



Project Peru

Registered Charity Number: 1049413

Background to the past year for Project Peru

Bienvenidos! Welcome to the Project Peru bulletin for 2012. It was in 1992 that Project Peru was formally established, so this is our 20th birthday year! Thanks to all who have been with us all that time and to those who continue to support us.

As the chill winds continue to blow and the economic temperature continues to make the world shiver, Project Peru is celebrating the fact that it has had all this support keep it warm for 20 years and more! Without your ongoing and much appreciated friendship, generosity, time, donations, sponsorship, trust and loyalty we would no longer be able to go on sharing food, clothes, education, shelter, and fun with the children who live in our refuge, or to go on offering practical help to those who live in extreme poverty in our local desert shanty town communities. And we welcome newcomers too!

Our income over the past year has reflected the generosity and trust shown to us by our many supporters, and so far continues at a level that generates funds for our core work, but also to enable us undertake new projects in the community.

We 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. So, thanks, too, to all our many volunteers. But there are no guarantees in this challenging year to come, so we hope you will help ensure our future and the future of our children in Peru through your participation and donations.

Our website

We have been working to redesign our website which will now hopefully be 'open' early in 2012. We have tried to make it clearer without losing the character of the previous one. It includes information and photographs about our work in Peru and about our activities in the UK, some of our 'history', and how you can help us to support all this in future. We would welcome new ideas and practical collaboration too!

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

Peru in 2011: update

The UN Human Development Index [2011 report] shows Peru ranking 80th out of the 187 nations surveyed. The index measures statistics regarding schooling, life expectancy, and per capita income, to rank countries in terms of human development.

Presidential elections were held in Peru in 2011. Though it is too soon to tell

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what has changed in the longer term, if anything, it is inevitable that many electoral promises already seem to have been broken.

Peru, a 'middle -income ' country, is rich in natural resources, boasts one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America today, growing annually in the last decade, yet growth in social expenditure is low even by Latin American standards. Unemployment is still very high, poverty by some measurements has only recently appeared to be reduced, there are ever widening gaps between different sectors of the population, and on the ground the impact of new programmes to reduce poverty has not been established clearly.

The widening gap between rich and poor and between urban and rural sectors has led to continually increased migration to the cities, especially to the capital, Lima. Migration out of central Lima to the shanty towns near where we work is another phenomenon we have observed, whatever the economic success at the top. There seems to be a concentration of high impact infrastructure projects in selected districts at the expense of the general basic needs of the majority.

So it can be confusing to look at any overall statistical improvement if one ignores the actual precariousness and deprivation of those most disadvantaged sectors, and the reality for those living in that situation. Lack of progress in reducing disadvantage does not 'disappear' because some sectors become relatively well off. The added result is that the poorest and most vulnerable sections of Peruvian society become even more isolated and silently grow.

'Peru currently faces the enormous challenge of making its impressive economic growth more inclusive, so that the inequalities in opportunities and outcomes that are currently so closely linked to area of residence, ethnicity, maternal education, poverty and in some cases gender diminish over time through concerted policies and programmes'

<http://www.younglives.org.uk/our-publications/country-reports/tracking-disparities-who-gets-left-behind-initial-findings-from-peru>

Project Peru in Peru: our core work

It has been a year of consolidation, with the refurbishment of some of our older buildings, expansion of our beautiful garden, the further securing of our new land so as eventually to have space for more community activities as well as lodging for some of our older boys. We have been doing vital maintenance on the original buildings while at the same time completely refurbishing our old kitchen and bathrooms, and improving the roofing in a number of places to cope with the new phenomenon arising from climate change -rain.

And caring for 40 [at the start of this year 45] children and young adults from ages 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, supporting our loyal staff, everyone enjoying computers, music, dance, football, and theatre, sewing and cooking and much more, and volunteers from abroad each with specific skills to give.

We continue to offer as far as we can an effective programme for our older

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children and to prepare them for an independent future. We continue to fund external further education courses for several of our older girls who have stayed on as volunteers sharing skills of caring for young children, organising daily routines and helping with their education.

The following letter comes from one of our older boys who left us 12 months ago after living 6 years with us. He is now making great progress studying English under the auspices of a small organisation with whom we collaborate until we can provide a targeted space for our older boys; this ensures continuity of their education and care.

'A merry Christmas and a happy New Year. How is it going? I hope you are excellent with your health. Well, I visited Project Peru last month in December and I was there for two days to see the three Christmas plays; it was spectacular... I like to be in Project Peru, I mean it is like my home because I was living there for six years and when I was in Project Peru I felt great with all the boys and girls, like my brothers and sisters... really I love it. I love the love of the children, and also all the staff, because I had a lot of experience living with them. Thanks for continuing to work for the children. I know that they are worth it. Thanks to the whole organization for the hard work to continue to give this opportunity to many young people like me. I don't know the names of all the participants but tell everyone I love them and they have made an excellent job...and it is a good job for the children in Peru. Sorry for my bad English...this is work in process; send my regards to everyone.'

Our library project

Although in Peru there is a reasonable level of general literacy there is no culture of reading for pleasure and studying for educational and vocational purposes. There are very few public libraries, books are very expensive, and there are in any case very few bookshops. The cost of educational materials and books is out of reach for most people in the community. Our plan to have a library is an intrinsic part of our struggle to widen the horizons and the futures for all the children and to delight their imaginations. We have started this in 2011 thanks to some funding from both The Adventure Company, and the British and Foreign Schools Society who have given us a grant for this. We have been doing a great deal of preparatory work on this project in 2011 both in UK and in Peru .We have identified one of our staff members as responsible for the library project, we have planned, refurbished and redecorated the area designated for the library space, designed and made appropriate furnishings, including sending furniture, books and equipment in our cargoes to Peru, started on selection and classification of books and materials, held meetings and a staff training session with the library department at the Catholic University, consulted with the school librarians at two American schools and arranged for our own librarian to have support and training from them in future. We have had a qualified volunteer librarian from the UK guiding the early stages of this process and we would welcome new approaches from librarians as potential volunteers seeking to work with us in the future.

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Outside our walls

We have continued to be able to develop more of our external 'social' services and have distributed a large amount of donated goods the UK including new shoes to neighbouring shanty town communities. We also have continued with a rota for relatives of our children to help out at the refuge on a regular basis: dignity and independence are key to our social policy, and as in previous years at Christmas 2011, some of the children from our refuge set off to one of the multitude of shanty towns near us, Choque, carrying huge amounts of hot chocolate and *panetones* to share with the children there, as well as entertaining them with songs, music and theatre!.

External projects in Peru in 2011:

Project Peru has enjoyed a positive and close collaboration with Las Laderas de Chillón, a shanty town of more than 65,000 people, for more than ten 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 Lima. Thanks to our friendship with their dedicated team of parish priest, social worker and a reliable *maestro* [foreman] we have completed several social and building projects with our volunteers, all still working successfully, including our building in 2010 of a much needed therapeutic centre for children with disabilities.

In 2011 Project Peru arranged a new outreach project in Las Laderas, this time in collaboration with a Manchester-based company, Amoria Bond. The company has its own Charitable Trust and their employees raised funds for a

new building project which Project Peru set up. The team was made up of a group of 12 who spent just one week in early June 2011. The group stayed at Project Peru's refuge and went to Las Laderas daily.

In advance of the team's arrival the local building team prepared 30 concrete bases on which the team under expert local supervision constructed wooden houses to replace the flimsy constructions in which families were living, after a careful selection process. Their website <http://amoriabondcharitabletrust.com/an-inspiring-start-to-project-peru> shows their story.

After the group left, the work continued to complete the planned 30 houses, each 5 x 5 metres, with concrete bases, wooden walls and a corrugated roof; additionally a new community kitchen was constructed with the funds raised.

"Just wanted to drop you a line to say congratulations on having done so much to help the people of Las Laderas, the project is such a success and seeing how happy the children are speaks volumes for the work you ...have done. It was a fantastic experience to be part of, and I hope it's something I can repeat. What better way to keep grounded and appreciative of what my family and I have, than to see that despite the extreme personal challenges and poverty, the people of Las Laderas can remain so positive and happy!"

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. Some spent a few months, others a few weeks or days. Our volunteer programme

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continues to be important to us for many reasons. It is a chance for 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 / or 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 2011

1. Some comments from some of the Amoria Bond team

"It's immediately apparent how much respect everyone here treats each other with and the compound is well cared for with everyone having designated responsibilities and a strong sense of communal responsibility."

"The Children's Refuge Family-hats off to the people who founded the Project Peru Charity and the caring, nurturing team they have developed – who are making such a difference to the lives of so many children from disadvantaged backgrounds. It really is a family atmosphere."

"The hospitality and dedication of the nurturing staff at Project Peru is outstanding and the children are fortunate to have such wonderful people caring so passionately for their well being. This really comes across in the mutual respect, humility, collaboration and 'sense of calm' within the refuge."

"Thanks again: was a very real experience".

2. And another volunteer wrote;

"My trip to the refuge in Zapallal was very well planned, everything I was to do whilst in Peru was explained to me beforehand giving me a good understanding of what it was I would be doing and getting involved in. I was very warmly greeted at the airport and my first encounter with the children was brilliant, I arrived at the refuge and was greeted by every one of them gathered around a fire. I was introduced to them all and made to feel very welcome. All the staff at the refuge were extremely kind and always had time for me.

The difference the charity makes is immediately evident when coming in off the streets into the very well maintained and beautiful refuge and seeing many of the children playing or studying."

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 planning to or returning from travelling in Peru. 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.

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 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.

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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 children and families, as part of Bike Week, and in September, our Guildford-Paris Bike ride, cycling 200 miles in four days. In Sept 2011 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.

One of our riders commented; *'I didn't think the bike trip could match up to the previous year, but it was even better.*

Thank you so much for all the amazing organisation, the fun and friendship, the wonderful food, the challenge, the encouragement, and everything else provided'.

So if you've done it before you are welcome to join us again!

We welcome enquiries from prospective riders for Paris 2012, and for our 'back up' team and, of course, from potential sponsors for this coming September [starting 8th or 15th -tbc]. Please contact us early in 2012 to book your place as numbers are limited.

The Alice Holt date for 2012 is Sunday 17 June; we look forward to seeing you, and do bring your friends!

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; we also regularly cater at our own events; and we offer private catering to suit all tastes, ages, and occasions, including weddings, and all other sorts of celebrations. [Note; the Lenten Lunch date for 2012 is April 1st]

Comments from satisfied customers in 2011:

A Ruby Wedding celebration

"Thank you for all you did to make our party such a happy celebration on Saturday. The food and service were wonderful, our guests were very complimentary about the whole thing. Also the relaxed friendliness of all the helpers made such a fantastic atmosphere. The evening food was equally good. And so, a huge THANK YOU!"

A 50th birthday dinner

"I would like to use this opportunity...to thank you formally for all the efforts and hard work of the Project Peru team last Saturday. I received many positive comments about the food, (pork very tender, lasagne just how mama [in Italy] used to make), the friendliness of the service, and the quality of the band (wherever did you find them?) Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves."

Enquiries are welcome via information@projectperu.org.uk.

Project Peru particularly acknowledges the donation of all ingredients for our cakes, and also thanks those 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 2011, including cake raffles in our local area [Guildford, Shere,

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Cranleigh, Godalming,] but also in Berkhamstead, High Wycombe, Edinburgh, Faversham, Littlehampton London, Manchester and The Wirral.

We have also expanded our sale of Christmas puddings which have also received great acclaim again. Contact us early to sign up for next year's Christmas puddings or for our Christmas cake raffles; we especially welcome new 'bases' for our raffles for 2012. This year's cakes were hailed as the best ever.

Sales of Peruvian craft goods

We continue to specialise in sales of Peruvian crafts, particularly selling crafts made by women's workshops in Villa el Salvador and Las Laderas. We are involved in both communities and are in personal contact with those who make such beautiful crafts. We specialise in selling *arpilleras*. Originally in the form of wall hangings, but now in other items too, these *arpilleras*, appliqué collages using brightly coloured scraps of material, wool etc. are extremely colourful depictions of scenes, mostly of traditional life, and are a popular art form that has developed in the shanty towns of Latin America.

We also sell Christmas and greetings cards; please place an order early for these; we have a selection of beautiful designs again made in crafts workshops with whom we have collaborated for many years.

We buy all our crafts at fair prices and we send the proceeds in a virtuous circle to support our work in Peru.

Project Peru has a regular craft stall in both the July craft market in the

Guildford Festival [High Street] and in November- December [Guildford Town Bridge Craft Market] on pre-Christmas weekends; and frequently, also, at other craft stalls, country fairs, in schools etc, and through online sales. These are not only an important source of income but give a chance to raise the public profile of Project Peru, and to give those who make the crafts a real sense of self esteem and independence.

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 have designed an activity-based workshop based on a dvd of our work in Peru, among other programmes linked with the national curriculum. Among activities we can offer through our various contacts are Peruvian dance and music workshops including pan- pipe classes, drama, art sessions, sales of Peruvian crafts, an entertainment introduced by Latin America musicians featuring their instruments, singing and dances, evening concerts for parents, teachers and pupils, and other workshops. We encourage the children to help to give back to Project Peru through fundraising and donating.

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, 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 the generous support from a number of transport companies. We have sent two

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cargoes during 2011 including excellent furniture and equipment for our library and classrooms, as well as a wide variety of clothes, shoes, toiletries, stationery and kitchen equipment. We use the goods both in our refuge as well as distribute it widely in the local community where it is warmly welcomed and much needed.

Buy a book to support Project Peru

Abela Publishing has teamed up with Project Peru to support the new library project in our children's refuge. As such we are asking you to buy a copy of any of the books listed on their webpage:

<http://abelapublishing.com/projectperu.html>

There is a selection of books, some are about Peru, some are aids to learning Spanish, some are in English, some in Spanish, some are dual language bilingual readers. 33% of proceeds from sales will be donated to Project Peru. The collection includes two books by Hiram Bingham whose centenary of the rediscovery of Machu Picchu was celebrated in 2011, books about Inca myths and stories, some children's stories, and *Tradiciones Peruanas*, a classic Peruvian mixture of history and fiction. The copyright limit in the USA is 75 years and in the UK, Europe and most other countries in the world it is 90 years. All these books are well out of copyright, and have been republished in this new format by Abela Publishing.

'El Nuevo Mundo'- a book based on the refuge. 'El Nuevo Mundo' -'The New World is a bilingual book in English and Spanish by Elena Tognoli, an Italian artist who spent several months as a volunteer in Peru with us in 2007. It

focuses on the children's words and drawings; let us know if you are interested in ordering a copy at £10 [including UK p and p]. This would be a great addition to a school or public library.

What you can do to 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 with 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!

Please send us a cheque to the address below, payable to 'Project Peru'. For other ways to donate please look at <http://www.projectperu.org.uk/fundraising.htm>

For single or regular donations please use this Gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer:

<http://www.projectperu.org.uk/PPGiftAidBankersformPDF2.pdf>

Or we can very easily take single or regular gift aided donations online via <http://www.justgiving.com/peru/donate>

For Transnational Giving in Europe, if you live in certain European countries <http://www.transnationalgiving.eu/tge/>

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For further information

For regular updates on our activities in the UK and in Peru see our website <http://www.projectperu.org.uk/>

Please contact us by email, phone or post:

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01483 576093

If you do not want to receive further [e]-mailings from Project Peru please do let us know.

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

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