



Friends of Inti Wara Yassi Annual Report 2024

Prepared by

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UK Charity Registration Number: 1124355



MESSAGE FROM CIWY FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT TANIA "NENA" BALTAZAR



Hello to everyone!

We have seen yet another year of tireless dedication and significant achievements in our mission to protect and conserve wildlife. In 2024 we met with unprecedented challenges, particularly in the fire season, which put our Ambue Ari sanctuary at risk. For five months we were fighting to protect our forest, and were witness to the pain and suffering of so many animals. Thanks to the efforts and passion of our incredible team we managed to protect their home. That said, it's in these moments of adversity that we again experienced the solidarity from many in Bolivia and across the world, thank you for not leaving us alone in this fight.

We have also achieved a significant advance in the transfer of the animals from Machia to Jacj Cuisi, and it's incredible to see how their quality of life has improved in the Land of Dreams. Seeing them so happy fills us with joy and makes all the efforts worthwhile.

I look at the past and remember that when I started on this journey, my aim was just to help one spider monkey, it's incredible to see everything that CIWY has achieved over the years. It has not just saved thousands of animals but has also inspired so many people across the world.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support. Our fight continues and I know that our spirit and commitment will continue the same strength and passion that we had when we began 32 years ago. From the Bolivian jungle I send you a big hug,

FROM FIWY TRUSTEE CHAIR JON CASSIDY



A big hello to all CIWY and FIWY supporters across the globe.

2024 marked the 32nd year of CIWY's existence in Bolivia and the 16 years since FIWY was officially established as a charity in the UK, and the family continues to grow. So much so that last year we had our first "next generation" volunteer, with a mother who volunteered in the 1990s inspired her son to volunteer at the parks - it made us feel proud and old in equal measure!

We're also delighted to say that the name of CIWY is spreading further still, very much thanks to the huge success of fellow trustee Laura Coleman's book "The Puma Years: A Memoire" - if you haven't read it yet, make sure you do! Barely a week goes by without a new volunteer arriving at the parks or a new donor joining our community having read this book. It's wonderful to know that the message of CIWY is continuing to touch the hearts and minds of people across the world.

You will read in the report the challenges we have faced this year, not least the worst and most damaging fire season ever experienced by CIWY. It is during these challenging and often desperate times that our teams in Bolivia need to know that they are not alone as they battle day and night against the devastation. We are grateful to everyone who gave their support during these times, whether with donations, messages of support or feet on the ground - every gesture, no matter how small, helps more than you can imagine - thank you all.

We look forward to a 2025 continuing our work throughout the Amazon, with a ground breaking jaguar release initiative and international recognition alongside some of the leading conservation charities in the world among some of the highlights during the first few months of this new year. As always, a huge thank you to everyone who helps to keep this incredible work going, and here's to growing the CIWY family further still.

With very best wishes,



BACKGROUND ON FIWY AND CIWY

Friends of Inti Wara Yassi (FIWY) is a UK charity that exists to support Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi in Bolivia.

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) is a Bolivian Non-Governmental Organisation engaged in protecting wildlife rescued from illegal trafficking and the conservation of over 1300 hectares of critical Amazon habitat. Across its three wildlife sanctuaries, CIWY has cared for thousands of animals, providing them a better quality of life and a future in their natural habitat. CIWY has been in operation since 1992 and is recognised internationally for its work in wildlife care and rehabilitation.



FIWY Patron Jane Goodall speaks with CIWY Founder Nena Baltazar during a visit to CIWY's Machía Sanctuary.



In 2024 CIWY was selected as the awardee of the prestigious **Biodiversity Conservation Award in Latin America from the BBVA Foundation**. This recognition honors three decades of work in rescuing, caring for, and conserving wildlife, as well as CIWY's accomplishments in environmental education and research.

FIWY was created by former CIWY volunteers in the UK, in order to provide financial and administrative support to CIWY. As a registered UK charity, FIWY facilitates tax-deductible donations from British taxpayers and qualifies for certain grants that would not be available to the Bolivian NGO.

FIWY manages the CIWY website, online donations, grant requests, Sponsor-an-Animal programme, newsletter, and online shop.



Wayra, a puma at CIWY's Ambue Ari Wildlife Sanctuary, inspired FIWY Trustee Laura Coleman to devote herself to supporting CIWY's work in creative ways. Wayra passed away in 2021, after 18 years at Ambue Ari.

OUR VISION

A world where wildlife thrives in its natural habitat, free from the dangers of poaching and the destruction of its ecosystems.

OUR MISSION

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) works to combat the illegal wildlife trade and the destruction of the environment through educational programs, research projects, and public actions. At its wildlife sanctuaries in the Bolivian Amazon, CIWY rehabilitates and cares for wild animals rescued from trafficking, wildfire, and other harmful situations. CIWY also protects over 1300 hectares of untouched rainforest from poaching, logging, mining, and wildfire.

OBJECTIVES:

- To defend the environment and conserve biodiversity.
- To rescue and rehabilitate wildlife that has fallen victim to trafficking, abuse, or wildfire.
- To responsibly manage and care for rescued wildlife and protected habitat.
- To coordinate research and education programs that support conservation efforts.

YEAR IN REVIEW

CIWY has been focused on closing its Machia Sanctuary and moving most of the animals who live there to Jacj Cuisi. This is a huge undertaking, but Machia has to close for several reasons, including a highway being built directly through it.

The animals have a better quality of life in Jacj Cuisi's remote 'Land of Dreams,' but the transition brings a great financial and logistical hurdle.

Construction of new facilities has been slow, because CIWY operates on a very lean budget and its top priority is feeding and caring for the animals that depend on them. Wildfires also demanded a large portion of CIWY's staff time and resources.

We did see the successful completion of two Capuchin Monkey Areas, allowing for the transfer of 38 capuchins from Machia's 'Mirador', 'Heaven' and 'Earth' areas.



This year, CIWY benefitted from a new partnership with **BISA Seguros** y **La Vitalicia**, who launched a “**Navidad Verde**” campaign to provide urgent care for the animals rescued from fires. They contributed 300,000 Bs (over \$40,000) as official sponsors of Jaguarcita, Victoria (kinkajou), Luca (night monkey), Fermin (howler monkey), Valo (puma), Romeo and Mara (spider monkeys).

CIWY signed an agreement with the Yembo Eza Reta technical institute in Ascensión de Guarayos to welcome veterinary students to Ambue Ari for training on wildlife first aid, with an emphasis on animals affected by the fires. We aim to repeat training at a national level in 2025.



35 veterinary students received training in wildlife rescue and primary attention of wildlife affected by the fires.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Unfortunately the defining feature of 2024 was fire. In Bolivia's worst fire season to date, a full 11% of the country burned - over 12 million acres, and the government declared a national emergency in September.

We are very saddened that half of Ambue Ari's land was burned, and it appears that fires were intentionally started within the sanctuary more than once.

In July and August, the firebreaks surrounding the sanctuary proved effective, as did our twice-a-day drone patrol and satellite monitoring. We could focus our efforts on fighting fires further afield and rescuing injured and orphaned wildlife. That in itself was a huge task, on top of CIWY's day-to-day work caring for 500 animals.

Then on August 31, a fire was started in Ambue Ari, right on its perimeter, over a kilometer away from the nearest heat source. The fire was controlled by the sanctuary team and firefighters. On September 16, another fire was spotted on the top of the mountain within Ambue Ari. The fire grew quickly and by the 19th, a firebreak had to be opened across the Sanctuary, with the help of a caterpillar, to stop the fire from reaching the animal enclosures. In the end, 2,535 hectares were burned over 10 days, including 527 hectares of Ambue Ari. The team was devastated to see the whole mountain burned.

The biggest scare for our rescued animals came on October 9, when another fire came alarmingly close to Rala's and Katie's enclosures. It was luckily spotted by a veterinarian at 1:30 am and extinguished before reaching the clinic or any enclosures. Ten hectares were burned and it appears to have been arson, most likely committed by poachers.

It has become clear that even more security measures are needed to protect Ambue Ari. We know that the Amazon fires are more intense each year, and we must also acknowledge that poachers are increasingly drawn to CIWY's sanctuaries, as wild habitat areas shrink and wildlife populations become more dense in the remaining patches. CIWY is exploring options that include video cameras, heat sensors, and increased patrolling.



The CIWY team fighting fire near Ambue Ari Sanctuary on August 1, 2024. In the following weeks, fires burned 527 hectares of Ambue Ari.



The October 9 fire came within meters of Rala's enclosure.

RESCUE & RELEASE

Many animals, including those rescued from wildfire, arrive at our sanctuaries without an imprint towards human beings -- they retain behaviors typical of their species. In these cases, after any necessary medical care and rehabilitation, we release the fauna into its natural habitat.

In 2024 we received an unprecedented amount of animals rescued from fires – 72 individuals. We treated and released a great proportion of them and we ended the suffering of those that could not survive their injuries.



The species that we released the most in 2024 was the **three-toed sloth**, with 10 individuals, all rescued from wildfire.



Tara was found amongst dozens of dead sloths that could not escape the suffocating air quality caused by fires. She remained latched onto her dead mother for days before her rescue. After 5 months of intensive rehabilitation, Tara was successfully released into the 1000 hectares of natural habitat at Ambue Ari.



A **baby jaguar** was rescued from the fires, with her wild instincts intact. Felines are usually very difficult to reintroduce into the wild, and in fact, a jaguar has never been released in Bolivia, largely due to complex bureaucratic and legal barriers. We are especially excited, therefore, to lead a groundbreaking national effort: CIWY has gained government approval to rehabilitate, release, and monitor this young jaguar.

We formed a Multidisciplinary Technical Committee, composed of government agencies, national and international associations (including the WCS), independent biologists and a jaguar genetics specialist, to develop the first formal jaguar rewilding program. The plan is to fully release and monitor the jaguar after her rehabilitation at CIWY's Ambue Ari Sanctuary.

This baby jaguar was rescued from wildfire in 2024 and is set to become the **first jaguar ever released into the wild in Bolivia**. Stay tuned for updates on her progress!

We are now in the process of building a rehabilitation enclosure large enough (1 hectare - 10,000 m²) to allow the growing jaguar to hunt and maintain her survival skills.

REHABILITATION & CARE

2024, By The Numbers

CIWY ended the year with **528** animals, of **45** species.

Over the year, CIWY:

- rescued **112** animals (**72** from fires)
- released **45** animals
- transferred **27** from Machia to Jacj Cuisi

The largest number of animals that CIWY received (66%) were rescued from fire.

Other animals, especially those rescued from the illegal pet trade, are not able to safely return to the jungle, due to their imprint towards humans. We provide these individuals with a permanent home within our sanctuaries.



In June, two baby spider monkeys were rescued in Ixiamas after hunters killed a group of 24 monkeys and burned them for the illegal bushmeat trade. The babies, still clinging to their mothers when the fire occurred, suffered severe injuries and were brought to Jacj Cuisi for treatment. Despite arriving in critical condition, both showed incredible strength and fully recovered from their burns. The younger one is named Vida ("Life" in Spanish), and the older one, Munay, pictured on the left, means "eternal, unconditional love" in Quechua.

Although hunting for bushmeat is illegal, it is still widely commercialized, especially in tourist areas like Rurrenabaque, without consequences. We are planning research and outreach activities in 2025 focused on the issue of human-wildlife conflict in rural areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



In August, CIWY launched the “Macaws: Mobile Rainbows of the Jungle” project in three communities neighboring Jacj Cuisi Sanctuary, in San Buenaventura. Through recreational activities and games, we raised awareness among more than 180 children and young people, ages 6 to 18, about the value of caring for wildlife and its crucial role in nature.

In these workshops, we focused on the **Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*)**, a vulnerable species in our region, along with other important birds and mammals. We know that "you can't love and respect what you don't know," so we seek to inspire in participants a deep connection with the natural environment, so they can be the next guardians of the rainforest and its wildlife. We thank the **Neotropical Birding Club** for their support of this initiative.



CIWY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 2024 - December 2024



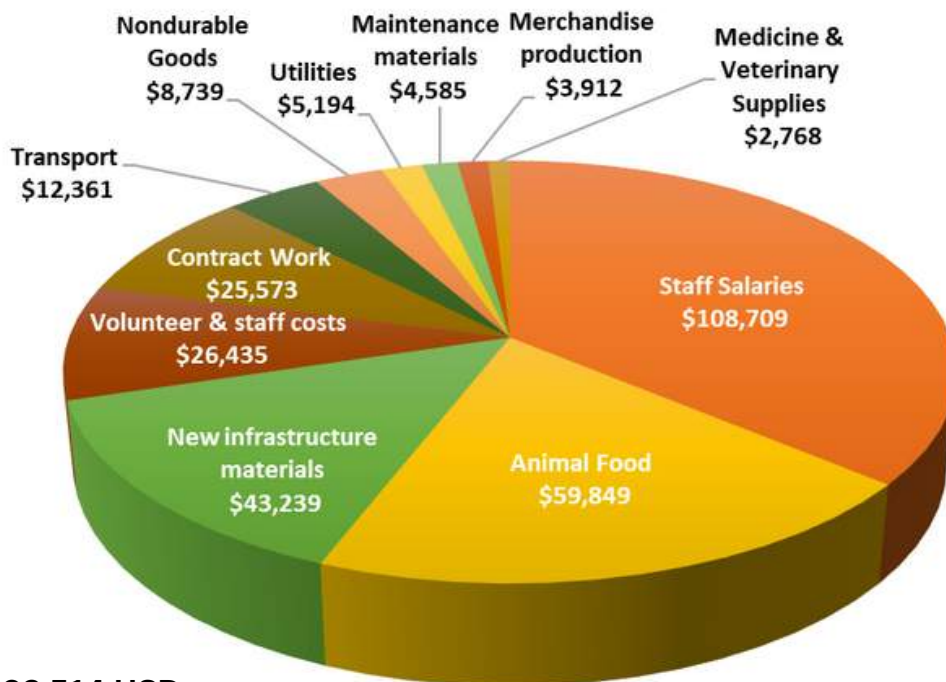
Please note that CIWY and FIWY UK operate on different fiscal years and currencies.

INCOME



Total: \$272,249 USD

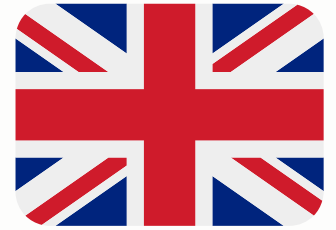
EXPENSE



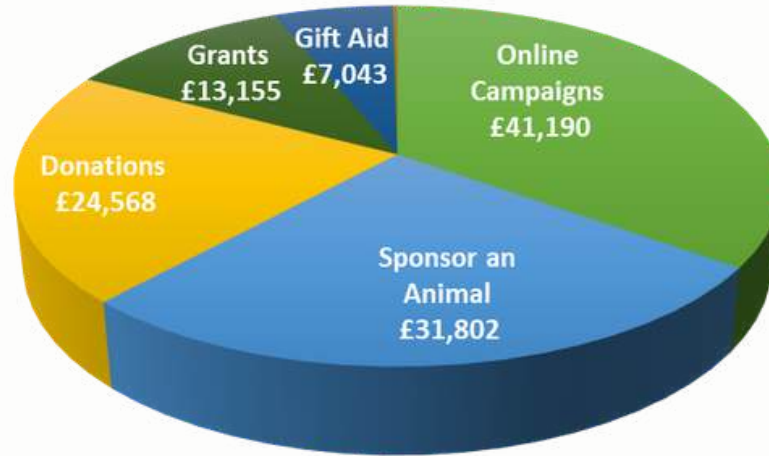
Total: \$302,514 USD

FIWY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

April 2023 - March 2024

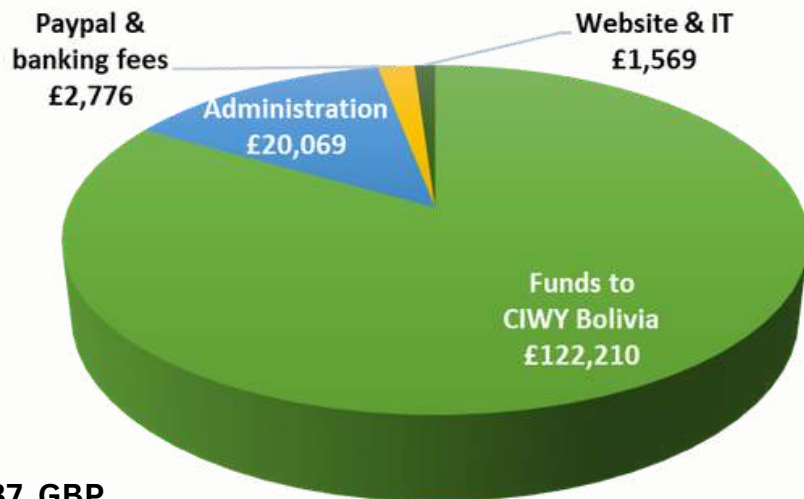


INCOME



Total: £ 118,121 GBP

EXPENSE



Total: £ 147,037 GBP

The majority of the money FIWY raises is transferred directly to Bolivia, to support the sanctuaries with general operations, such as animal food and veterinary care. Some funds, usually from grants or special campaigns, are restricted to specific projects, such as new animal enclosures. Restricted funds are allocated 100% to their specified projects, and the CIWY team maintains detailed accounting for grant reports.

A minimal amount of unrestricted funds is used to cover FIWY's expenses, which include one salary and small costs related to maintaining the CIWY website, processing donations, selling merchandise, accounting, etc.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 FINANCIAL PARTNERS

The **Brigitte Bardot Foundation** contributed €22,800 to support CIWY's release program. They provided a new release enclosure as well as equipment to strengthen our release protocol, such as GPS collars, microchips, and trail cameras.



Trail cameras allow our team to monitor the progress of animals before release, without human contact - very important in maintaining wild instincts. Post-release, cameras continue to capture shots of the animals in the wild, which helps us discern the success of adaptation.



In just a few months, the monitoring tools have already supported in the rehabilitation process of the following rescued animals at Ambue Ari, who have either been released or will be released soon: 1 Jaguar, 1 kinkaju, 1 capuchin monkey, 1 night monkey, 1 ornate hawk-eagle, and 1 sloth.



Lush Charity Pot supported CIWY once again, this time with a \$10,000 contribution towards the third capuchin monkey area at Jacj Cuisi Sanctuary.

CIWY received an unrestricted grant of \$9,797 from the **Jerome L. and Katherine A. Merrick Charitable Trust** in Palmer Lake, Colorado, USA.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 FINANCIAL PARTNERS



The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust provided £5,000 to support CIWY's general operations in 2024. This grant helped cover essential costs, like food, medicine, and staff salaries for 4 months at Machia and Jacj Cuisi Sanctuaries.



The Mzuri Wildlife Foundation provided \$5,000 to help patrol and protect CIWY's wildlife sanctuaries from wildfire, poaching, and logging. Costs covered by the grant included a new motorcycle, ranger training, and fire-fighting gear.



In December, **Stiftung Artenschutz** provided €5000 to help protect endangered Ateles chamek spider monkeys and other wildlife and habitat, by implementing an Early Warning System for Forest Fires. Their grant also provided 200 native trees to reforest burned areas at Ambue Ari, as well as funding to plant agroforestry crops. More on that in 2025!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 FINANCIAL PARTNERS



In Bolivia, Nacional COPELME donated 30.000 Bs (\$4,332) to CIWY for firefighting materials.



Marjorie Coote Animal Charity



After contributing last year towards the Capuchin Monkey Area at Jacj Cuisi, the **Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust** awarded a second grant of £2,000 in December, for the Aviary at Ambue Ari. Stay tuned!



Neotropical Bird Club



Earlier in the year, the **Neotropical Bird Club** provided \$1500 for a conservation education project focused on the Military Macaw, led by CIWY biologist Ingrid Johana Bustos Hernandez. The project, titled “Macaws, Moving Rainbows of the Jungle,” is described in the Environmental Education section on page 9.



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL DONORS, WHO CONTRIBUTED OVER \$1,000 EACH IN 2024:

- Tricia O'Malley
- Morten Sivertsen
- Toril Andresen
- Rick Hunckler
- Nelson Family Trust
- Pamela Page
- Carola Gehring
- Dana Harila
- Soliparty.bo Berlin
- Pranshu Gupta
- Patrick Grennan
- Audrey Socquet
- Lisa Climo



SPONSOR-AN-ANIMAL

We finished the year with a record **247 animal sponsors**, contributing a total of \$4,425 per month.

Sponsors help provide daily food, medicine and care for CIWY's rescued animals. They receive exclusive updates on their animal every 6 months, with current photos and/or video.



Marley the puma maintained the lead in 2024, with more sponsors (21) than any other animal.



Gaia the puma came in second, with 18 sponsors at year-end.



Amira the jaguar and Valo the puma finished the year with 17 sponsors each.





OUTLOOK FOR 2025

We began 2025 with one particularly great bit of news – CIWY has been awarded the prestigious **BBVA Foundation Award for Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America**. This recognition honors three decades of work in rescuing, caring for, and conserving wildlife, as well as CIWY’s accomplishments in environmental education and research.

We hope to see CIWY continue receiving more international support for its work, not only because the climate situation in the Amazon becomes increasingly perilous, but also because CIWY sets the gold standard for courageous, selfless wildlife rescue and care.

2025 will be an exciting year, as CIWY plans the **first jaguar release in Bolivian history**. Please follow this story and contribute if you can, because the new government-sanctioned release protocol will set the precedent for more rescued jaguars to gain freedom in the future.

Machia Sanctuary is almost closed now. The last remaining animals there are 38 rescued birds, who will move to Ambue Ari once their new aviary is built. Ambue Ari and Jacj Cuisi Sanctuaries are growing and evolving - it’s a great year to come volunteer!

As always, FIWY will be here to support CIWY with fundraising and administration. We send our gratitude to the grantors, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who continue to support our efforts year after year. None of CIWY’s work would be possible without **you**.



The FIWY team joined Nena at the **BBVA Foundation Conservation Awards ceremony in Madrid** in February 2025. Pictured from left to right: Jon Cassidy, Clara Salinas, Nena Baltazar, Jenny Boyd, Laura Coleman, Carola Gehring, and Matty Sowinski-Brown.



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING NETWORK OF ANIMAL SPONSORS!

David Varela
John Halladay
Sean Patrick Walsh
Nicole Ferris
Julie Rivet
Alan Burness
Graydon Moore
Ana Rodriguez Carvajal
Saule Janaviciute
Silja Astudóttir
Romaine Furmston-
Evans
Yuri Mirko Ríos
Felicia Thomas
Falk Heuer
Colton Smith
Leslie Poulson
Charles Bell
Michael Moraitis
Emma Lowry
Jillian Bellamy
Eric Shulze
Gil Hizi
Bolivian Mountains
Jon Felices Balasse
Randall Smith
Laura Sheen
Chantal Berot
Erin Mounce
Melanie Graf
Pilar Garcia Carrero
Hermann Giudici
Heidelberg
Eva Coleman
Anja Hagenauer
Coral Felix Reilly
Daniela Miller
Banco Ecofuturo
Claire Boulton
Daniela Ayaviri
Amanda Akass
Annikke Løkken
Amundsen
Debbie Johnsen
Morwenna Rogers
Tweed Steadman
Helena van Berkum
Cindy Brom
Sam Grocott
Erik Flaa
Deirdre Fitzpatrick
Michael Ansell
Becky Boudreau
Steven Richardson
John Orr
Janyce Zinnamon
Christine L Bekkouri
Stephanie Poe Gruet

Tina Searle
Judit Vass
Bart Hermans
Pamela Page
Ann-Marie Turner
Julie Salmons
Sarah Mohammadi
Amanda Lund
Mari Lozano
Rochelle Breedon
Maria Isabel Ribeiro
Pereira
Michael Veta
Elaine Schmid
Cat Thompson
Carola Gehring
Alison Rigby
Vera Kraak
Keith Schroder
Jo Davies
Leila Wassom
Anjelica Cappellino
Justin Foley
Lisa Johnson
Emily Buchholz
Amelia Boyer
Edward Feng
Shalini Mathur
Adriana Bellido
AUTOKORP
Farin Alcasid
Patrick & Emma
McGrath
Tyler B. Carson
Norma Ives-Taper
Steve Taylor
Colleen Means
Toril Andresen
Amya Lepschy
Ms Lepschy's Class,
ABPS
Carol Swing
Benicio
Hillary Lewis
Claire Kinch
Stephanie Sioras
Jeffrey Klassen
Glennie Feinsmith
Valentim Koons
Kellee Pawlenty
Karen Perdion
Rick Hunckler
Eileen Butler
Diana Krueger
Susan Daigre
Mary Niklas
Chris Riden
Drew Buchholz

Natasha Coggins
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Victoria Tyrie
Karissa Mundt
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Annette Coderre
Annette Block
Jojan van Zandwijk
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Gabriela Gutierrez
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Nikita Patil
Gwendolyn Sleeper
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Vanessa Aneca
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Michael Beck
Amber McGinnis
Hillary Lewis
Sara Marie Ölschläger
Faith Hartzell
Rowan Ferree
Mother Nature Yoga
Frances O'Sullivan
Amelia Rath
Brendon Berg
Sibylle Westbrook
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Hyvönen
Veronika Knobova
Julie Coupin
Sandra Roseiro
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Karine and Henry Page
Elisa Raber
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Andrea Eckler
Laura Rotters
Josh Bellamy-Lee
Mariana Garcia
Margaret Perina
Linzi Kelly
Andrea Duncan-Anderson

Lily Griffiths
Patrick Grennan
Martina (Nanni)
Seckendorf
Freya Ibbotson
Giuliana McAlpin
Sylvie Gilant
Brian Correia
Joselyn Barrios Palacios
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Cathie Collmeyer
Guy Mathias
Alana G Modlin
Maximiliano Cornejo
Rodriguez
Martine Scheuren
Jesse Laurey
Faith Glover
Welsh Family
Susan White
Kasia Kilvington
Nicole Wittwer
Cléo Passeron
Selah Nicholson
Francisco Quiroga Vergara
Manoli Prado Marcos
Andrea Benavente
Martin Maiquez
Zoé Tiberghien
Pachamon (Renace Verde)
Jill Hewitt
Hindi Beauty
Alexandra Jenny
Lizeth Adauto
Eoin Flanagan
Bianca Aurora Cocconi
Nicolas Zeller
Valeria Flores
Alex Tilkin
Juliana Giraldo
Ash Wilkinson
Manu Clery
Naomi van den Steen
Familia Valverde Latorre
Louise Hilton
Siri Ockerman
Richon Saint John
Kelly Russo
Katherine Oaks
Steph Dalgarno
Anuli Alozie



Friends of Inti Wara Yassi