

ANDEAN ALLIANCE



2013 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

We at Andean Alliance and everyone here in Yurac Yacu, Peru extend our warmest wishes for a safe and fulfilling Holiday Season! 2013 has been another strong year for us. Building on past successes we've advanced our existing community development projects while initiating some great new ones. None of this would be possible without the generous donation of time and money from you - our partners, supporters and volunteers from around the world! In particular the support of our Canadian partner organization, the Sombrilla International Development Society has been vital to our success. We are sincerely grateful for your support and for sharing our conviction that people are this world's greatest natural resource and all those willing to work to improve their lives deserve the opportunity to do so. Only by using the human ingenuity and spirit we've cultivated can we face the challenges that lie ahead and win the fight for a better world. Following is a summary of our programs, projects and achievements from 2013.

Yurac Yacu Community Centre Development Project



This is our main multi-year project whose objective is to develop a Community Education and Small Business Center that provides education and training to community residents while providing them with jobs and allowing them to enhance their family's well-being through their own hard work. Construction of the Center is now 75% complete and includes the Early Childhood Education Center, the Library/Computer Center and the Yurac Yacu Community Kitchen and Café business.

Further funding is needed to help complete the remaining 25% of the Center which will include: i) a Community Guides Office that will provide local cultural walks for visitors led by community youth and ii) a women's textiles workshop and sales area. Please consider us and contact us with any further questions. Our progress this year included

Opening of the Yurac Yacu Café



- The kitchen was fully outfitted with appliances and an adobe bread oven constructed.
- A 3 month training program was provided to community residents hoping to work as cooks and servers.
- The Café opened in July on a trial (weekends only) basis during the peak tourist season.
- The Café's revenues covered its operating costs in Year 1.
- Minor modifications, further training and widespread promotion will occur before full-time opening of the Café happens in May 2014.

Early Childhood Education Program



The Early Childhood Education Program continues under the experienced direction of Profesor Flor Tinoco and her assistant Yesenia Lazaro. An average of 12 kids, aged 3 to 5, receive 18 hours of instruction a week based on a curriculum that teaches logic, creativity, decision making, risk taking and draws on concepts from the Montessori and Waldorf models. Achievements this year include:

- Vegetable garden planted with plots for each child to care for.
- The playground was expanded with the help of the Alberta Youth to Youth tour
- 4 kids graduated to Primary school – with a scholarship of \$100 provided to each for expenses
- A 'Nidos' Group (ages 1 to 3) was formed allowing mothers to attend Knitting Classes while their youngest ones are cared for.
- Summer school classes were held in January and February for local Primary school students
- 3 workshops were held for other rural pre-School teachers in the area to share concepts, curriculums and resources.
- A donation of construction trucks and toys was received from Caterpillar / Ferreyros Peru.

Library, Computer Center & Youth Leadership Program



- Beginner and intermediate computer classes were provided with open hours for computer and internet use 6 days a week.
- Weekly english classes provided.
- Audio-visual equipment, a printer and library supplies were purchased with a donation from the Monsignor Irwin Foundation in Alberta, Canada
- Additional library books were donated by the Roosevelt College in Lima and the Grade 3 class of K.T. Jacula School in Edmonton, Canada.
- Music classes are being provided to local youth intent on forming an orchestra.
- Weekly counselling sessions are being provided to youth by a known and trusted counsellor on personal, family and life/career matters.
- The annual multi community soccer and volleyball tournament was held.

Women's Knitting Group

A Women's Knitting Group was formed this year. The Knitting Group is just one component of a future Women's Support Program. A quechua speaking knitting instructor was hired to provide knitting classes two days a week to 12 local women. Products and designs are being selected for future sales. The objective of the Women's Support Program is to build a cohesive group of women and mothers that will optimize the benefits and opportunities provided by other programs especially the income generation and early childhood education programs. The Women's Knitting Group encourages women to bring their children with them to the early childhood classes. The women also utilize the community kitchen and learn about nutrition and how to prepare low cost nutritional meals.

SPECIAL THANKS

Our achievements were made possible this year by the donation of time, money, hard work and resources from our sponsors and volunteers. Special thanks go out to:

Sponsors & Donors

- the Sombrilla International Development Society of Alberta, Canada
- the Monsignor Irwin Foundation of Alberta, Canada
- the Roosevelt School in Lima.
- The Alberta Canada Youth to Youth Tour
- The Grade 3 class at K.T. Jacula school in Edmonton, Canada
- Caterpillar - Ferreyros Peru
- Stacey & Randy Earlywine, Natashya Shewchuk and family, Steve & Louise Clare, Brenda & Reid Kinnear, Michelle Maloney, Trish & Henri Letient, Cathy & Mike Bonneau, Ian Watt, and Kevin Yang.
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