



# THE CUENCA FOUNDATION

APRIL 2026

- Doubling the Ripple
- Beyond the Smile
- The Engine of Impact

## **Doubling the Ripple** *A New Path Through Special Services*

Recently, TCF leadership met with our partners at the Municipality of Cuenca and the University of Cuenca for a strategic debrief. We discovered the power of the ripple created by our partnership.

Starting in the fall, we will double the number of youth students enrolled in the EmpowerEd program. To support this massive expansion, we are also doubling the number of University of Cuenca practicum students who gain invaluable, real-world teaching experience through our Foundation.

Our sessions encompass a beautiful community of learners:

- **Dedicated Students:** Finding their voices and growing in confidence through a second language.
- **The Next Generation of Teachers:** University students observing, learning, and gaining the skills to lead classrooms of their own.
- **Supportive Families:** Mothers can often be found in the back of the room, recording lessons on their phones so that the learning continues at home long after class has ended.

We are so proud of our students and so grateful for the partnerships that allow us to keep building together.

Visit [cuencafoundation.org](http://cuencafoundation.org) to support the ripple, link below.



This month, we are celebrating a milestone for Paulina. Through our continued partnership with Dr. Grace Ordoñez, Paulina has begun a tailored treatment plan to address three cavities.

The impact is profound; preventing pain, protecting her long-term well-being, and keeping her smile bright. We owe a massive debt of gratitude to Debbi Spidler, our special services liaison, who ensures that children like Paulina have a clear path toward health.

For everyone who followed Victor's story in last month's newsletter, we have wonderful news to share. Victor continues to make incredible strides in his recovery. He is currently working with a specialist to learn how to properly swallow and he is making great progress.

### **A Ripple of Partnerships**

Our work is only possible because of the "Ripple Effect" created by our partners and volunteers. The support of professionals like Dr. Ordoñez ensures that our beneficiaries receive the care they need. "Thank you, Dr. Grace Ordoñez, for helping Paulina get healthy and for keeping our community smiling!"

To learn more about this work, visit us at [cuencafoundation.org](http://cuencafoundation.org), link below.



# The Engine of Impact

## TCF Volunteers and Supporters

While our food kits provide a vital foundation for nearly 1,000 people, it is the tireless work of our volunteers that makes distribution possible. From bagging thousands of pounds of rice to stocking shelves, their dedication is the engine of our impact.

### Fueling the Mission

This work requires more than labor; it requires resources. We are deeply grateful to our donors and supporters whose contributions provide the very supplies our volunteers handle. Your financial support allows us to go beyond a "band-aid" and provide the consistent, holistic care needed to truly break the cycle of poverty.

### Join the Ripple

Whether you give your time as a volunteer or your resources as a donor, you are the literal "Making Change" in Cuenca.

Want to help us reach the next thousand? Visit our website to donate or learn about volunteer opportunities. Together, we are building a stronger future for this community.

Learn more at [cuencafoundation.org](https://cuencafoundation.org)

# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES:

## HEARTSTRINGS

Knitting group  
creating warmth for  
those in need:

babies ○ new mothers ○ children ○ the elderly ○ the ill

Join us: Mondays, noon, La Yunta

## CELEBRATION!

Providing cakes and gifts for  
children on  
their special day

Join the party at [info@cuencafoundation.org](mailto:info@cuencafoundation.org)

**we rise by lifting others**

Robert Ingersoll



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