

Beyond Lagartococha



What is Beyond Lagartococha and why a fundraiser in Milton?

Three girls from Milton, Ruby D'Amato, Elena Curran and Sarah Ford seniors at Milton High school met Juliana Pallares in the summer of 2016. The girls quickly grew a close bond with Juliana and visited her in Ecuador last summer. There they learned and grew passionate about her project, Beyond Lagartococha. This amazing foundation was started by Juliana and 5 of her friends, (pictured above). These are their words...

We are a group of students from schools in Quito, Ecuador who are aware of the privileges of our education; Our project, Beyond Lagartococha aims to support and improve the education of the Secoya indigenous community, an ethnic minority with only 700 people in Ecuador and 1,500 in Peru. Mañoko is a small Secoya settlement located in Peru. It lies across the border with Ecuador on the banks of the lagartococha river. Around eight families live here and they are dedicated to hunting, fishing, agriculture and crafts.

This is a town located in a strategic place for the Secoya's because it is the meeting point between the Secoya families living in Ecuador and in Peru. Mañoko is a very isolated village, both from Peru and Ecuador, unfortunately for its isolation, Mañoko never had a school, years went by and many families were forced to leave their village for a lack of education. This seemed like a big problem, considering that everyone has the right and the need for an education. The Beyond Lagartococha project was born on September 2015 with the main objective of providing the children of the Mañoko community with the education they deserve.

We saw the enormous difference that exists in the access that they have to education compared to us, so we felt that it was an obligation to help them have the same opportunities that we have.