



**Creation of the new Educational Center for Latin America
Fundación Origen
CHILE**

“School of Leadership for Peace & Sustainable Development”

Holistic Education is synonymous with Respecting, Loving, Innovating, Including, Integrating, taking the best of everything we know and making it ours.



Fundación Origen is a nonprofit Institution whose mission is to improve the quality of Education, provide technical training, and to promote sustainable and community oriented development from a holistic perspective. Peace & Tolerance as well as Spirituality, autonomy and responsibility make up the basis of its teaching.

The Fundamental Values that impel Fundación Origen are:

- *The search for Peace and Tolerance in everything we attempt as a central axis of our educational model.*
- *Respect and commitment for all beings and our environment.*
- *Equanimity and Equal Opportunities, because we believe all human beings deserve dignified living conditions and access to Health and Education.*
- *Compassion, seen as the desire to end suffering of others.*
- *Love, as the desire for others to be happy.*
- *Joy and Rejoicing in the happiness of others.*
- *Generosity as a practice of life.*
- *Respect for diversity.*
- *Desire for improvement.*



Since 1991, Fundación Origen as developed two main projects: Escuela Agroecológica de Pirque (The Agricultural School) and Centro de Estudios Origen (The Adult Training center). Our programs have reached a point of maturity that enables us to dream to expand and have more impact through our work and reach more people in need.

Our main objectives are to promote Sustainable Development and to offer programs to increase the skills needed to reach a culture of Peace.

As detailed in our following descriptions we need to buy land in order to build the new **School of Leadership for Peace & Sustainable Development** meant to train leaders for Latin America. On this same property we will build the new agricultural school to increase our impact among rural communities. We aspire this training center to be a place for sharing wisdom, knowledge and experiences, unique in its kind in our region, that will offer multiple programs to improve people's lives giving them work skills , increase their compassion and loving kindness and work for a better and more sustainable world for all.

This project will benefit students, teachers, social entrepreneurs, community leaders, health practitioners, peoples coming from different areas of society who believe in personal, social and environmental responsibility from all Latin America.

Our programs have inspired others in Africa, Brazil and Latin America and at present are being built into a system that will enable people to replicate them.



The Agricultural School:

Since 1991, Fundación Origen has been developing an Educational Model for Youth at risk in its Agroecological School of Pirque (ASP) obtaining unique results in Chile. The mission of ASP is to offer an integral educational space to more than 480 socially vulnerable youngsters so that they may graduate high school while at the same time getting a degree of Farming Technician, which is recognized by the Ministry of Education of Chile, and which will allow them to go into labor world or on to higher studies.

The ASP has recognized organic farming and agrotourism training as an efficient means of cultivating the qualities of its students and improving the quality of life of the youngsters and their families, developing entrepreneurial capacity and social responsibility. We are motivated to find the children's potential, supporting their cognitive, artistic and spiritual development, their personal development, and to offer a space of healing. As an inspirational tool, we use organic farming, a relevant method of integrating them to formal education.



Our Innovations and achievements:

- Development of a holistic and organic farming educational model that is self-sustainable.
- Integration of active nonviolence into school culture, achieving a peaceful climate appropriate for study.
- Providing quality education and equal opportunities to socially vulnerable youngsters that is evidenced by successful integration of our graduates in the higher education and commercial world.
- Constantly innovating our learning methodologies through experience and practice and the integration of the subjects.
- Stimulating the leadership and enterprise capacities of our students so that they may generate their own sources of work and become social transformers. We also include financial education in the curriculum.
- We offer a flexible and inclusive curriculum that values diversity .
- We integrate the Inner Ecology workshop where we promote respect for the rights of all living beings through meditation, reflection, personal and group development.
- Promoting personal, social, environmental and cultural responsibility.

Of importance to note is that 87 % of our students come from highly vulnerable social environments, and 60% of our graduate students go to higher education, technical or professional. We have had a 0% dropout rate in the last ten years, less than 2% teenage pregnancy (14 % is the national rate), and 100% of teenage mothers finish their studies. In addition our students are highly valued by local farmers and are hired by wineries, fruit export companies, labs, etc.

The Training Center:

Is a community action organization that was born to:

- Promote the integral educational model of Fundación Origen.
- Training in “Change of Heart”: Leadership for Peace, Tolerance & Sustainable Development.
- Train educators for private and public institutions.
- Train in conflict mediation, personal and organizational development.
- Provide small enterprise trainings in Organic farming, processing of farming products, bakery, cheese making, beekeeping and agro-tourism.

Hundreds of adults are trained in the different programs the center offers every year, mostly

women who are in programs to end family violence and abuse. They are trained to start their small businesses and support their families as well as a deep training to become leaders of Peace & Tolerance in their worlds.

Our non denominational and inclusive methodology is inspired by programs of different traditions of Non-Violent Communication, “Change of Heart” by Chagdud Rinpoche, a Peace Training method of Buddhist values and our experience of 20 years of working with at risk communities and youth.



Sustainability Programs:

Fundación Origen offers its traditional country house converted into a charming Bed& Breakfast for hotel services, events, trainings, workshops, retreats, executive meetings.

The store offers the products of our organic farm, bread, honey, cheese, eggs, pastries, etc.

This program provides funds to finance the education of the children and adults, helping Fundación Origen to become self-sustainable.



Our dream...

Following the success of our institute, we have persistent requests to replicate our school and training center in other regions of Chile, other countries in South America - and even other continents. Our programs have reached a point of maturity that enables us to dream to expand, share and have more impact through our work and reach more people in need.

The next phase of the project would be to create a second school in the south of Chile, a few hours from Santiago to assure the success of the agricultural side of the education as well as the sustainability. As it would be an extension of the first school, sharing administration, teachers, experts and by producing different crops, it would supplement and enhance the overall project.

The new farm should host the **School of Leadership for Peace and Sustainable Development** training center as well and as an agrotourism facility in order to maintain the school's sustainability and increase the social impact the foundation has. People from other countries could come and experience the workshops, the retreats and the educational model in a beautiful and pure environment.

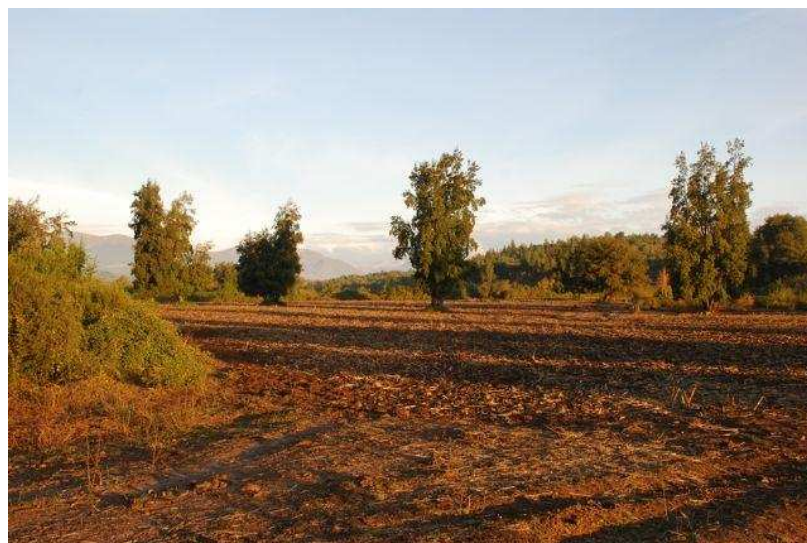


The “ Change of Heart” training offered by Fundación Origen is relevant to anyone seeking to increase their effectiveness and capacity to benefit others, including students, teachers, parents, counselors, social workers and health professionals. The principles and methods can be used in a wide variety of contexts to bring people together to solve problems respectfully, constructively and harmoniously.

Many people who promote transformation find themselves “burned out” and frustrated by the slow changes and the difficulties of the path. Our workshops promote a change of view, give the tools to deal with different realities , integrating ideals and values into their professional and personal lives. They introduce methods which help transform negative emotions and mental habits that perpetuate conflict while awakening and strengthening the positive qualities necessary to be most effective in helping others, learning to “be the change” we want to see in the world.

At present we found land that meets the different needs of the project: good farming land, accessible roads to ensure the students and teachers transportation, unique and pristine environment to attract people who would visit and use the tourism facilities, as well as be a quiet place for retreats that we have increasing requests about from the groups that we work with. This could also add to the sustainability of the new School and Training Center.

Currently, we are assessing a beautiful piece of land in the region of Maule, two and a half hours from Santiago, with all the requirements that this project has: 105 hectares of agricultural land, 600 meters of river side, native woods, water and amazing natural views of the Andes.





Budget:

The land 105 hectares of irrigated agricultural land	\$ 525.000
Basic Building of the school and Center	\$ 400.000
Water well and irrigation	\$ 65.000
Total	\$ 990.000

US donors may contact The Resource Foundation for tax purposes: info@resourcefnd.org, mentioning Fundacion Origen's project.

We trust that building this Institute will be possible thanks to the help of many people, corporations and institutions. In times of uncertainty like the ones we are living, each donation that we can add has a very special meaning. Every contribution is welcome so that together we can promote Leadership for Peace and Sustainable Development.

Until now we count with the commitment of contributions for 300.000 dollars. For additional information please contact.

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Our Foundation has received recognitions and awards. Mary Anne Müller was elected “Social Entrepreneur of the year 2007” by Schwab Foundation from Switzerland, is a fellow of Ashoka and AVINA foundations.

The partners of Fundación Origen in it’s previous projects:

- Fundación AVINA (Switzerland)
- Ashoka (USA)
- Ministerio de Educación de Chile
- European Community (CEE)
- Citigroup Foundation
- Pfizer Foundation
- Fundación Andes
- Aguas Andinas-AGBAR (España)
- Schwab Foundation (Switzerland)
- Educating Africa (Duncan Saville)
- The Resource Foundation (USA)
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- Bay & Paul Foundations
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- CCU (Chile)
- Municipalidad de Puente Alto.