



April 10, 2020

To the Green Empowerment Family:

We have come to accept that this year's 15th annual Green Empowerment Benefit Dinner will not occur in May, like so many events and plans that have needed to change. I have spent these days thinking about all the ways in which I look forward to that event, with gratitude, affection, and joy. The ways in which Green Empowerment and Andina have, in common cause, inspired and supported each other over many years. While we don't know when we will be able to gather again as a group, your continued support of Green Empowerment now is even more important.

In these times of confusion and uncertainty across the globe, I hope we can find strength and courage by just this kind of reflection: remembering the good and the noble around us. By reflecting on the people I have known and the examples of goodness I have seen and continue to see, I remember the significance we each have for one another, and how deeply empowered each of us is in improving the lives of others. While we are not able to be together for dinner next month and a celebration of the remarkable work that Green Empowerment is doing we hope that you will still consider making a contribution to Green Empowerment to help them continue their important work in Peru, Latin America and across the globe.

For me and for Andina, the people and the projects of Green Empowerment have been examples of inspiration and strength for the past 15 years.

 It was in 2005 that Andina first hosted Green Empowerment's Fundraising Dinner. I seem to recall that we staged the event in our downstairs courtyard space, when that was the largest space available for such an event. Our family friend Dick Benner had introduced us to Green Empowerment, an organization founded in Portland and operating in Peru, collaborating with a local community in the design and construction of two wind mills for generating electricity. That community was the remote Andean village of Alambre, located in the highlands of Cajamarca, where I grew up! Since that first encounter, that first discovery of distant communities coming together to the benefit of both, Andina has opened its doors every year to Green Empowerment, its friends and families!

 During these 15 years of partnership, we've witnessed how Green Empowerment has expanded its mission of providing renewable energy and potable water to other communities in Peru and across South America, always working hand-in-hand with the local residents. Together they build windmills, solar panels, or small hydroelectric systems, using the raw materials and energy sources most accessible to each community. The project leaders and volunteers also teach the community how to manage and maintain what they together have built. I cannot think of a more empowering kind of work that is generating such important benefits on the ground in these communities.

 In 2010, my husband, John, and I visited the village of Alambre. There, we witnessed with our own eyes how much the community had improved. We saw two wind mills on the summit of a nearby peak, generating sufficient electricity for five light bulbs placed strategically in the town, and, critically, for a refrigerator with antibiotics and medicines for the sick. To this day, and hopefully well into the future, Alambre possesses an invaluable asset, and one they helped build with their own hands.

 At Andina, we have also witnessed changes over the years: the Green Empowerment Fundraising Dinners have attracted more and more people. It's a particular joy of ours to see how, at the heart of the new and growing community of GE supporters and volunteers and friends, a core are always present. Every year, we are so deeply moved and grateful for their loyalty, enthusiasm, and generosity of heart. Surely this is what attracts so many. Thanks to their generous donations of time and capital and expertise, villages like Alambre, as well as other remote villages around the world, are learning how to build, manage and improve upon basic infrastructure for clean energy and clean water. Our heartfelt thanks go to Green Empowerment and to all its donors for improving the quality of life of many small villages in the world, including the small villages of Peru!

In Peru, food represents love and gratitude. When we hear that a guest is visiting our homes, we bring all our care, all our skills, all our pride to the task of making the most delicious meal, the most hospitable experience we can. This is the way we say thank you. This is the way we honor our connections.

At Andina, we strive to do the same. Our Chef, our Director of Events, and the Green Empowerment team discuss and decide upon dishes most emblematic of Peru and most exciting for all invited guests. Our kitchen team, our bartenders, our service staff prepare their stations for the evening. The dinner, and all that it entails and offers, is our way of saying thank you - thank you for your engagement, thank you for your support.

This gratitude will be forever.

And as a token of that gratitude, I wanted to share with you the recipe for our classic cebiche, which is easy enough to make at home. I hope it brings the flavors of Peru into your home until we can gather again as a family again here at Andina.

With hope and gratitude,

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Owner

