INMED Teams with FAS to Save the Amazon

INMED Partnerships for Children is pleased to partner with the Sustainable Amazon Foundation (FAS) to protect the Amazon and its natural resources, its indigenous peoples and its global importance for rainfall production and climate regulation.

The Amazon faces a state of emergency as a result of prolonged deforestation and the high death tolls from the COVID-19 pandemic. Indigenous communities lack basic food, resources and sustainable livelihoods due to low production and limited commercial channels, as well as environmental degradation from traditional farming techniques.

FAS and INMED will establish an Aquaponics Center of Production, Innovation and Training to expand new farming technology and services to local indigenous communities, and build sustainable production for food security, economic recovery and livelihoods in the Amazon. It will be modeled on the aquaponics program INMED Andes has implemented for indigenous communities in Ucayali, Peru (pictured above) and other similar projects INMED has pioneered in Jamaica and South Africa over the last decade. The project also will incorporate FAS social technology on education and entrepreneurship developed within 581 indigenous communities in the Amazon since 2008.

"We're thankful for this opportunity to train local indigenous youth, women and other community members on aquaponics farming to increase capacity and provide local opportunities for food security, economic independence and sustainability," says Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, founder and CEO of INMED Partnerships for Children.

The first center will be located in Tumbira, Amazonas-Brazil, with plans to develop eight additional aquaponics enterprises in indigenous community hubs to deliver training and
support for local producers.

“The Amazon is too big to fail, and we need solid partnerships to develop sustainable solutions adapted to Amazon’s challenges,” says Professor Virgilio Viana, Director-General at FAS. “FAS is the largest Brazilian NGO in the Amazon, and we’re very excited to have INMED on board to support us.”

Stay tuned for our virtual launch event. CLICK HERE to support this project.

**Break Time Buddies: More Than Just Fun and Games**

_Dineo Mothoa's role has expanded to ensure health and safety as children return to school after COVID-19 lockdown._

Click on this video to watch our Break Time Buddies in action during a fitness day at one of our Health in Action schools.

Dineo Mothoa (pictured above) is a young mother of two, who has been an INMED South Africa Break Time Buddy since 2019. In just one year, she says the program has transformed her life.

Dineo lives in Diepsloot, a densely populated community north of Johannesburg. In Afrikaans, the word Diepsloot means deep trench. A tightly packed hodgepodge of wooden and corrugated metal shanties, most of the community lacks running water and electricity.

With an unemployment rate of nearly 50%, prospects for a better life for Diepsloot's youth are grim. But INMED's Break Time Buddies program is offering an opportunity for self-reliance.

Break Time Buddies is a component of INMED South Africa's Health in Action program with the Mondelēz International Foundation. It trains unemployed youth to lead fun fitness and healthy lifestyles activities during recess time in participating Health in Action schools. They also learn adaptive agriculture by tending school gardens. The program addresses multiple youth development and employment-related factors, including building fundamental job skills, a work history, communications skills, and developmental assets such as positive values and identity, social competencies and empowerment.

“Among the 85 out-of-school youth who have been trained and employed as Break Time Buddies to date, 52 have since gained better employment opportunities, while 12 others saved their money to pay for further education,” notes Dr. Sandra Pretorius, INMED South Africa's Health in Action Program Manager.

Dineo is a prime example. “My time with INMED has given me the opportunity to find myself
and realize what I really want to do with my life,” she says. “INMED is not just a job, it's a life-changing organization that teaches me how to build my self-well-being. Having worked with INMED, I now want to become a social worker. I want to be more involved in building these children’s lives, especially in rural areas.”

CLICK HERE to read more about our Break Time Buddies.

**INMED USA Introduces Permaculture to Loudoun**

As plans for the INMED School at Paxton Campus in Leesburg, Virginia continue to develop, plans for an outdoor classroom environment are already taking shape. With the introduction of permaculture, the site of INMED's school will become a sustainable ecosystem, in line with Paxton's new campuswide environmental sustainability programs.

Permaculture is a system for designing agricultural landscapes that work with nature. It's guided by a set of ethics, which include:

1. Caring for the Earth
2. Caring for People
3. Sharing the Abundance

INMED USA's permaculture project will complement our aquaponics system on Paxton Campus and will include food forests, butterfly gardens, nature trails and sensory habitats that both students and the surrounding community may explore and enjoy. Ultimately, we hope that our aquaponics and permaculture projects will create an abundance of resources that can be reinvested into our community by fostering food security, skills development, sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance—key objectives of the INMED School.

CLICK HERE to learn more.

**It's Official!**

Do you recognize anything different about our logo? INMED Aquaponics® is now a registered trademark of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Having a registered trademark not only strengthens the INMED brand, but also protects the variations and combinations that distinguish our brand from others in the burgeoning field of adaptive agriculture.

INMED is a Trusted Partner
INMED Partnerships for Children is a Charity Navigator Four Star charity. This seal of approval means you can trust your support will be managed with the highest transparency and accountability to transform the lives of those in need.

CLICK HERE to read our profile!

Support Us!

INMED Partnerships for Children is a Four Star Charity Navigator nonprofit.