

Dear DFC Conference **Participants:**

On behalf of **AlliancExchange**, our board members and all our associates, we extend our sincere gratitude to all DFC members and friends who attended the **Dream Factory Conference** on April 28 & 29. We especially want to thank those who donated to and played in the Silent Auction and Raffle, bought goodies and October Journey Raffle Tickets, and registered for the Women's Weekend in Maine. In all, AlliancExchange raised **\$2,484.00**. This will assure funding for the five young women the DFC already supports and adding another 2-3 girls to the Rainforest Scholars Program for the 2011-12 school year.

Thank you for making a difference

in the lives of these young women. You are helping to prepare the next generation of rainforest women leaders -- to be stewards of their Kishwa culture and their Amazonian rainforest environment. The Rainforest Scholars Program is a ray of hope for these women and their families who dream of a better future and getting out of the poverty with a better education.

DFC Rainforest Scholars: *These women have been the beneficiaries of DFC support.*

	<p>Margoth Viviana ; Birthday: 8th March 1994; Grade: Tercero de bachillerato (13th) *</p> <p><i>Margoth is a very articulate young woman with leadership qualities. She is the 6th child in her family. She told us their family land was taken away rendering them homeless and poor. It will be a moment of pride for all of us and her family when she graduates this year. DFC has supported her since 2010. (* Secondary school is comprised of 8th-10th grades and 11th - 13th grades)</i></p>
	<p>Zenaida Judith; Birthday: 1995; Grade: Octavo de basico (8th)</p> <p><i>Zenaida is a charming young lady. She is married to Roberto Chimbo, a Rainforest Scholar during the program's first year. Some of us stayed with her and her mother-in-law during a home stay in Rio Blanco in 2008. She has two children. Zenaida only recently returned to school to finish her education. DFC has supported her since 2010.</i></p>
	<p>Erika Natalia; Birthday: 23th June 1993; Grade: Decimo de basico (10th)</p> <p><i>Her father, Sebastian, is a subsistence farmer. With an annual income of \$360, he is supporting a family of seven children. Like most of the Rainforest Scholars, Erika comes from the Rio Blanco community. DFC has supported her since 2010.</i></p>
	<p>Yalic Zandy ; Birthday: 12th Dec ember1997; Grade: Decimo de basico (10th)</p> <p><i>She was born in the small town of Archidona, the home town of many of the settlers of Rio Blanco. Her mother suffered a major illness several years ago; the treatment and medicines have been a financial strain on the family. Yalic is the youngest of the children. Her parents are very supportive of her education. Although still quiet, she is becoming quite the young women. DFC has supported her since 2009.</i></p>



Elsa Maricela; Birthday: 24th August 1986, Grade: Segundo de bachillerat (12th)

As the fourth child among seven, she did not immediately continue on to high school outside the community. Eventually she married and had 2 children, but she was widowed and returned to live with her parents. She returned to school in 2007 with the support of Alliance Exchange. She recently married the elementary school teacher in Río Blanco and they have a new baby. We saw her in January 2010. She is thriving. DFC has supported her since 2009.

The AlliancExchange board of directors is enthusiastic about its partnership with the DFC and its contribution each year to the Rainforest Scholars Program. We believe we are doing important work together. Education is the key to eradicating poverty. And today only 15 percent of the young people of rural Ecuador complete high school. We are very excited about the work we do together and how together we help the Kishwa women of the Rainforest to lead an empowered life.

Thank you again for your generosity. We look forward to keeping you abreast of each young women's progress and our meetings with them during the October Journey to Ecuador. At next year's conference we envision opportunities to continue to grow the program with DFC and Friends support.

I hope you will consider continuing to help us to realize the dreams of Margoth, Zenaida, Erika, Yalic and Elsa Maricela..

Our very warmest regards
Carol Madsen,

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