



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Spirit of Big Five Foundation assisting in deploying robots that educate rural children in Peru lacking internet access**

August 26, 2021, Stuart, FL –Spirit of Big Five, the nonprofit arm of Big Five Tours and Expeditions, has teamed up with local professor Walter Velasquez, an ingenious Peruvian teacher, in deploying his creation, Kipi, the world’s first Quechua-speaking robot. Walter and Kipi are bringing education to children without internet in the mountains of Peru, in a town called Huancavelica. By using Kipi, he keeps the focus on education, which in return keeps them out of the way of the narco-trade and encourages pursuing quality careers in life.

“The Spirit of Big Five Foundation is proud to partner with Walter and Kipi. Our goal is to deploy robots like Kipi to remote areas of Peru to engage these children intellectually while protecting them from predatory labor and trafficking conditions,” said Ashish Sanghrajka, President of Big Five.

Walter is a computer and design technician, who holds undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry and a postgraduate degree in educational sciences. Primarily though, he is a teacher with a genuine vocation for providing high quality inclusive education to kids in his beloved Huancavelica. Walter got the idea to build Kipi, the Quechua-speaking robot, from recycled materials and solar energy. When the pandemic first closed all schools, he witnessed his students rendered helpless. The idea for Kipi was born. Walter programs his prototype with the school curriculum, then delivers it to each community personally on foot.

Huancavelica is one of the poorest regions of the country and is one of the main cocaine-producing regions today. Young children, devoid of access to education and basic quality of life, are left no choice except to join in this illegal trade. “This project is about reversing that trend. Together with Walter and Kipi, children are being empowered through education to never accept the circumstances around them, and to rather see a path forward,” added Sanghrajka.

Walter’s project joins the four other active Spirit of Big Five projects in Peru, Guatemala, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, that every Big Five journey automatically supports. Through the GIB 5.0 platform, travelers’ interests are used to pair their support with the sustainable project that most matches their personality.

###

-Cont-

**About Big Five Tours & Expeditions**

Founded in Kenya in 1973 by Mahen Sanghrajka, Big Five Tours & Expeditions is renowned for customized, luxury adventure travel to 44 destinations worldwide. Big Five has been recognized by the travel industry for its sustainable tourism commitment. For more information about Big Five's customized journeys, visit [bigfive.com](http://bigfive.com), or contact:

Courtney Miller – Media Relations

[courtney@bigfive.com](mailto:courtney@bigfive.com)

772 287 7995 – ext. 2221

Ashish Sanghrajka, President

[ashish@bigfive.com](mailto:ashish@bigfive.com)

772 287 7995