



A Season of Dreams Made Real

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoyed a joyful Labor Day weekend – a moment to honor the spirit of hard work, dedication, and the collective efforts that move communities forward. In many ways, it’s a celebration that resonates deeply with the mission of The Vines Foundation: walking together, building together, and creating opportunities that transform lives.

This month’s newsletter is filled with stories that highlight the extraordinary power of connection. You’ll read about how a simple day of volunteering with our friends from GE Vernova blossomed into a partnership that is helping us take our most ambitious dream—the Community Center and Vocational School in Vista Flores—one step closer to reality. You’ll also meet Scott Strazik and Jen Schannault, whose leadership and generosity inspire us all, and hear directly from Scott in our “5 Questions” feature.

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We’re also celebrating the recognition of The Vines Resort & Spa as one of the best in the world, honoring the joy of childhood through our Children’s Day celebration, and reflecting on the resilience and creativity that make this community shine. Each story is a reminder that when we walk together, we create impact that goes far beyond programs—it touches hearts, nurtures dreams, and changes lives.

Looking ahead, I’m excited to share a little preview of something new: **"GIFTS FOR GOOD"** — our creative way to invite and unite The Vines friends and family in support of The Vines Foundation. **This special online auction will launch in November** and showcase unique experiences and adventures while raising vital funds for the community we call home. More details are coming soon, but we hope it sparks your imagination about what extraordinary experiences you might like to share and bid on!

With deep gratitude,

Carolyn Gallagher
Executive Director

A Partnership that Bloomed from a Day of Volunteering



This month marks a significant new chapter for The Vines Foundation, one that has its roots in a day of shared purpose and connection.

Our first engagement with GE Vernova began in a community kitchen on May 1st. On that special day, our Executive Director, Carolyn Gallagher, welcomed Scott Strazik and other global leaders to join us for a day of volunteering. It was a morning charged with vitality, where we all worked together to help refurbish their woodpile, winterize their kitchen, and share a moment of joy playing a competitive game of soccer.

It was during a hands-on experience in the community that Scott Strazik, CEO of GE Vernova and a member of The Vines Global, was introduced to our most ambitious project: the Community Center and Vocational School.

Impressed by the foundation's work, Scott committed a significant donation for the land and initial construction. This land is a portion located on the corner of the main street of Vista Flores, Tunuyán, within the property of Bodega Los Parrales.

This commitment was reinforced on August 21st, when he connected other GE Vernova leaders with our mission, leading to a meeting where we officially presented the initiative.





Carolyn shared design concepts for a new Uco Valley center with GE Vernova leaders. The project aims to provide training in hospitality, gastronomy, and winemaking, creating a dynamic space for community and growth.



The flower arrangements at the event represented the balance of "art and service." This is the core philosophy of a vocational school: teaching an ethos, not just a skill.



"Ambitious dreams are built through partnership, as each new alliance strengthens our path and makes the community center a reality."

The Value of Commitment: Scott Strazik and Jen Schannault, Partners in the Mission



If we could bring everyone we interact with consistently 'home with us' to the US, we would! But we can't ... so this is a small way for us to give back.

This month, we're honored to feature Scott Strazik, the CEO of GE Vernova, and his wife Jen, whose vision and commitment have been fundamental in launching our next major project.

Scott Strazik and Jen Schannault have been part of The Vines community for over 10 years, as vineyard owners and Vines Global members. From the beginning, they have shown a sincere interest in the Foundation, sharing ideas and perspectives that reflect their leadership and vision.

Since 2022, they have supported our work not only as donors but also as volunteers, giving their time whenever they visit Mendoza. Their commitment is constant, and it's something they've also passed on to their children — encouraging empathy, responsibility, and care for others.

For us, their involvement goes far beyond generosity. It speaks of friendship, community, and a shared belief in what we can build together in the Uco Valley.



5 Questions for Scott Strazik

◆ **What first drew you and Jen to the Uco Valley, and what made you feel such a strong personal connection to the community?**

Our original pull was the wine. What most struck us on our early visits was the sky, the stars, the air. We keep coming back because of the people.

◆ **The Vines Foundation has evolved from direct relief to a focus on long-term development. What about this shift resonated with you?**

Relief is important, but not sufficient. Real giving happens during the 'off-season' when things appear stable, but important investments can change the long-term trajectory of a community.



◆ **As the leader of a company focused on energy and sustainability, how do you see the foundation's Community Center project aligning with GE Vernova's core values?**

One of the core principles of our sustainability framework is the concept of "thrive" – that communities deserve the opportunity to live a better life,

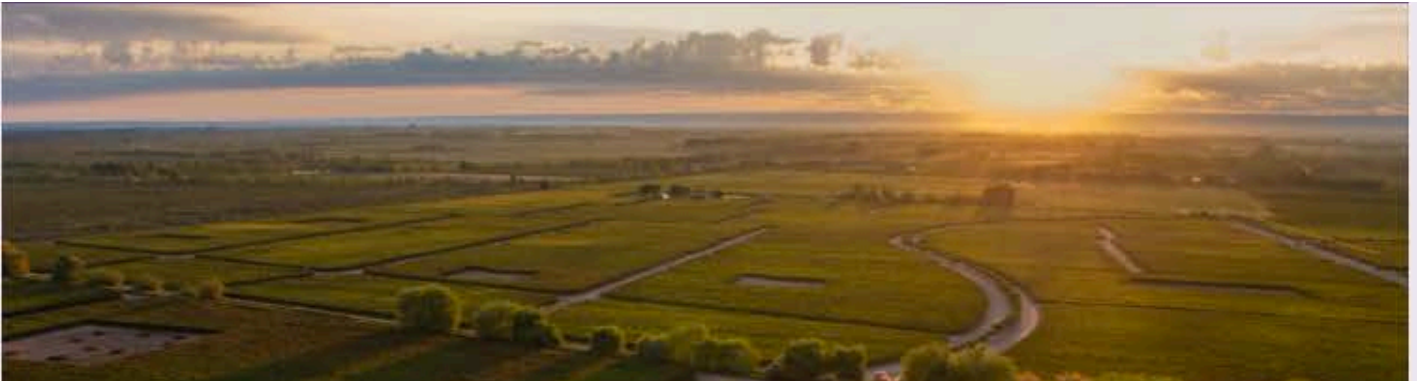
that people benefit from our company as part of that community. We firmly believe this community center can be a catalyst for long-term value and many more people thriving and we are motivated to play our small, humble part.

◆ **Why is investing in human potential and community-led development so important to you and Jen personally?**

If we could bring everyone we interact with consistently 'home with us' to the US, we would! But we can't ... so this is a small way for us to give back. Seeing how hard the people in this community work – their commute often to work via buses et al – it inspires us and we want to play a small role in accelerating the flywheel of development forward from here.

◆ **What are your hopes for the vocational school's impact on the lives of young people and the future of the Uco Valley?**

I wonder sometimes if people we interact with experience 'envy' with the 'good fortune' we have living in the US ... even though we constantly reinforce our love of this community and their good fortunes in living in a place with so many wonderful natural assets. I hope in some small way this helps young people in this community gain even more pride and appreciation and feelings of good fortune that gives them even more conviction and confidence they can take their lives wherever they want it to go.



The Vines Resort & Spa: An Acknowledgment of Excellence

The Vines Resort & Spa was named the #1 Best Resort in Latin America and #6 in the World by Travel + Leisure, an honor we're incredibly proud of. This award highlights our commitment to excellence and sustainability.

At The Vines Foundation, we share this philosophy. While our work is on a different scale, we are driven by the same commitment to give back to the Uco Valley and its people. This recognition is not just a milestone for the Resort, but a motivation for the Foundation to continue raising our standards and striving for a greater impact.

A Gift of Time: Celebrating the Joy and Resilience of Childhood

In Argentina, we celebrated Children's Day in local community kitchens. The air was filled with delicious food and the joyful laughter that defines our mission. Our Program Manager, Laura Martorell, an educator with a deep love for these kids, led the themed event: "Chef for a Day."

"Watching them turn a simple, practical item into a canvas of self-expression and creativity was an absolute joy. This activity not only sparked their artistic spirit but also provided them with a tool they can proudly use at home"



Laura taught the children about personal hygiene and food safety through interactive games. To receive a prized, paintable frosted sugar cookie, they had to successfully complete five steps, including proper handwashing, tying back hair, clipping nails, arranging ingredients and sanitizing surfaces, which made cooking a safe and joyful experience.



As a special gift, each child also received a cooking apron to personalize, a tool to empower them in their family's kitchen. Watching them turn a simple, practical item into a canvas of self-expression and creativity was an absolute joy.



Each child received a chef's apron to personalize and unleash their creativity

The event concluded with a "Ready to Cook" diploma for each child, a symbol of their courage and our promise to support their love of creating in the kitchen. This engagement was a wonderful reminder that our mission is about nurturing confidence and creativity, planting seeds of hope, and inspiring big dreams.

To our amazing volunteer staff at The Vines of Mendoza: thank you for giving your heart and time to every detail. Your support makes all the difference.

If our work speaks to you, share our posts and stories with others. Every new person who discovers what we do is a potential partner in change—and together, we can continue to improve lives across the Uco Valley. Let's grow this movement. One voice, one share, one action at a time.



Thank you!