

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER - February 2026

Stronger Roots. Greater Impact.



Dear Friends,

There is a special energy in the Uco Valley this time of year. As the season turns, we feel both gratitude for how far we've come since 2020 and excitement for what lies ahead. It is a moment to reflect — and to move forward with intention.

At The Vines Foundation, growth has never been measured by size alone, but by the strength of our roots. We see it in children beginning school with the tools they need to thrive, and in leaders who step forward to steward this work with clarity and care.

You may have noticed an update in our subject line. **Caring for Our Community** isn't just a phrase — it's how we think about everything we do. In each edition, we'll show you what that looks like in action: education, food security, animal wellness, health initiatives, and our long-term vision for the Community Center.

In this edition, we are delighted to **welcome Bryan Driscoll to our Board** — a familiar face to many who first experienced the Uco Valley through his leadership, and whose enduring commitment to this region now helps guide the Foundation's next chapter. We also celebrate the **Desafío al Portillo**, a local race that selected The Vines Foundation as its beneficiary — a meaningful affirmation of the impact taking hold in this community.

And now, March brings a powerful opportunity. **All Annual Campaign gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000** — doubling support for food security, community health, animal wellness, and education. It is a chance to turn momentum into multiplied impact.

The backpacks, the nourishing meals, the rescued animals, and the future Community Center are all possible because this community chooses to invest in one another. That choice is what sustains and strengthens the Uco Valley.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we continue building something lasting — and when we act, impact multiplies.

Carolyn Gallagher

Executive Director, The Vines Foundation

Bryan Driscoll Joins the Board of The Vines Foundation

Building a Legacy: From Shared Moments to Sustainable Impact

There are people who arrive in a place for a season — and people who stay to help shape its future.

Bryan Driscoll first came to Mendoza in 2006 for what was supposed to be a one-year adventure. Nearly two decades later, that decision has become a life rooted between Boston and the Uco Valley, and a lasting commitment to the community that grew alongside The Vines.

As a co-founder of The Vines and long-time leader at The Vines of Mendoza, Bryan has helped build a global network of vineyard owners who believe in this region — not just as a place to produce wine, but as a place worth investing in.



Over the past five years, he has also watched The Vines Foundation take shape — growing from early efforts into a structured organization with programs that support families, expand opportunity, and protect vulnerable animals across the Uco Valley.

His decision to join the Board comes at a meaningful moment. As the Foundation moves forward with plans for a Community Center — a space designed to respond to real, evolving local needs — leadership grounded in long-term commitment matters deeply.

Bryan brings more than business experience. He brings continuity. Perspective. And a personal understanding that building something lasting in this region carries both privilege and responsibility.

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As we enter our next chapter of impact, we are grateful to welcome him into this role.

◆ You've seen the Uco Valley transform since 2006. Why is the Community Center the right "next step" for the Foundation now?

When I first arrived in 2006, there were dirt roads, no traffic lights, and very little infrastructure. Watching the Uco Valley evolve since then has been extraordinary. Tourism has grown, investment has grown, and opportunity has grown. The Community Center is the natural next step because true sustainable development means the people who live here should be the ones leading that growth — running the hotels, restaurants, wineries, and businesses. This project ensures the region's success is shared with local families, not just enjoyed by visitors.

◆ How should owners and friends of The Vines think about their role — as donors, mentors, ambassadors, or something more?

If you're part of this community, you're part of its story. The people who farm our vineyards, make our wine, staff our kitchens, and welcome our guests are from here. Supporting the Foundation isn't only about financial contributions. It's about engagement — mentorship, advocacy, connection, and opportunity. If this place has given you something meaningful, helping strengthen it for others feels like a natural extension of that relationship.

◆ The Foundation has scaled significantly since 2020. What is your primary goal for our impact strategy in the coming years?

Execution and long-term impact. We need to build and launch the Community Center and ensure it delivers on its promise. The goal is straightforward: train people, strengthen their English and technical skills, and place them in stable, year-round employment. If we're consistently placing 75% of our graduates into meaningful jobs within six months of opening our doors, we'll know we're making a real difference.

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◆ ***As a vineyard owner yourself, how does your personal connection to the land influence your commitment to local families?***

I wouldn't have my wine, my brand Pasatiempo, or the experiences I've been able to share back home without the local families who work these vineyards. They are involved at every step — farming, production, packaging, shipping — everything. I'm deeply grateful for that partnership. Supporting their growth and future opportunity isn't charity. It's an acknowledgment. It's respect for the people who make all of this possible.

◆ ***What would you say to someone considering supporting this campaign?***

This is tangible impact. A dollar here goes further than many people realize — it builds classrooms, funds scholarships, and helps someone secure stable employment. We have a real opportunity to change the trajectory of families in a lasting way. That's meaningful work.



◆ ***The Foundation already served 30,000+ meals and trained 47 graduates this year. How does the Community Center multiply that impact?***

Meals matter. Animal welfare matters (and the dogs are ridiculously cute!). Immediate support matters. But long-term stability comes from building skills — whether that's language, vocational training, business fundamentals, or professional development. The Community Center allows us to shift from relief to opportunity. That's how we build generational sustainability in the Uco Valley.

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We invite you to watch a personal message from Bryan Driscoll on our YouTube channel, where he reflects on his journey and the road ahead for the Foundation.



Education as a Bridge: The 2026 Backpack Initiative



In Argentina, February 25th marked a new beginning. But for many families in the Uco Valley, the excitement of the first day of school is often overshadowed by the rising cost of basic supplies. At The Vines Foundation, we believe that education is the ultimate foundation for opportunity, and no child should start their journey at a disadvantage.

This year, Carolyn Gallagher and our Program Coordinator Laura Martorell led a deeply personal and targeted effort to ensure our support reached its destination with precision. We focused first on the children entering 1st Grade who attend the community kitchens we support year-round, delivering their new backpacks and kits in the heart of their own neighborhoods.

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For the rest of the supplies, Laura and her team went even further—visiting families door-to-door to see their realities firsthand. This personal approach allowed us to identify children in situations of extreme vulnerability and ensure that every backpack reached the hands of those who needed it most.

By providing these tools, you aren't just giving a child a notebook; you are giving them the confidence to stand tall among their peers, knowing that their global and local community truly believes in their potential.



A Special Thank You to Our "Fund a Need" Champions

This direct impact was made possible by the visionary generosity of those who stepped up during our first-ever auction GIFTS for GOOD 2025. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Wright & Cathy Lassiter and Emily & Art Monaghan. Your specific support for this cause, alongside all our donors, is what allows us to turn these supplies into a brighter future for the children of Tunuyán.

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MARCH MOMENTUM

Every Dollar Doubled.



This March, **all Annual Campaign gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar - up to \$50,000.**

That means your support goes twice as far in strengthening families across the Uco Valley and accelerating the programs that are changing lives.

Spring is a season of growth. Let's build momentum together. If you've been waiting for the right moment to give — this is it.

Double your impact. Unlock the match. Power what's next.

Donate Now

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When Community Moves, Impact Grows



A Local Race in Support of Our Dog Rescue Shelter

On March 8, a local trail-running couple, Milagros Pozzi and Gastón Fourcade is organizing a race in the Andes foothills DESAFIO AL PORTILLO — entirely in support of The Vines Foundation’s dog rescue shelter.

Their motivation began with a single act: rescuing a dog and trusting the Foundation with its care. What they witnessed — professionalism, compassion, long-term commitment — inspired them to do more.

So they did. They took on the challenge of organizing a full-scale race event, rallying runners, coordinating logistics, and dedicating the proceeds to the shelter.



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This matters. Because impact is strongest when it's shared. Because community trust cannot be manufactured — it's earned. And because the people who see the work on the ground every day are choosing to stand behind it.

Since 2020, the Foundation has continued to expand its programs across the Uco Valley — growing not just in scale, but in local engagement. This race is more than a fundraiser. It is a sign that the work resonates here, at home.

Explore the community-led initiative here: [DESAFIO AL PORTILLO](#)

In Case You Missed It

In January, we shared an in-depth look at the Community Center — an important initiative designed to respond holistically to the evolving needs of families in the Uco Valley.

If you didn't have the opportunity to read last month's newsletter, we invite you to explore the full overview of the project and the vision guiding this next phase of the Foundation's work

[January Newsletter \(PDF\)](#)

[Discover the Vision](#)

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.

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Thank YOU!