

A Season of Gratitude: Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Shared Purpose in the Uco Valley

Dear Friends of The Vines Foundation,

As November draws to a close, bringing with it a natural season of reflection, my heart is overflowing with immense gratitude. This year has been nothing short of extraordinary – a whirlwind of **busy, active, and exciting growth**, culminating in a truly focused identity for The Vines Foundation. We're not just growing in scope; we're deepening our roots, expanding our impact, and strengthening the bonds that make our work possible.

This past month, in particular, has been a vivid demonstration of what we can achieve when we come together.

It's a testament to the incredible **team building** that has happened, both within our foundation and across our wider community. Every success we celebrate, every life we touch, and every opportunity we create is a reflection of this shared dedication, allowing others to **shine bright**.

From the adventurous hearts planning the "Andes Challenge" for a cause, to the generous spirits who made our first online auction a resounding success, to the proud moments of our Vet Mobile rolling through Tunuyán's anniversary parade – we are **feeling the impact and holding the gratitude** close. Each story below paints a picture of a community in action, moving forward with purpose and compassion.



Carolyn with Arq. Federico Velazco in front future dog shelter

As you read through this newsletter, you'll see the tangible results of your belief and engagement. Our "Gifts for Good" auction, far exceeding expectations, highlighted not just financial support, but the powerful **surge of community spirit** that fuels our core programs.

This Thanksgiving season, we extend our deepest gratitude to our entire community – near and far. Whether you've been with us from the very start or are just discovering our work, your interest, your attention, and your unwavering belief in what's possible here in the Uco Valley are shaping the path forward. Thank you for celebrating with us, for pushing boundaries, and for truly being the heart of everything we do.

With gratitude,

Carolyn Gallagher

Executive Director, The Vines Foundation

“Gifts for Good”: Vines Friends and Family Unite for Purpose A Success That Resonates in the Valley and Beyond

Our first **Gifts for Good** online auction became much more than a fundraising event — it was a moment that brought our community together in a meaningful and inspiring way. Seeing members of The Vines engage, participate, donate, place bids and stand behind this initiative made this first edition truly special. These results will directly strengthen our programs in community health, education, and animal welfare — creating real impact for the families and animals of Tunuyán.



This first edition set the foundation for something meaningful, and we're excited to keep growing this community of purpose and impact. We'd love your help shaping what comes next - please take a moment to complete our [short survey](#) so we can learn how to make Gifts for Good bigger and better next year.

Here's a clear look at what this collective effort made possible:

- **35** generous supporters contributed items
 - **47** auction items donated
 - **\$51,455** raised through auction bids
 - **\$19,081** raised through Fund-a-Need and direct donations
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- **\$70,536** total raised in support of our core programs



From all of us at The Vines Foundation, thank you for believing in what we can achieve together!



Here's What Your Generosity Achieved in 2025

- **25,000** meals served
- **1,250** animal spayed / neutered
- **47** dogs adopted
- **37** vocational students gaining skills for a brighter future
- **60** Backpacks with school supplies
- **+300** Pairs of shoes provided to children in need
- **+22** Special Events with creative projects and community building.



Community Recognition Grows: The Vines Foundation Selected as Race Beneficiary

We're thrilled to share exciting news: The Vines Foundation has been selected as the beneficiary of the 2025 Desafío al Portillo, a major local mountain race taking place on March 8, 2025.

This recognition reflects the growing trust, respect, and support for the role we play in the Uco Valley.

Thanks to the leadership of Milagros Pozzi and Gaston Fourcade de Maussion, this event invites athletes to take on the raw, high-altitude spirit of the Andes through a 13K or 28K challenge — and to run with real purpose. 100% of registration fees will fund the construction of our new dog shelter, transforming athletic effort into impact for animals who need protection and care.



Promotional poster for the March 8, 2026 Andes Challenge. All proceeds will benefit The Vines Foundation, a project powered by our community.

This is more than a race. The slopes are real, the altitude is real, and so is the change it creates. It's the spirit of our valley — grit, community, and solidarity — in motion.

Parade of Joy and Awareness

After a year and a half of dedicated service, our Vet Mobile has truly found its place, becoming not just a service, but a recognized and beloved part of the Tunuyán community – like one more feather on the wing of its vibrant spirit. This was wonderfully evident during Tunuyán's 145th-anniversary celebration, a day that beautifully showcased the rich history, social diversity, and cultural tapestry of the region.

Our Vet Mobile rolled proudly through Tunuyán's traditional civic-community parade, a spectacular gathering along Avenida San Martín. The streets pulsed with life, filled with over 100 institutions – schools, security forces, gaucho groups, dance academies, sports clubs, municipal workshops, and social organizations – all marching with pride, a testament to the department's spirit of unity and progress. It was, unmistakably, Tunuyán.



Mayor Emir Andraos stood on the main stage alongside the department's queens. Students from all schools across Tunuyán took part in the parade.



People recognized our Vet Mariano instantly, waved, asked questions, and connected its presence with the vital work we carry into the community every single day.



Carolyn Gallagher - Executive Director and Mariano Vicente, Vet and Coordinator of Animal Welfare, greeted the crowd from the Vet Mobile during Tunuyán's 145th-anniversary parade.

This wasn't just visibility for us; it was a profound moment of alignment. It was a testament to how our mission – promoting animal welfare as an integral part of community well-being – has become a tangible, accepted, and celebrated part of Tunuyán's identity.

This parade celebrates identity, and for us, it illuminated purpose. It reminded us that when we show up consistently for the Uco Valley, building trust and delivering on our commitment, the Uco Valley shows up with us. We are honored to be an active participant in a community that is a city of opportunities, where the municipality actively "collaborates, accompanies, articulates, manages, resolves, and invests to bring these processes to life." Together, we are proving that by working collectively, we truly have something special.



Our New Dog Shelter Is Taking Shape

Thanks to the generosity of Jon Staenberg, who donated the land for this project, our new dog shelter is steadily coming to life. This month, the foundations were laid, the site was leveled, fence posts went in, and work began on the concrete slab. In December, the metal structure that will form the roof and walls will be installed — a major step toward opening a safe, permanent home for dogs in need.



This shelter represents more than construction progress. It reflects a community choosing compassion and building a space where animals can heal, grow, and find better futures. The new refuge will feature spacious play yards for large and small dogs, along with covered indoor areas for kennels, treatment, and daily care — creating a welcoming, well-designed environment for every animal who arrives. We look forward to sharing more updates as the shelter continues to rise.

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. Let's grow this movement. One voice, one share, one action at a time.

Thank you!

