



Dear INE Friends:

We hope that as you all read this letter, you are all safe and sound. We are thankful because we are on our feet and despite this hurricane - we will grow from it.

After *María* we must reconstruct our communities. We will contribute to this reconstruction from and through our schools.

We write to you today to extend our gratitude for the expansive support and warmth we have received. We are in awe of your eagerness to help our communities get back on track. Additionally, we wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about the current state of our schools and their communities.

From our 50 schools and projects, all of them, some more than others, have suffered from the hurricane. The communities that serve our schools have been affected deeply: over 200 families have lost their homes. INE has started to work with both scenarios: the reconstruction of the schools and that of its communities as well.

We have noteworthy stories from the communities' reconstruction: families, groups of teachers, volunteers, neighbours that are working in solidarity to clean the schools and have them operating as soon as possible so we can focus again on serving the children of Puerto Rico. This is the Puerto Rico that we have gotten to know during the past years, a resilient Puerto Rico that comes together as a community to progress our island and its communities.

We feel privileged to be part of the history of each community that keeps gifting us with life lessons.

INE has established an immediate agenda of **support** and **reconstruction**:

The **first phase** of the agenda, **support**, is to facilitate the connections between the people who want to help and the communities that have urgent needs.

- a) We have been working with our friend and collaborator, Alan Taveras in the delivery of water, food and basic supplies to different communities that are in need of urgent care.
- b) We have been working with 'Centro Para La Nueva Economía' (Center for New Economy) to supply communities with water and hygiene supplies.
- c) This next week we will work with different centers supplied by Banco Popular Foundation in different zones around the island.
- d) INE's office of Human Resources has ran a census of our schools' personnel that have lost their homes. Human Resources is collecting towels, blankets and other home goods to give to those within INE's school personnel that have lost their homes. These will be given through a number of small activities that will be held in different areas across the island.
- e) We've established an alliance with 'Mentes Puertorriqueñas en Acción' and with 'Revista Jurídica de la UPR' to bring different brigades to schools and help the schools' personnel clean and prepare the different classrooms and environments.
- f) A member of our Board of Directors, a pediatrician, has been at our disposition to bridge medical needs and their supplies/services to our different communities.

The **second phase** of our agenda is the reconstruction of those schools that have suffered damages and help reconstruct communities that have lost their homes.

- 1) We are working with Montessori sister schools from the US that want to help us reconstruct Puerto Rico's public Montessori schools.
- 2) Next week we will be identifying community leaders to create a proposal, along with INE, for the reconstruction of public housing that will be submitted to the government.
- 3) We have established an alliance with **Para La Naturaleza** to initiate a **reforestation** project in our schools and communities.

INE's staff will be visiting all of our 50 schools between October and November to support them throughout the beginning of classes, post María.

You guys, our friends, can join our efforts in different ways: by helping us raise funds to buy food and supplies, being part of the brigades where we give these supplies, participating from the brigades that help schools physically shape up, and by looking for allies that are willing to help us throughout the reconstruction of our schools.

INE is your home. You can write to us at amgarcia@inepr.com , larroyo@inepr.com

We are deeply thankful for your support.

Sending a big hug to each of you,

Ana María García Blanco

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Escuelas públicas montessori