



Welcome to our very first newsletter

OCTOBER 2022 | ISSUE 1

HOW DID YOU HELP

The miracle recovery of Grandma Lujina

Last month, the Awaken Team went to visit the members of the San Pedro and San Victor communities in Misahuallí, at the gates of the Amazon. Every trip to the communities is so special. But this time, a surprise was waiting for us ...



In 2020, after years of medical wandering, one of the Grandma of the community, Grandma Lujina was facing life threatening health conditions. As Covid was paralyzing our entire life, we were faced with terrible interrogations to which the answer seemed impossible. How can we possibly help Grandma Lujina? **How can we provide her with a life saving surgery?**

This is when Doctor Carl Ross, professor at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offered us the most wonderful help we could have ever hoped for. In line with our partnership with RMU, **Doctor Carl Ross and university students were able to cover the entire cost for her emergency surgery** as well as medical attention needed afterward. We are immensely grateful for their help and unconditional support especially in times of adversity.

Thanks to them, during our last visit, Grandma Lujina welcomed us being **completely recovered and the healthiest she has ever been**. We cannot even express how heart-warming this moment felt to us. **Thank you so much Doctor Ross and RMU for making such miracles happen.**

You too can be part of special moments like this one by becoming a partner or a donor. [Visit our website](#) to learn more details on how to help.

Sports against drugs



In October, we organized a football tournament in San Pedro and San Victor communities. The aim was mainly to invite younger generations to learn more about the **social and health benefits of sports over substance use**. This project was possible thanks to the donation of personalized jerseys.

Thank you for your donations.



Edison Calvopiña

THE FOUNDER OF AWAKEN

For our first issue, we are happy to introduce you to the man who started it all.

Edison Calvopiña was born in 1988 in Quito, Ecuador. As he was raised in a low income family, Edison spent his early years of life working on the streets and surviving day by day. Despite being surrounded by a loving family, the streets life made him dream of the power and recognition of one day, becoming the next big drug dealer or robber of the area. One day, one of the volunteer that used to come play with them on the streets, gave him some words of hope, with her eyes filled with despair she said: « Your life can be better. ». Since this event, Edison start looking for that better, and constantly working on making that better a reality. **Thanks to people he consider his angels, people who gave him opportunities he slowly start having a better life outside of the streets.**



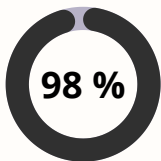
« BEING BORN HERE
WAS NOT A CHOICE,
BUT STAYING THERE
WILL BE. »

Years later, after a successful career as a pilot and while recalling the many lessons learned from his childhood, he decided to come back to his neighborhood. Only to realize that the majority of the people he grew up with were either deceased or in jail. This horrendous realization was a wake up call for Edison. He needed to do something about it. **He couldn't let this happen anymore.**

Edison quit his job as a pilot and created Awaken Foundation in 2016.

Since then, he has the commitment to contribute and has been working for the Foundation every single day. He wants to share messages of hope, giving a new perspective of reality to those who by a twist of fate are losing their life. **He is committed to bringing professionals from all over the world to help those who are now in the situation he was at only twenty years earlier.**

DID YOU KNOW?



98% of the children from the program are **reinserted in the educational system of Ecuador**, and are currently having education



All of them are **out of illegal child labor**

MUSHUK PAKARI PROGRAM
Edition

WHAT'S COMING?

November University Trip

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, USA



"YOU HAVE ALLOWED ME TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN OTHERS AND TO VIEW LIFE THROUGH A NEW LENS. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU ALL AND THE TIME WE SHARED."

Mitchell Mozeyko, Student at RMU

The first University Trip since the pandemic will take place next month.

We are so excited to receive **Nursing Students** accompanied by Doctor Carl Ross from Robert Morris University on November 10th, here in Ecuador. This University Program is rooted in the link between Awaken Foundation and Company. Students will participate in a life defining moment doing family home visits and **opening of a temporary clinic in Rio Canoa community**, Manabí province, for a whole week. While giving medical attention to the communities, they will also be able to enjoy our beautiful country during visits and activities.

The members of the community and us, here at Awaken, cannot wait to welcome them.

We will be documenting the trip on instagram and in the November issue of our newsletter. **Make sure to follow us on our journey!**

Get involved by joining us on our social media



OUR WEBSITE : [HTTPS://AWAKEN.COM.EC/FOUNDATION/](https://awaken.com.ec/foundation/)