



Where Learning and Purpose Meet.

Dear friends,

As we step into a new season, I am full of gratitude and excitement for all that is happening at The Vines Foundation. Education has always been at the core of our work — because when people learn, communities thrive.

This month, we celebrate meaningful progress in our education initiatives: our partnership with the University of Notre Dame, new vocational training programs taking shape, and local courses providing hands-on skills that open doors to opportunity.

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communities thrive.**

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Looking ahead to November, I'm thrilled for our **Gifts for Good** auction — a celebration of generosity, purpose, and community. Together, we'll have the chance to bid on extraordinary experiences — from unforgettable stays and private dinners to exclusive sporting events — all in support of the work we do here in Tunuyán.

To each friend who has donated their treasures, time, and talents to make this event possible: thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your support enables us to continue building a brighter, more connected future for Tunuyán.

With gratitude,

Carolyn Gallagher

Executive Director, The Vines Foundation

Partnering with the University of Notre Dame: Building the Future of the Community Center



This fall, The Vines Foundation began its fifth year in partnership with The Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. This semester's focus is to shape the framework for our upcoming community center in Tunuyán, Mendoza

Through a series of meetings, field research, and academic analysis, both teams are working together to define the vision and structure for a project that will serve as a cornerstone of local development — a vocational school focused on training in hospitality, gastronomy, and tourism.

This semester, five senior students from the University of Notre Dame have joined the initiative, each bringing valuable academic

backgrounds and international experience:

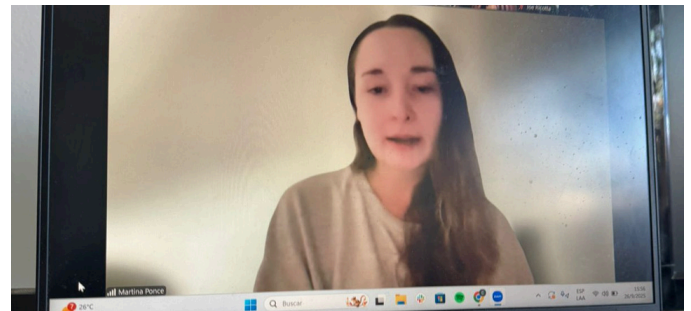
- Clay Chauncey, from Florida, USA — Business Strategy & Global Affairs
- Martina Ponce, from Quito, Ecuador — Business Analytics & Global Affairs
- María Del Rosario, from Panama City, Panama — Business Analytics & Global Affairs (minor in Finance)
- Camila Bergoglio, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina — Business Analytics & Global Affairs
- María Rodríguez, from Bogotá, Colombia — Economics & Global Affairs (minor in Real Estate)
- Joe Ricotta, from the United States — Global Affairs, with a strong background in Romance languages.



Notre Dame students Clay Chauncey, Martina Ponce, María Del Rosario, Camila Bergoglio, María Rodríguez, and Joe Ricotta — together with Emily Monaghan and Art Monaghan

Each student brings unique strengths — from data-driven research and entrepreneurial consulting to cross-cultural development work in South America, Africa, Europe and beyond. Together, they are helping analyze successful education models, strengthen the project’s strategic foundation, and connect training programs with the real employment needs of Tunuyán.

The goal is to design a practical and accessible educational model that provides young people and adults in the region with the skills and opportunities to secure stable, year-round employment.



From Quito to Tunuyán, Martina Ponce (Business Analytics & Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame) is applying her knowledge to real community challenges

This partnership will also help establish a five-year roadmap and evaluation framework, ensuring that every stage of the project contributes meaningfully to long-term community growth and resilience.

Working alongside Notre Dame marks a pivotal step forward — one grounded in research, collaboration, and a shared commitment to building a stronger future for Tunuyán.

Our Community Center Finds Its Home!

We are thrilled to share that The Vines Foundation has completed the purchase of the Vista Flores lot, where the Community Center will take shape. This milestone is more than a real estate achievement — it’s a significant step toward creating a hub for the community: a space where education, vocational training, and social support come together under one roof.

We extend our deep gratitude to Duffy Crane, Legal Representative and Foundation Board Member, and Oscar Garofoli, owner of Bodega Los Parrayes, for formalizing this commitment with their signatures. Every step forward brings us closer to realizing a place that embodies hope, growth, and opportunity for all.



Training for Those Who Cook with Purpose



The volunteers of Iluminados Community Kitchen: Felisa Carabajal, Gabriela Abregu, Lorena Garcia, Carlos Jaime, Maira Espinosa y Josefa Lizardi — together with Verónica Espinosa, leader of Iluminados and Laura Martorell, Project Manager of the Community Kitchen Program at The Vines Foundation.

This month, the dedicated team at the Iluminados community kitchen — led daily by José and Verónica — took part in a certified Food Handling Course organized by the Municipality of Tunuyán.

Thanks to a partnership between The Vines Foundation and the municipality, this valuable training became accessible to those who prepare daily meals for children and families in the community, strengthening safe and responsible food practices.

Held over two half-day sessions and taught by Tunuyán's Food Safety Department, the course combined theoretical and practical learning. Participants completed a final exam to earn their official Food Handling Certificate, valid nationwide for three years.



The Food Handling Course took place in a classroom at the CIC in Tunuyán.



A warm greeting between Carolyn Gallagher and Verónica Espinosa at the end of the session.

Beyond improving the safety and quality of every meal served at the community kitchen, this initiative also creates new personal and professional opportunities for those who dedicate their time and care to nourishing others — a reflection of The Vines Foundation's ongoing commitment to empower the people behind its community programs.

From the Kitchen to the Community: Verónica Espinosa's Story

Alongside her husband, José Espinosa, Verónica leads the Iluminados Community Kitchen, where more than 100 children come each month for a warm plate of food — and a safe place to feel supported.

Their work goes far beyond serving meals. Verónica and José are committed to creating a space where every child feels seen, cared for, and welcomed. Day by day, they find new ways to strengthen the program: improving the kitchen, organizing the space, and making sure everything runs smoothly so families in the neighborhood can count on them.

What drives Verónica is simple: giving kids the care and stability they deserve.

◆ **What motivated you to volunteer at Iluminados Community Kitchen?**

The reason I'm part of Iluminados is the love I have for children. I love spending time with them. Seeing them happy, well cared for, and with a plate of food brings me so much joy. I do it with my whole heart — love for the kids is what moves me.

◆ **How did the Food Handling Certification Course change your daily work in the kitchen?**

The course changed a lot. Now we work more consciously — with more care and knowing why each step matters. We understand how important it is to handle food safely, and that gives us more confidence.



Seeing the children happy, well cared for, and with a plate of food brings me so much joy. ”

With dedication, patience, and a strong sense of community, she ensures that Iluminados continues to grow — helping nourish both body and spirit in a place many young people call home.

◆ **Was there a specific skill or lesson that made a big difference?**

I've applied everything not only in the community kitchen but also at home. I cook differently now — paying attention to the details. This course helped us improve in every way

◆ **Was there a specific skill or lesson that made a big difference?**

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◆ **What would you say to others considering similar training or volunteer work?**

Don't hesitate — go for it. It's a beautiful experience. You learn so much, and it gives you a deep sense of personal fulfillment.

◆ **What impact do you think this has on the community?**

I believe this impacts society as a whole. But above all, we want it to benefit the children. Thank you to everyone who helps make this possible. God bless you.



The Auction is Almost Here!

The countdown is on for **Gifts for Good**, our very first online auction, taking place **November 8–16, 2025!**

Members of The Vines community have generously donated spectacular experiences — from private vineyard retreats and unique getaways to exclusive dinners and VIP entertainment. Every bid directly supports programs that transform lives in Tunuyán, from community health and food security to education and vocational training.

Turn unforgettable experiences into real, lasting change — and have fun doing it! And don't forget — invite friends or anyone who would enjoy joining in. Every participant helps amplify the impact we can make together.

Stay updated and follow us on: [@TheVinesFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/TheVinesFoundation)
Learn more at www.vinesfoundation.org

Hospitality Training: Learning by Doing

At the Instituto Superior de Educación Valle de Uco (IESVU), the Housekeeping and Receptionist program is now underway — empowering new professionals with the skills and confidence to thrive in the hospitality and tourism sector.

The Vines Foundation proudly supports this initiative, creating opportunities for young people and adults in the Uco Valley to access hands-on training in one of the region's key industries.



This past Saturday, October 25, students completed their first practical experience at The Vines Resort & Spa. It was a special day filled with learning, teamwork, and real insight into hospitality operations — a moment where classroom knowledge became action, and future careers began taking shape.

It's more than a training program — it's a pathway to growth, possibility, and stronger communities.



Special thanks to Camila Rosi and her team for welcoming the students and generously sharing their time, expertise and patience throughout the day.





This undertaking was made possible with the support of **Rocio and Franklin** from Reception, and **Carina, Richard, Karen, Matias, Fernanda and Julieta** from Housekeeping.

We look forward to round two next month.

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!

