Meghan Casey

Chilamate Rainforest Eco-Retreat

Collaboration with their community is a prime focus of the Chilamate Rainforest Eco-Retreat. Meghan Casey, from episode #010, shares some of the ways that she and her family have been able to support families in their local region.

In what ways has Meghan and her family been supporting the local communities?

- **Teaching English in the pueblo**

- **Arranging cooking classes for their guests with local families**

- **Helping neighbors establish tours of their organic farms**

- **Selling cacao tours for their neighbors**

- **Inviting their own guests to stay with local families in a farm stay program**

- **Collecting donations from the World Leadership School & Teach United to support the local school**

Here are some tips on how you might build empowering relationships with your local communities:

- Start conversations, ask questions, listen, and build goodwill
- Learn the local language
- Make a list of locals that want to learn English and set up language sharing dates with guests that would like to learn the local language
- Join the local development association
- Make a list of products or services that your neighbors provide and advertise them to your guests
- Ask local farmers to share their knowledge of seasonal best practices (even if you assume they are different from your ideal approach - you might still learn some valuable information and they will appreciate your curiosity)
- Involve your neighbors with your projects
- Organize a large community-participation project to meet a need of the village
- Show up and contribute when your village has a fundraiser or group project
- Start a crowd-funding campaign to collect donations for a needed cause
- Contact global organizations that provide funding or specialized education and see what they can do to support your region's needs.

What can you do to enhance resiliency in your community?

To hear the full-length episode where Meghan describes developing these programs, visit
https://sharinginsights.net/meghan-casey