



Project Peru

Registered Charity Number: 1049413

Background to the past year for Project Peru

Bienvenidos! Welcome to the Project Peru bulletin for 2011, to both our friends and supporters of many years, and to all our new readers.

Despite the chill economic climate we are delighted to say that our income over the past year 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 undertake projects in the community. As always our commitment is to minimize expenditure on administration thus ensuring that we can invest our income directly in our work in the shanty towns of Lima, Peru.

The future of Project Peru depends on the continued support and generosity of our regular donors, on the enthusiasm of our supporters for our fundraising events, on those who donate funds raised from a wide variety of challenges

and exploits, on our amazing catering team which, like all we do, depends on our fantastic volunteers.

Project Peru continues to be a small, voluntary organisation offering food, clothes, education, shelter and fun to those living in extreme poverty. There are no guarantees in this challenging year to come, but you can help ensure our future with your participation and donations.

Why not cycle to Paris to raise sponsorship, invite us to organise catering for an event you are organising, volunteer to help with a building project in the shanty towns or give us a monthly donation? We look forward to being in touch soon?

PERU UPDATE

Background

Latin America has changed over the past decades, and among some of the stereotypes about Latin America in the past, such as high inflation, dictatorships, military juntas and appalling poverty, mostly it is just the latter that has survived. Democratic elections take place now, and Peru has its own presidential elections in April 2011, though it is too soon to tell what, if anything, will change. At one level there may be huge investments, rapid development and market economics, but there continue to be marked contrasts and dramatic extremes, with some 75% of the populations throughout Latin America living in the expanding urban areas, with low incomes and poor access to services, and a rural poor living in remote areas with inadequate infrastructure and poor law

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

enforcement, and rising food prices everywhere. Rather than searching for some means of social progress that would avoid these painful injustices and extremes of free market capitalism and the need for some redistribution in order to stabilise the country's politics, too frequently the trade system works in favour of rich, powerful trading nations and large corporations, at the expense of the environment, democracy and the poorest people. Poverty levels increase and Peru remains a very unequal country, socially, regionally and ethnically. Peru is a country of abundant natural resources and rich culture. Despite this, over half of the population of Peru still lives in poverty.

[for regular updates on Peru see Peru Support Group;

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

The situation facing children in Peru

[an extract from 'Young Lives-an international study of child poverty ' Save the Children Fund];

<http://www.younglives.org.uk/where-we-work/peru>

'Over 29 million people live in Peru and children make up 38 per cent of the population. Children continue to be the most vulnerable and unprotected citizens. Of the 3.8 million people living in extreme poverty, 2.1 million are children. Of the total 10.2 million under-18 population, more than 6.5 million live below the poverty line.

Peru ranks 96th in the world for under-5 mortality, yet children in the poorest areas – city slums, the Andean Highlands and the Amazon rainforest – are 10 to 12 times more likely to die

before their fifth birthday than the children of the richest 20 per cent of families. Many do not get enough good food to eat, cannot get treatment when they are ill, and drop out of school. In Peru, repetition of grades and temporary drop-out from school are common, leading to a high percentage of children who are 'over-age', or older than the norm for the grade they are in.'

Project Peru in Peru: our core work

A year of transformation as our beautiful garden grows and produces vast squashes and beans, herbs, carrots and sweet corn amongst the flowers and trees; and as numbers grow too and now over 40 children and young adults from ages 3 to 20 work, play and learn together, helping each other and the staff, enjoying music, dance, football, and theatre, sewing and cooking and much more. As our girls' and boys' football teams play in the league and our cheer leaders' encouragement echoes around the shanty towns, Project Peru's young musicians, singers and actors are now enjoying a wider audience, their enthusiasm and comedy skills bring laughter and warmth wherever they go.

Vital in the roller coaster journey to survive is education and the chance of independence and a break in the circle of extreme poverty. So, vital too is continuing education and training, they play a key role in our philosophy. We're jumping for joy as the children are making positive progress and are delighted that several of our students were top of their year!

Our plan to have a library is an intrinsic part of our struggle to widen the

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

horizons and the futures for all the children and to delight their imaginations. We also have acquired another plot of land near our refuge so as to have space for more community activities as well as lodging for some of our older boys. We continue to offer an effective programme for our older children and their future is vital, and we continue to have additional professional advice helping the children focus on their future education and training. We are already funding external further education courses for several of our older girls. We have also already expanded the real, ongoing and practical help we offer to local community groups in the desert shanty towns of Lima, near our children's refuge.

So, while we have been able to consolidate our mainstream activities in Peru, as always the overhead expenditure in Peru, as in the UK, and has been kept to a minimum. This includes paying for 17 different staff in our refuge [some full, some part-time], providing the funds for the food and support in early 2011 for over 40 children, including for their education, their health and recreation, for maintaining their family links, exploring with them their options for the future, and providing appropriate support where needed after they leave us.

Though the external construction work is done we still need to finalise some of the internal services of our new buildings and are doing vital maintenance on the existing original buildings at the same time.

Outside our walls

We have been able to develop more of our external 'social services,' working

with the families of our children in residence to break their cycle of dependency, and to involve them in community services, learning new skills, including parenting skills and responsibilities. We also have a rota for relatives to help out at the refuge on a regular basis: dignity and independence are key to our social policy.

We feel that social awareness and a feeling of empowerment is vital so, as in previous years at Christmas, some of the children from our refuge set off to one of the multitude of shanty towns, Choque, carrying huge amounts of hot chocolate and *panetones* to share with the children there; they danced and sang and spent a great afternoon together.

We are considering our future plans with regard to outreach / social / educational projects further afield in the *sierra*, and also in the *selva* region where we have made new contacts in 2010.

At the end of February 2010, for the first time, our children and staff made a trip to Cusco and Machu Picchu- the journey of a lifetime. For years they have all watched volunteers visiting Machu Picchu. Unfortunately, the trip as originally planned, had coincided with the serious floods in the Cusco area, with the result that the visit was postponed for a few weeks but, apart from the fact that Machu Picchu itself was still inaccessible due to the rail link being disrupted, the visit to Cusco, Ollantaytambo and the surrounding area was successfully completed in February 2010, to everyone's delight, both children and staff, none of whom had ever been to Cusco, let alone in a plane. At last they saw 'their' Cusco.

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

External projects in Peru in 2010

[a] The construction of a centre for disabled children in Las Laderas de Chillón: Project Peru has enjoyed a positive and close collaboration with Las Laderas de Chillón over more than eight years, thanks to our friendship with their dedicated team of parish priest, social worker and a reliable *maestro* [foreman] we have completed several social projects, all working successfully. In 2010 we offered to help in the building of a much needed centre for children with disabilities in this shanty town of over 65,000 people. We were pleased to welcome Leeds Metropolitan University who, as in the previous year, raised funds and spent a month in our refuge, travelling each day to spend eight hours digging foundations, building walls, and raising the roof, working with a team of local builders. The centre was opened in December 2010 at a moving ceremony with welcoming speeches in the presence of the director of Project Peru and the inspirational priest and social worker of Las Laderas, with eighty children, parents, therapists, and friends attending.

The community representative Padre Marcelo writes [translated]:
'To all our friends in Project Peru, we send you these words especially to thank you all for the construction of the centre for disabled children; we are very aware of all the work and all the generosity that this has meant for you. Thanks to every one who has given their time and money so that the work can go on. Thanks to all the young people from Leeds Met University who were here. The neighbours in Las Laderas noticed the enthusiasm they showed in their work, working long and hard to make sure their job got done in time- many

thanks to everyone. We had the inauguration just before Christmas in the presence of the children and families, representatives of Project Peru, and the community and workers, as a present for the children and their families. The doors were opened on 20th December. On behalf of the whole community we send you our sincere thanks. Con toda nuestra amistad'.

[b] The construction of a hostel in Sañayca [Apurímac]: this was started in summer 2009 and our work there and our direct involvement finished at the end of 2010. Until then Project Peru continued to supervise the funding and construction of this project which is remote from our base in Lima. The project provides a hostel or temporary refuge, somewhere for children who live too far away from the local school, to be given access to overnight shelter, food and support during the school periods. There are six other village communities involved, centred on Sañayca. The building is a single storey building made of adobe bricks which were made in the local community and with a tiled roof. Project Peru staff or committee members have made around eight visits during the year to Sañayca, often accompanied by some of our volunteers who have enjoyed the experience and the hospitality of the village. As agreed at the outset, the running of the project there will be in the hands of the local community.

Volunteers / visitors in Peru

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, or even came for lunch. Our volunteer

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

programme is 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. We do our best to harness such skills and experience that they may have and put it to good use. Some volunteers in Peru are already long-term supporters, some become so after being there. Some come in groups, some as individuals, some as part of a university elective placement or study period abroad, some come as part of staff development programmes, some are recently retired, some may have specific building projects that they have raised funds for. We are always interested to hear from potential volunteers who share our philosophy and are delighted as we increasingly are able to welcome back previous volunteers and friends. This is a real boost for everyone at the refuge too.

The following give a flavour of some of the impressions of recent volunteers or visitors in Peru in 2010;

- *Love to.....everyone over in Peru. The kids are amazing and I think the work you all do is fantastic*
- *I said to myself that as soon as I get a job that I would donate regularly to the charity. My life and perspectives on life have changed dramatically since my work in Peru, it makes your eyes see differently. I would absolutely love to return to Peru as part of another project.... The place that you have created over*

there is amazing and the work and charitable nature is unbelievable. I just thank you and all the children over there for what they have given me '

- *'How wonderful it feels to remain involved with Project Peru; I know that this organization will be part of my life for a very long time. I am headed back to Peru in December, and I cannot wait to go to the 'casa hogar' and visit all those people I love so much. Por favor mandales mis saludos y besotes y abrazos!*
- *I just also wanted say a really big thank you for letting us get involved with Project Peru, we really love it here and are really grateful, and proud to say we are a small part in something that is so amazing!!! I feel very honoured to have met some amazing and inspirational people...'*
- *I was blown away by the children, the staff and what has been achieved to date. All of the children are adorable. All of the staff that we met at the project, the refuge centre and at the soup kitchens were welcoming, loving and obviously passionate. The one message they wanted to tell me was not to forget about them when we went back to the UK. They don't have to worry about that. I don't think it would be possible to.*

Do contact us about opportunities for volunteering with us. Many of our former volunteers also help us with our

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

UK activities, helping us with our fundraising, craft stalls, catering etc or running events, or raising money through sponsorship and their own events.

Travellers to Peru

Many of our UK supporters and volunteers 'find' us as result of planning to or returning from trekking in Peru. When they do the Inca trail, for example, we hope they will appreciate both a fabulous Peru and the other reality, and not choose to trek past poverty in Peru.

By prior arrangement, and as arranged on an individual basis, we do like people to take time off from their adventure to visit Project Peru's refuge to see our work, and have hosted short visits or longer ones in the past, for individuals, families and groups. Most of our volunteers in Peru also use the Inca Trail as a key part of their fundraising sponsorship, and we have contacts in Peru who can facilitate your trip.

We also are developing links with travel companies who encourage a sense of social responsibility among their customers and within reason can organise short visits to see our work through such companies as The Adventure Company and Chimu Adventures.

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 2010 this

brought in a superb amount of sponsorship and we are as ever grateful for all the support and hospitality from Project Peru's friends en route in UK and in France. We welcome enquiries from prospective riders for Paris 2011, and for our 'back up' team and, of course, from potential sponsors for this coming September. Please contact us early in 2011 to book your place.

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 with an international flavour to suit all tastes, ages, and occasions, including weddings, and all sorts of celebrations.

Two comments from satisfied customers:

- *'I wanted to say a huge and warm thank you - mostly from me but also all my friends. There wasn't one who didn't comment on the quality, efficiency and friendliness of you and your helpers. The food was fantastic..... It was perfect and just how I wanted it, fun casual, great food. We all - especially me - had such a lovely and memorable time.'*
- *'It was a really enjoyable evening and everyone I spoke to said they thoroughly enjoyed it. The food was terrific and the tables looked brilliant. The volunteers worked really hard and were super.'*

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

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 good. In spite of the snow and ice at the time, these were raffled nationwide in December 2010, including cake raffles in our local area [Guildford, Shere, Cranleigh, Cobham, Bracknell, Barnes, Teddington], but also in Edinburgh, Faversham, Henley on Thames, Littlehampton, Tonypany, and Manchester.

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.

Sales of Peruvian craft goods

We continue to specialise in sales of Peruvian crafts, often made by groups of women workers that we know, including 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. to depict scenes, mostly of traditional life, are a popular art form that has developed in the shanty towns of Latin America. We buy all our crafts at fair prices and we recycle the proceeds 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.

Schools

We regularly arrange activities in schools, including holding 'Peru Days', or schools have 'adopted' us for a term or a year, or have linked a programme of activities for example 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, preparing Peruvian food, 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 large amount of 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. A large cargo arrived at the end of the year with a wide variety of contents including clothes, shoes, toiletries, school furniture, computers, bedding and kitchen equipment.

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

MISCELLANEOUS

'Walking the Amazon': until 2010 no-one had ever walked the length of the Amazon from source to mouth. Ed Stafford set out to be the first man to achieve this...while raising sponsorship for Project Peru among other charities. We were delighted to welcome him to our refuge before he set out. For more information on the expedition which started on 1st April 2008 you can still visit his website

<http://www.walkingtheamazon.com>

Ed has now successfully finished this expedition, walking through Peru and Brazil, and arriving at the Atlantic on 9th August 2010 after 860 days walking.

'El Nuevo Mundo'; we still have a limited number of copies of a book based on the refuge: 'El Nuevo Mundo' -'The New World, 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: her book focuses on the children's words and drawings; if you are interested in having more information or in ordering a copy at £10 [including UK p and p] please do let us know via information@projectperu.org.uk

What you can do to help Project Peru

- You can make single donations but regular monthly ones give us much more long term security
- you can organise a fundraising event for us
- you can sell our Peruvian crafts
- you can invite us to work with schools with which you are involved

- you can put us in touch with potential volunteers
- you can give us ongoing support after a trip to Peru, or before
- you can walk the Inca Trail or undertake other challenges
- you can invite us to help organise your wedding or other celebration
- you can contact us with your other ideas

Donations- and how to make one!

Please send us a cheque to the address below, payable to 'Project Peru'.

For other ways of donating please visit our website.

<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>

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

If you live in certain European countries a tax effective system for donating to charities across European frontiers enables donors resident in one of the participating countries to support Project Peru.

For further information

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

Project Peru Bulletin: January 2011

Please contact us by email, phone or post:

information@projectperu.org.uk

01483 576093

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

**MANY THANKS AS EVER TO ALL
OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND
SUPPORTERS**

*Edited and produced by Project Peru,
1, St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford, Surrey-
GU2 4EF- UK*
