1. Words from our President
2. Kindergarten through 7th grade
3. Waldorf
4. English Teacher
5. After School Workshops
6. Hugo in Bolivia and Chile
7. Allies, volunteers and visitors
8. Our new Administration and welcoming Paula Soria
9. Honored to partner with She’s The First
10. Kusi Ñan Farm / Enactus and EMpower
11. Ñawpa Ñan New Land
12. Amaru
13. Tinkuy and Giving Tuesday
14. Sustainability
15. 2018 Wish List
16. Gratitude

A very special Thank You to
Pachamama’s Path board member Terence Buie for proofreading and editing this Report. Loving and heartfelt appreciation to Frida Oswald for translating this report into Spanish and Vera Hoffmann for making it possible for our German speakers to enjoy our annual summary as well. Thank you, Walker Fleming and Ch’aska Rojas-Boettger, for your lovely photos.

We love you all very much!
Kusi Kawsay Association

Mission

To cultivate ancient wisdom of indigenous Andean communities through education, agriculture and cultural practices.

Core Values

Respect, Love and Reciprocity
I do not know if it is necessary to close my eyes, or just look directly at the Kusi Kawsay School, to feel the vibration that is generated by its name; that of living happily, in harmony with all life. In these times, in a landscape held by the protective hills, our sacred Apus (mountains), and by the fields and the people of Pisac, we experience the natural symbiosis of all living beings, in a place that both reflects and echoes the Sacred Valley of our ancestors, the Incas.

In Phaqchapata (the location of Kusi Kawsay) our senses experience joy and delight ... as we contemplate the natural Andean world of trees, plants and flowers, where birds absorb the nectar of Pachamama. If we allow ourselves to close our eyes we can sense butterflies and hummingbirds, and we hear the voices of Kusi Kawsay students as they run, shout, sing and play in their innocence, children of all ages, not yet knowing a different reality to their everyday life.

Out there, not so far away, is the chaos of consumerism, of globalization. As parents of these innocent children, we created Kusi Kawsay as an indigenous refuge and a haven, a place of safety. We stand united against the onslaught of a system that has lost connection with the natural world and true freedom, to honour and protect our ancestral values of respect, love and Ayni (reciprocity). We choose to live in balance with all living beings - with all our sisters and brothers.

We are all children of a multicultural and enigmatic universe: characteristics that we have learned from the experience of our ancestors, our parents, and our grandparents such as Carlos Milla Villena. We are deeply grateful to Carlos Milla Villena, who synthesized scientifically and socially the foundations of Andean cosmocvision and shared the energy and dignity that characterized it. And time continues; as our grandfather and guide “Irpiri” - he used to say: "I am a young man without time". Perhaps he was sensing that his departure from this life was already drawing near, he left us on July 29, 2017.

Carlos Milla Villena will always be in infinity, where the wise are, like stars of the cosmos who enlighten us with the
light of their wisdom, which is embodied in his book "Genesis of the Andean Culture" and in "Ayni". We honor his memory and we thank and remember him. He is present when this knowledge flows in our teachings; the elders leave their wisdom for those who seek the truth and the reality of universal knowledge. We in these fertile fields must now take care and protect the children, who are like seeds of light that we nourish. We must accompany them in their growth, in their physical and intellectual unfolding. This is hard, full-time work, but in the end, it gives moral and spiritual satisfaction to our life cycle, being useful to humanity, to life on planet earth and in the infinite immensity of the cosmos.

We want to express our permanent and eternal gratitude to those who, from the far reaches of the planet, contribute from their hearts, spiritually, financially, and voluntarily so that the essence of life can continue to flow. Sometimes it is watered with tears of effort and emotion, yet we see smiles and colors grow and flourish, and the sounds, movements and abilities of diverse intellectual knowledge are nourished according to the nature of each student and their families. Those who write stories on a different existential level through love and harmony; these are cyclical, like the myths and in the Andean legends. But for us this is a mysterious reality, so real, that embraces in its golden age all those who share this story lived in the calling of Kusi Kawsay Private Educational Institution.

With much gratitude,

Rene Franco Salas

Urpillay Sonqollay Kusi Kawsay Ayllumasikuna. We are very grateful to our sisters and brothers of the Kusi Kawsay community.

In loving memory of Carlos Milla Villena
There is no greater joy, and no greater responsibility in this world, than to guide a child through the journey of their development and ensuring their creative imagination has the tools, space and mentors to flourish.

After much thought, advice and guidance from our Waldorf consultants and community, we discontinued our secondary grade levels in 2017 with the exception of 7th grade. This was a difficult decision, and one which led to making adjustments in our Educational Institution. However, through our Andean Legacy Project, which includes our Andean courses such as music, art, Quechua, weaving, Andean Agriculture and Andean Cosmovision, we facilitated after-school workshops for our secondary level youth. Through this, our former students are still connected to our core mission.

We are grateful for the knowledge and guidance by our Director of Pedagogy, Rosaura Farfan, who dedicated her time and energy to our 1st through 7th grade teachers, specifically focusing on complementing elements of Waldorf pedagogy with Andean culture and tradition. Rosaura said that it has been a very busy year, but thanks to our dedicated group of teachers along with their continuous curiosity to learn more and share lessons and ideas with one another, it made for a very productive year. Rosaura said that it has been very important to have a Director of Pedagogy at Kusi Kawsay and that her responsibilities were focused on cultivating a healthy learning environment where teachers, staff and parents could nurture our students' personal development and accompany them in their educational experience. In 2018, Kusi Kawsay will be a K through 8th grade school.

Our Kindergarten Director Sara Franco enjoys singing with our youngest students. They learn how to express themselves through movement, music, and play that nourish their imagination. During the month of May, Kusi Kawsay
celebrates the Southern Cross Star Constellation which is an important part of Andean culture. In Kindergarten, students dedicate a song to the constellation. They sing “one, two, three, four” in Quechua: “Huj, Iskay, Kinsa, Tawa”, followed by “Four little stars, beautiful Southern Cross” in Spanish: “Cuatro estrellitas, linda Chakanita”. Children not only learn through singing, they also honor their Quechua language and Andean culture. Sara shared the story that one of the parents told her shortly after the Chakana song lesson. The mother and child were going to Cusco one evening and the child said “Look mama, the Chakana with its four stars, pointing to the Southern Cross star constellation in the night sky.”

There is a high demand for Kindergarten placements, and it is also very important for Kusi Kawsay to truly cultivate the foundation of our educational approach at an early age to prepare children to enter first grade with a deeper understanding of Kusi Kawsay’s unique and beautiful education. For this reason, in 2018, we are excited to have two Kindergarten classrooms with the capacity of welcoming many more students to begin their beautiful educational journey at Kusi Kawsay.
"Waldorf Education is not a pedagogical system but an art - the art of awakening what is actually there within the human being."
~ Rudolf Steiner

In August, we welcomed Ken Smith from the Bay Area Waldorf Center for Teacher Training. Ken accompanied our students and teachers for two weeks, leading after school teacher trainings and visiting classrooms. Our students especially enjoy Ken’s lessons with clay. During the second week, Bettina Vielmetter from ProHumanus joined Ken to give an insightful lecture to our parents on Waldorf pedagogy. Bettina and Ken shared in depth knowledge and understanding the importance and values of Waldorf. Parents left this lecture feeling very grateful that their children are receiving an Andean education inspired by elements of Waldorf pedagogy.

Rosaura Farfan is one of three Kusi Kawsay teachers participating in the Waldorf Teacher Training Peru, thanks to the financial support by Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiner. The Waldorf Teacher Training is a great commitment that includes study groups once a week in Cusco as well as once a month traveling to Arequipa, Lima or Cusco to attend the Waldorf training workshops led by Bettina Vielmetter. Twice a year, they spend one week in Lima for an intensive training. This year, our teachers completed their second year, and now have three more years to go to become officially Waldorf-certified teachers. We are very proud of them and grateful for their dedication and endurance, their admiration and respect for Waldorf pedagogy and their unique fusion of Andean culture that makes the Kusi Kawsay experience so unique.

From the 2nd to the 9th of October, Ursula Locher from Switzerland also came to train our teachers. Her profound Waldorf knowledge has enriched our teacher’s skills. Thank you, Ursula.
It was a great joy to welcome Angela Oswald, a graduate from the Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training in California who accompanied our students as Kusi Kawsay’s English teacher. Here she shares some words about her experience:

“As I reflect upon my time in Peru, nearly one year later, I notice that "Peru" never really left. I left Peru, but my experiences there have had remaining effects on my being and how I am in the world. I am eternally grateful to have spent nearly 6 months in this beautiful country, specifically, El Valle Sagrado, The Sacred Valley. In the tiny town of Pisac, Peru, nestled among large ancient mountains, nearly 10,000 feet above sea level is a small nurturing school dedicated to continuing and honoring Andean Cosmology. I had the honor to be a part of this small community, faculty and children at Kusi Kawsay as the English teacher to grades 1-7.

From the majestic mountainscape to the humble and joy-filled children to the kind and wise faculty, my experience in Pisac, Peru volunteering at Kusi Kawsay was an incredible four months that the effects of this experience will affect the rest of my life. I think of the children often and the faculty, staff, our celebrations together honoring Pachamama and all things of nature. The loss of traditions and rituals is a passing that is growing in the "modern" world. It is in the sharing and celebrations of wisdom from one generation to the next that allows us to have a feeling of place and time in this world and to each other. This continuing on of the Andean wisdom and traditions is healthily alive at Kusi Kawsay. I hope to return before the end of 2018 to say hello to the children and teachers, and land. The greatest gift is one that keeps giving and my experiences there in Peru and working at the school will continue to live for the rest of my days.” - Angela Oswald
To offer our Kusi Kawsay alumni and secondary students from previous years with Andean Legacy classes, we offered several after-school workshops this year. Hugo initiated sacred geometry art workshops and Carlos led music lessons. Carlos also helped our youth to learn music from different cultures, such as Colombia. Tita, our song and Quechua teacher, participated in the Colombia dance and music opportunity as well as well as leading our girls and women in Andean song and dance rehearsals for our Andean cultural events. Andean Cosmovision was realized by Roman Vizcarra through community gatherings and cultural activities. An exciting new initiative that flourished this year, inspired by the strong feminine youth and women of our community, is our Women’s Circle focused on the mental and physical wellbeing as well as empowerment. We look forward to continuing all these workshops in 2018.
This year, Hugo had two opportunities to further develop and share his knowledge and art skills. In June, he traveled to La Paz, Bolivia to attend a Waldorf Art Workshop presented by Thomas Wildgruber, who has more than 30 years of experience in Waldorf and whose central focus is the importance of art in education. La Paz, Bolivia is home to a wonderful school named Kurmi Wasi which is Aymara for 'House of the Rainbow'. Hugo led the students of Kurmi Wasi in a mural painting of one of his original works representing Ayni.

During our July school break, he traveled to San Pedro de Atacama, Chile where he gave workshops on sacred geometry art. We are in admiration and awe of the gifted artist that Hugo is, and we feel very honored that our students have a teacher of such quality.
We are grateful for our allies who enable us to flourish in this important work. We are thankful for all the volunteers and visitors we have had the pleasure of sharing time with and learning from. Thank you to Walker, Monte, Aaron, Laney, Grecia, Lillian, Sonya and so many more wonderful people who stepped into our lives this year. Your skills, humor and kindness became colorful threads in our weaving. We hope that you have received gratitude and love from our community as you’ve shared your knowledge, time and energy with us. To all of our allies throughout the world, those who continuously dedicate themselves to Kusi Kawsay in their community and home, we want you to know that we are so grateful for all that you do. Thank You.

To the numerous foundations such as Pachamama’s Path, Inti Punku, Sacred Fire Foundation, APIA, GLS, Global Fund for Children, Cultural Conservancy, New England Biolabs Foundation, Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiner, WOW-Day Waldorf One World, Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training, ProHumanus, Acacia, Wilder Green Fund, EMpower, She’s The First and so many more: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Since the beginning of realizing our Kusi Kawsay dream, the majority of the financial support we receive has been dedicated to building classrooms, providing scholarships and purchasing essential school material. For some time, we hoped to provide a permanent and healthy working environment for the Administrative team. Thanks to the generous help from Dr. Annette Massmann of Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklung in der GLS Treuhand e.V and our great allies from APIA, we were not only able to realize the construction of a beautiful Administration building but also purchase supplies such as computers, chairs and desks! This has made such a positive and important impact on our Administrative team and we love all the compliments pouring in regarding our new addition to the Kusi Kawsay school grounds.

We are very happy to welcome Paula Soria to our Kusi Kawsay family. Paula merged into Administration and Development in September. She is our new Administrator. We are grateful for the wealth of knowledge, skills, and shared values Paula brings to our Projects. Our Development Lead Marina Flevotomas has joined our many allies who support us full heartedly at a distance as she made her way back to her native land of Greece. She continues to support our needs as a volunteer development advisor.
In November of 2016, co-founder of She’s the First (STF) Christen Brandt came to visit Kusi Kaways and meet our girls. STF supports girls who will be the first in their families to graduate high school and trains students everywhere to be global citizens. Kusi Kawsay and STF resonate with the aim to empower our girls and strengthen their confidence in making their own decisions. In August of 2017, STF invited Kusi Kawsay to attend their Partner Meeting in New York. Two of our dear friends based in New York who have been incredible supporters of our work, attended this meeting as Kusi Kawsay Representatives. We are incredibly grateful to Edie Meyers and Maria Elena Vergara — who became our voice and did a wonderful job sharing our story at this gathering. We are excited that STF selected Kusi Kawsay as their new Partner and will be supporting girls’ scholarships beginning in 2018 to support.
Thanks to the support of EMpower, Kusi Ñan thrives yet another year. The focus of the youth is to provide sustainable agriculture classes and empowerment through gender equality, leadership skills, teamwork and communication skills. Several great community members and teachers have dedicated their knowledge to enabling workshops, courses and activities focused on these objectives. The farm production is flourishing as Kusi Ñan expands their outreach to serve restaurants, hotels and individuals with their greens, vegetables, flowers and fruits. Our Kusi Ñan project is much more than a farm. It is a place for experiential learning, celebrating and honoring Andean culture, playing music and creating art, hosting gatherings and events and so much more.

We also had Agricultural workshops, thanks to the Kusi Ñan youth and our Canadian allies Enactus. In May, Enactus led Business and Marketing workshops, inspired a beautiful farm event and they also took a suitcase full of textiles back to Canada to share Kusi Kawsay’s story while fundraising for our projects. By collaborating with a socially responsible website, Enactus has been promoting and selling Kusi Kawsay goods on Shoppinglee. The hope is that if this experiment goes well, Kusi Kawsay will be able to directly share and sell good through this approach. We are very grateful for the continued dedication and support of Enactus!

Kusi Ñan is also the place where the founding members of Kusi Ñan known as Kusi Ñan Conjunto Musica Tradicional, convene to play and practice traditional Andean music, performing in various places in Peru and also in Ecuador. The group follows the example of Winay Taki, a music group created by founding members of Kusi Kawsay. Kusi Ñan Conjunto Musica Tradicional music is weaved through a deep friendship, this has created an inseparable bond and a beautiful journey together. We are so inspired by these young men and women, honoring their roots and sharing beautiful music with so many people.
Kusi Kawsay Association’s piece of new land is located in an area above Taray known as Wallayken (pronounced Wah-ja-ken) accessible by a challenging rocky road. At the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017, thanks to the support of Enactus and Pachamama’s Path board member Terence Buie, we realized the construction of a Water Supply System, a Septic Tank and in May, after a long and intensive search by Ñawpa Ñan’s Cultural Coordinator Assistant William Atapaucar, we purchased our community’s very first truck. This has alleviated the difficulty we have had to access the land and we are able to travel there more frequently with our entire community for gatherings and to attend to first harvest of Quinoa. It was incredibly humbling to welcome Monika Kronenberg in June to visit the new land, to meet our community, attend our cultural events, and thanking her through our music, dancing and sharing food. We showed her our gratitude for her incredibly kind donation that she made that enabled us to realize the purchase of Wallayken.
The warm-heartedness and communal welcoming that Amaru radiates is one of the many reasons we were all looking forward to this traditional weaving community hosting the Winter Solstice. Indigenous communities from around Peru and Bolivia joined to share song, music, dance, meals, and stories together. During this unforgettable gathering of indigenous peoples, we had the opportunity of welcoming our visitors to Kinsaquocha - a beautiful sacred lake.

Days were filled with communal activities including games, music and an incredible display of Amaru’s traditional textiles and weavings, including details of plants they use to for the natural dyes, patterns and their meanings - from hats, to vests to belts and ponchos - this colorful art reiterated what the community of Amaru joyfully embodies: we are living flowers.

We were also treated to an impressive presentation of the numerous varieties of potatoes that grow in Amaru. The Winter Solstice is part of Ñawpa Ñan's cultural celebration that keeps the tradition and culture of indigenous peoples and their relationship to Pachamama alive. With deep gratitude to the community of Amaru and all of our sisters and brothers for sharing this inspiring experience.
This year something very remarkable happened. In the month of June, we found ourselves brewing fundraising ideas to cover the remainder of the projects’ needs for 2017. As we took a deep inhale and held our breaths for an entire month to realize our online Crowdfunding campaign, we ecstatically exhaled as we surpassed our goal. We called this campaign Tinkuy which is Quechua for “The connection between us all.” The solidarity and love that poured in made the connection between us all very real. We want to thank each person who resonated with Kusi Kawsay and made a contribution to the Tinkuy campaign. We are grateful for the Ccantu Group that enabled Matching Funds. Special thanks to Walker, Monte, Ann, Fielding, Rene and to the Kusi Kawsay Association and Pachamama’s Path board for excelling in teamwork and contributing their time and energy so dedicatedly.

In November, we joined the world in the annual online Giving Tuesday campaign with the aim of raising funds for 2018 teacher salaries’. In the early months of 2017, the government of Peru was confronted by a massive strike from public school teachers. Two months later, the government issued a supreme decree recognizing that they will raise the minimum wage. Kusi Kawsay has always paid our teachers more than what the government had offered public school teachers - until the strikes. Kusi Kawsay does not receive any financial support from the government. The Kusi Kawsay Association will be increasing our budget for 2018 to offer our teachers’ salaries equivalent to that offered by the State. We want to thank to all who supported our Giving Tuesday campaign.
We are committed to having motivated, trained staff that are rooted in Andean culture and values dedicated to protecting the environment, ensuring a dignified education to economically challenged children and youth and ensuring the rights and pursuit of happiness for indigenous communities. We continuously improve our education initiative by improving our activities and programs so that indigenous children and youth may be raised in Andean traditions while integrating with the realities of a modern world. Our Education Institution complies with all legal terms and the donations, which sustain our project, are locally applied, strengthening our mission and vision. Long-term economic sustainability is our aim and we are investing resources to create products locally.

**Kusi Ñan Organic Farm**

Protecting native seeds and traditional Andean Agricultural techniques are the main basis of the farm project. We are committed to using the land and resources to educate local children and youth in sustainable agricultural methods, local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as healthy living and wellbeing awareness programs. We do not use products, which harm the environment or our communities. As a fully organic farm, we are not only protecting the environment but also ensuring long-term health benefits, essential farming knowledge as well as sustainable business activities.

**Ñawpa Ñan Cultural Events**

In a fast-changing world, our commitment is to ensure the protection, cultivation and promotion of traditional Andean culture. Indigenous communities have a strong connection with their roots and their natural surroundings guaranteeing a harmonious relationship with life itself. Preserving traditional music, song, dance, weaving techniques, Andean Cosmovision and food customs are the essence of our cultural project. Sharing the events throughout Andean Calendar allows us to raise awareness of the Quechua Nation, our values of respect, love and reciprocity as well as inspire communities locally, nationally and internationally to practice culture and tradition freely and proudly.
We continuously work on exciting possibilities to achieve economic sustainability. Some of these possibilities include:

- Creation of a Production center to produce an Energy Bar with local products.
- Creation of reusable plates made of corn husks to eliminate the overuse of plastic.
- Creation of a Cookbook featuring traditional Andean recipes.
- Produce an Andean Calendar in English, Spanish and Quechua.
- Partner with travel companies to enable visits to our Kusi Kawsay projects.
- Create an Educational Experience that offers teachers to be students at the Kusi Kawsay Andean school and learn about the fusion of Andean Culture with elements of the Waldorf pedagogy.
- Production and selling of crafts and t-shirts at Kusi Kawsay School, the Pisac Inn Hotel and at different events locally and abroad.
Our wish list includes sponsors for our Ayni Scholarship Fund. We urgently seek funding for a Shade Structure at Kusi Kawsay to protect the health of our students from the strong sun. Further needs include an audio-visual equipment such as sound systems, a projector and wireless microphones as well as recording equipment. We are seeking lighting (preferably solar) for outdoor use. For our school supplies we would greatly benefit from have science equipment such as microscopes. Waldorf art supplies such as crayons and paint (Stockmar), easels, specialized watercolor paper and books for our Library are always welcomed. As we will be having a second Kindergarten classroom, we are looking for resources such as Waldorf dolls, toys and art supplies.

For the Cultural Center, we wish to focus on maintenance and expanding the communal healing space to include therapeutic possibilities of medicinal baths for our communities’ elders and those who are confronting health issues. We would also greatly benefit from non-restrictive donations towards our cultural events.

At Kusi Ñan, our youth have expressed that the greatest needs are monetary donations for them to purchase their needs throughout the year. These include but are not limited to rain protective tents for the outdoor areas where youth and community gatherings take place, purchasing Kitchen utensils and focusing on solutions to confront the scarcity of water. The Kusi Ñan youth have expressed that they are interested in exploring the possibility of creating their own essential oils with the plants and herbs they grow at the farm. Any material that is useful in the production of essential oils is very much welcome.
Gratitude

Every time a year comes to an end, we take a moment to reflect and realize how all the decisions and choices accumulate into creating a long weaving that tells the stories of how we spent our days. When we look at the 2017 weaving of our Kusi Kawsay journey, we see many patterns, many colors, many stories and yes, even a few knots and loose threads that we had to untangle, learn from and reweave. What we can see in our weaving, as 2017 comes to a close, is more than satisfying. It is a testament to a mission and a vision that is sustained by our love and understanding of not only what we want for our community and our children, but what they need in order to flourish into respectful, loving and reciprocal beings: a place where they feel safe, respected, dignified, loved and welcomed. What an honor it is to be a part of this weaving, this purpose and way of life. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our local and global Kusi Kawsay community. We hope that everyone actively and lovingly cultivates and nourishes the relationships that surround us to create strong bonds, to care for each other and to care for Pachamama. May we all find our purpose in Ayni and continue to flourish. We look forward to a wonderful 2018 with all of you! Urpilay Sonqollay

The happiest communities are those in which the children and youth share a strong connection with the elders. The bridge between generations is a loving and reciprocal relationships and a fundamental ingredient to a healthy and prosperous community. In order to lead a happy life, we must cultivate and practice gratitude and reciprocity. We have titled this year’s summary Tikari which is Quechua for ‘Flourish’. We are dedicated to a flourishing community, a thriving Pachamama and to live, through our actions and intentions, Kusi Kawsay and Sumak Kawsay (Buen Vivir / Good Living).