAYS TO GROW—

ONE PENCIL NAMIBIA, OUR NAMIBIAN RESEARCH STATION & THLHP

One Pencil has found a permanent space in Namibia with plans to grow, enabling us to better support local communities, expand our presence and scholarship programs, and provide year-round support to students, schools, and colleagues. Through the financial support of an anonymous donor and our board members, One Pencil opened a permanent office in Namibia this year, overseen by our sister NGO, One Pencil Namibia (OP-Nam). We would like to thank the generous donation from [Process Studio PLLC](#) in Salt Lake City, UT, who provided One Pencil with the architectural plans for the office and guesthouses that will be built using proceeds from our Phase I location, which is now fully operational.

Meanwhile, our Bolivian scholarship program continues to grow thanks in large part to Prof. Hillard Kaplan (Chapman University), Roberta Mendez, and our partnership with the Tsimane Health and Life History Project (THLHP).

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND COLLEAGUES TO ONE PENCIL PROJECT.



In 2023, we welcomed four new board members (from left to right): Ms. Monica Tjizembsa (Namibia); Professor Ben Trumble (Bolivia); Daniel “Mavi” Gomes (Angola); and, Professor Sean Prall (Namibia & Angola).

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO AT
OnePencilProject.org

YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



EDUCATION CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Access to school materials and higher education helps to empower our students so that they can advocate and support their communities during rapid economic and social change.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & EMPOWERMENT.

Through participation in ongoing research—and by opening their communities and homes—these populations have contributed enormously to scientific work in health and medicine, as well as to research seeking to answer fundamental questions about child development.



DONATION GOES DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD.

All our work is volunteer. This means your donations are going directly to communities, schools, and students to support education, development, and public health programs. In 2023 only 1% of all donations went to One Pencil's overhead, including hosting our website and Plaid/Donorbox, which allows us to process credit card donations.



A MONTHLY DONATION GOES FAR!

Annual costs for One Pencil to support a Tsimane student attending college is \$2,500.



YOU'LL KNOW WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES.

Your donation gives back to communities that have been great *partners in science and research*. After we receive your donation, we will provide updates about the students and their progress.

TAXES

charity water.....\$100
charity water.....\$20
charity water.....\$100

YOUR GIFT IS FULLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

One Pencil Project is 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Tax ID: 83-2204234), so donations made before midnight on December 31st are tax-deductible for 2023.

[Please consider donating today!](#)