



Project Peru

Registered Charity Number: 1049413

Background to the past year for Project Peru

Welcome dear friends to the Noah's Ark that is Project Peru, still tossing about on the floodwaters of change, but with the crew united and still dancing on deck! Of course to keep afloat we need provisions, and somehow just when we're thinking of taking to the life rafts a dove appears through the rainbow on the horizon and we're sailing on again. To all of you who so loyally support us, thank you for your generosity and friendship, to those of you whom we've just met, welcome! To our inspirational colleagues in Peru we send love and friendship and appreciation for their incredible work in increasingly challenging circumstances. To the children a big hello and a hug, and for everyone in Project Peru a reminder of the words of the great Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez; *"To a child I shall give wings, but I shall let him learn to fly on his own."* So let's all look up and see if we can fill the skies with children flying joyfully like birds.

...and this year...

We will continue our commitment to minimize expenditure on administration and overheads, thus ensuring that we can invest most of our income directly in our work in Peru and, with your help, will aim to generate sufficient funds for our core work and also to enable us to continue to undertake new projects in the wider community.

And while we will accentuate all the positive things we are able to do we hope you will help ensure our future and the future of our children in Peru through your participation and donations.

Our website

We launched our redesigned website early in 2012. Do try to look at this regularly.

<http://www.projectperu.org.uk>

The website includes current News items where you can find up to date news of our recent activities both in Peru and in the UK, as well as information and photographs about our ongoing work, how we function, some of our 'history', and how you can help us to support all this in future. We have tried to make this website clear and accessible and would welcome new ideas and practical collaboration too!

Later in 2012 we launched a Project Peru Face-book page which you are encouraged to share with your friends, especially to encourage them to be involved and make a positive contribution.

<http://www.facebook.com/projectperu.org.uk>

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Peru in 2012: update

The Latin American and Caribbean region is probably one of the most inequitable on the planet. The gap between the richest and the poorest, far from narrowing, is increasingly becoming wider, as it continues to exert a negative influence on every aspect of life, including education, housing, health and employment. In Project Peru we focus on supporting those who live on the margins of a society already historically divided. Peru's economy may be strong in parts but not in the parts we reach! The children are not mere statistics and the reality is that society around them is full of disadvantaged young people and we are trying to redress that balance, even if it is just for a few. This is against a background of traditionally poor state education provision and sub standard housing which perpetuates the cycles that create the inequality in the country in the first instance. Those who have are still failing to offer much compassion to those who have not.

Project Peru in Peru: our core work

We care for 40 children and young adults aged 3 to 21, giving them a sense of security, helping them to play and learn together, to have a sense of responsibility for each other. We ensure everyone enjoys the facilities we are able to provide, including our music room, library, sports area, garden, playroom and computer room, so the children can have fun with dance, football, theatre, singing and music, sewing, crafts and cooking sessions, and much more. We provide school uniforms and all the educational materials, books, and stationery that are required, and educational support. And of course we have created both full or part time

employment for 17 people who form part of the Project Peru community. We continue to offer as far as we can an effective programme for our older children and to prepare them for an independent future. Some of them have moved on this year and again we are committed to funding external further education courses for a new group of our older girls who have chosen to stay on as volunteers to be able to share their skills in caring for young children, organising daily routines and helping with their education. We have an arrangement with another institution in Lima which provides a residential facility and supports their further education for boys over 15. Several of our teenagers have successfully moved there, but continue to visit Project Peru on a regular basis as do many of our ex students, most of whom are working. This is one small way to break the cycle of poverty, as is our ongoing programme of counselling and material support for the children's relatives, who continue to help out with practical tasks at the refuge as well.

It has been a year of ongoing consolidation of our programme of refurbishment of some of our older buildings, and a further expansion of our beautiful garden. We have now completely refurbished our kitchen and provided a new industrial oven, much needed for feeding more than 50 people every day; we have finished refitting the boys' and girls' bathrooms, have added 'sierra style' tiled roofing in a number of places to add a rustic feel and to cope with the much more frequent rain, and have tiled and roofed the laundry area, built a workshop for our maintenance worker, relocated the music room, settled in the new library with a

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children's play room located next to it, since we now have children under 3, and have constructed new playground equipment for our younger children. In addition we have almost finished the perimeter wall which secures our new land. Soon our environmental project – a kitchen garden using permaculture methods will be starting. Our planned community project and as lodging for some of our older boys next to the garden is on hold dependent on funding.

Our library project

We started this project in 2011 thanks to donations from both The Adventure Company, and the British and Foreign School Society. We planned, designed, refurbished, redecorated, and furnished the area designated for the library space, and have now established a flourishing library which has been in use throughout 2012. We have continued to have contact with and support from the library department at the Catholic University who have offered seminars for our staff, have consulted with the school librarian at the American school in Lima, have received donations of books and arranged for one of our own staff to be trained to work in the library and to have support and training in future. We have had a qualified volunteer librarian from the UK guiding this process during part of the year and he established an effective and up to date classification system. We welcome new approaches from librarians as potential volunteers seeking to work with us in the future.

Our work in the wider community

Apart from funding and running our own refuge Project Peru does as much as possible to be active in the wider community.

We have continued to develop more of our external 'social' services and have distributed a large amount of donated goods from the UK including giving new shoes to an impoverished community in the Apurimac region of the Andes, and organising a number of local community *tombolas*. As in previous years, at Christmas 2012, thanks to specific funds raised in the UK, the children from our refuge helped to share large amounts of hot chocolate and *panetones* with the 150 children in a local shanty town nursery, and also to a group of older people who we entertained at the refuge; as a result we are setting up a regular monthly activity with older people; we were also able, thanks to another donation, to distribute 100 Christmas 'baskets' of food to the families of our children and to large numbers of the most marginalised families in Las Laderas.

Project Peru has enjoyed a positive and close collaboration with Las Laderas de Chillón, a shanty town of more than 67,000 people, for more than twelve years. Las Laderas is extensive and expanding, one of the poorest zones in the Lima area, and many of the families assisted are new arrivals there from central Lima, forced out by poverty.

Following our outreach project in Las Laderas in 2011 in collaboration with a Manchester-based company Amoria Bond, when their team funded and helped build 30 wooden houses with concrete bases, wooden walls and a corrugated roof, they have again in 2012 given support for the building of a further 15 houses, giving employment to local builders and transforming lives for more desperate families.

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In November 2012 we organized a community dental campaign in our refuge in collaboration with the teachers and students of the Dental School of the Universidad Alas Peruanas. As well as our own children and staff 175 local people had dental checks and treatment.

In November too the Project Peru girls' team [15-17 years] won the 'Lima Kids' knock out football competition spread over several months, between children's homes in Lima.

The children from the refuge are periodically invited to participate in outside events and to show their skills in traditional dance, music and in sales of cakes and crafts made in the refuge.

Volunteers and visitors in Peru

Once again we have welcomed many volunteers and visitors from a wide range of ages and backgrounds to the refuge in the past 12 months. Our volunteer programme continues to be important to us for a number of reasons. It is a chance for some of those who work in Project Peru to experience first hand the work they support so loyally. We also ask all such volunteers / visitors to make a contribution while they are staying with us or visiting us to help us to raise funds to support the charity's core activities and any current new developments in Peru, and hopefully to continue to support us. This also helps people feel more involved with Project Peru.

The following give a flavour of some of the impressions of some recent volunteers or visitors in Peru in 2012

1. *"As soon as I stepped through the gate into the Project Peru refuge I knew*

what an amazing place it was going to be. I had no doubt in my mind from what people had said that it was going to be special, but I really didn't realize just how special until I was there. All the children had made a poster welcoming me to their home, and every single child came up to me with a hug and a kiss. It was so overwhelming and I was truly touched to have received such a warm welcome.

Although the language barrier proved to be frustrating at times (wish I had taken the time to learn more Spanish before my trip!), all the staff and children made me feel so at home and part of their family. The staff are an inspiration - I have the utmost respect and admiration for them and the hard work they do. There is the perfect balance of discipline and love between the staff and children, something that you rarely see back in the UK. The children are out of this world. Having been through so much hardship in their life, they are still so full of happiness, kindness and love. And the refuge itself - wow, it really is a diamond in the rough. The work that Project Peru has done to build such a safe haven for the children is truly outstanding.

I look back at my time at the refuge as one of the most inspirational, loving and special times of my life so far. I miss the children and staff terribly but hope to return one day (this time with the ability to speak Spanish!) Until then I will continue to support and fundraise for Project Peru and the amazing work the charity does."

2. *"Just wanted to say a massive GRACIAS for the amazing experience. I had the most amazing time. It really is a truly special place. The staff are*

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amazing and the children are a reflection as they are the most happy, grounded, respectful and beautiful children I've ever met. You are so right and I cannot wait for the next time to go and see them as I miss them all terribly."

3. "It was a life changing experience for me. In 2007 I trekked the Inca Trail and it was a life changing experience for me. I returned from Peru so moved by the people that I met, I just knew I had to give something back. I found Project Peru on the internet and after one phone call ...I was hooked. Since that phone call in 2007 I have met the most amazing and generous people both here in England and of course in Peru. I volunteer with a talented group of men and women and together we raise a lot of money for our refuge in Lima. I have been to the refuge four times in four years and each visit is more special than the first. The women who work there are so inspirational and full of love for me and all of those who volunteer for Project Peru. This charity has become an important part of my life. I look forward to my continued friendship with all those involved and I can't wait for my return trip to la casa hogar in 2013!"

4. "I have returned home to England after spending 6 weeks in Project Peru's casa hogar and I instantly want to return.... If money and work allowed it, I would never have left. I initially went to coach football and team sports - which I did every day. Yet I found myself involved in all sorts of activities with all the different children, I was never bored nor alone. The children were charming, motivated and happy. They had been provided with a new view of life, with opportunities they may never have had

without Project Peru and everybody who supports them.... Everybody who is involved with the charity has helped achieve this. It is a wonderful place."

5. "The refuge at Zapallal is a hidden gem, just to the north of Lima. Through the on-going work of committed staff, it provides the setting for an evolution for many children, each with their own talents and dreams of a career. Volunteers can take a very active part in this process, allowing the children to grasp opportunities and convert their aspirations into tangible results. We were honoured to join the children and staff during our honeymoon in Peru. The refuge is saturated with enthusiasm and happiness, effortlessly dispelling any negative preconceptions even the most discriminating mind could possess. The music class performances would grace any venue in Miraflores or Barranco. The children's aptitude for learning and their thirst for knowledge is remarkable. We felt privileged to share our time with the children and we found their attitude inspirational...Volunteers can learn from the children and staff at Zapallal as much as they can teach. And such connections can strengthen over the years as the children realise their ambitions, which is why our involvement with Project Peru will continue".

Travellers to Peru

Do contact us about opportunities for volunteering with us even if your initial interest is as a traveller. Many of our UK supporters and volunteers 'find' us as result of their travels in Peru, either at the planning stage or on their return. When they do the Inca trail, for example, we hope they will appreciate both the fabulous Peru and the other reality, and not choose to trek past poverty in Peru.

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By prior and personal arrangement we welcome people who take time off from their adventures to visit Project Peru's refuge to see our work. Many of our own volunteers in Peru use the Inca Trail as a key part of their fundraising sponsorship, and we have excellent contacts in Peru who can facilitate your trip.

UK update

Sponsored Events organised by Project Peru

We have two regular annual sponsored events, in June in Alice Holt Forest, Farnham, our sponsored Bike ride and stroll for everyone including children and families, wheelchairs and dogs, as part of Bike Week, and in September, our Guildford-Paris Bike ride, cycling 200 miles in four days. In Sept 2012 this brought in an amazing amount of sponsorship and we are as ever grateful for all the support and hospitality from Project Peru's friends en route, both in UK and in France. And with a special *gracias* to the legendary back up team. Even if you've done it before you are welcome to join us again! Many do! We welcome enquiries from prospective riders for Paris 2013 and, of course, from potential sponsors for this coming September. Please contact us early in 2013 to book your place as numbers are limited.

One of last year's cyclists wrote:
"Having spent time at the Project Peru refuge, I knew that the bike ride to Paris would be fun, rewarding and well organised. It exceeded my expectations. We were not only excellently fed by our back up team, but well looked after and supported throughout - just like spending time at the refuge in Peru. e!"

The ride itself is challenging without being competitive. The route is scenic and we stopped off at plenty of historical and beautiful spots. Having never cycled such a distance before, I was a little worried that I might struggle. But I was assured that I would be just fine and everybody was right.

We rode as a collective but if you felt like slowing down or speeding off then that is not a problem. Seeing the Eiffel Tower when you come into Paris is a great moment. When riding along the Champs Elysées to the Arc de Triomphe as a team we all felt an amazing sense of achievement. An achievement that will stay with me for ever".

The Alice Holt date for 2013 is Sunday 16th June.

The Paris ride is September 14th-18th

Food & Catering activities;

These include our annual Lenten Lunch at St. Josephs, Guildford; our annual raffles of Christmas cakes made entirely with donated ingredients and 'donated' expertise in baking, icing and decorating; our Christmas puddings; and our Simnel cakes at Easter time. We also regularly cater at our own events; and we offer private catering to suit all tastes, ages, and occasions, including weddings, and celebrations of all kinds. All this is thanks to our magnificent catering team.

For enquiries about catering, contact information@projectperu.org.uk

These are some comments from satisfied customers:

Lenten lunch: 2012: *'On behalf of all the family I wanted to say a huge thank you*

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for an amazing Lenten Lunch yesterday. Everything was beautifully laid out and so well organised. The food was so delicious - my children have asked if I can make them the same dish! It was a wonderful atmosphere and we really enjoyed a relaxed lunch and seeing familiar faces again. Thank you and please pass on all our thanks to 'team Project Peru' who helped to make it such a success'.

A Golden Wedding Anniversary lunch: 2012: *'Our visitors thought the four ladies were delightful and the food was scrumptious and service excellent. No negative thoughts at all. They even arranged good weather! Would recommend them any time.'*

A pre-Christmas lunch: 2012: *'Our annual Christmas lunch for our retired parishioners' group in Guildford was cooked for us this year by 'Project Peru' - a very professional group. We were delighted. It was beautifully presented and of a very high quality. One comment was "It was just like home cooked", and it was. We look forward to next year and thoroughly recommend them. Many thanks to Project Peru and all their helpers.'*

Our Christmas cake raffles;

Project Peru is delighted to acknowledge the donation of all ingredients for our cakes, and to give a special thank you to the professionals who have given their time and skill in making, icing and decorating the cakes, which looked and tasted so delicious. These were raffled nationwide in December 2012, including cake raffles locally and in London and the Home Counties and as far afield as, Bournemouth, Derby, Edinburgh,

Faversham, Littlehampton, and Manchester. Thanks to all our rafflers.

We have also expanded our sale of Christmas puddings; they received great acclaim again. Contact us early to reserve next year's Christmas puddings or for our Christmas cake raffles. We would especially welcome new outlets for our raffles for 2013.

Sales of Peruvian craft goods

We would welcome the chance to have more crafts sales so please contact us if you have any ideas or suggestions. We continue to specialise in sales of Peruvian crafts, particularly selling crafts made by women's and young people's workshops known to us in Villa el Salvador and Las Laderas. We are involved in both communities and are in personal contact with those who make beautiful hand made crafts.

We also sell Christmas and greetings cards; please place an order early for these; we have a selection of beautiful designs made in these same craft workshops with whom we have collaborated for many years. We pay fair prices and all proceeds go to support our work in Peru.

Please see our website.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/uk-activities/craft-sales/craft-sales.htm>

Project Peru has a regular craft stall in both the craft market in the Guildford Festival in June [High Street] and in November- December [Guildford Town Bridge Craft Market] on pre-Christmas weekends; and frequently, also, at other craft events, country fairs or in schools and through online sales. These are not only an important source of income but give us a chance to raise the public profile of Project Peru.

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Schools

We have arranged many activities in schools, including holding 'Peru' days, or schools have in the past 'adopted' us for a term or a year? We encourage the children to help to give back to Project Peru through fundraising and donating. See the website for what we could do with your school?

<http://projectperu.org.uk/uk-activities/schools.htm>

Distribution of goods sent to Peru

We continue to receive, pack and wrap a vast amount of high quality donated goods, and transport it to our project in Peru. This is only possible thanks to our many donors, both individuals, companies and schools, and to a loyal band of volunteer helpers who get involved in collecting, storing, packing, wrapping, loading and delivering the cargoes, and to generous support from a number of transport companies. We have sent two cargoes during 2012. We both use the goods in our refuge as well as distributing it widely in the local community where it is warmly welcomed and much needed.

See <http://projectperu.org.uk/our-work/distribution-of-goods-sent-to-peru-from-the-uk.htm>

Rotary Clubs

During 2012 we made a number of presentations in Rotary Clubs and we are interested in broadening this aspect of our work out to a wider audience among the Rotary network as well as to other organisations or networks. Please be in touch with us.

How can you help Project Peru

- make single donations -but regular monthly ones give us much more long term security
- organise a fundraising event for us
- sell our Peruvian crafts
- invite us to work in schools with which you are involved
- put us in touch with potential volunteers
- give us ongoing support after a trip to Peru, or before
- walk the Inca Trail or undertake other challenges
- invite us to help organise your wedding or other celebration
- contact us with your ideas and skills

Donations-and how to make one!

For various ways to donate please see <http://www.projectperu.org.uk/fundraising.htm>

For single or regular donations please use this Gift aid form [UK taxpayers] <http://www.projectperu.org.uk/PPGiftAidBannersformPDF2.pdf>

or online via

<http://www.justgiving.com/peru/donate>

For Transnational Giving in Europe; <http://www.transnationalgiving.eu/tge/>

For further information

<http://www.projectperu.org.uk>

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A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS- GRACIAS

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