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YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

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The Sister Antonia Memorial Kitchen Celebrates; Three-Year Anniversary of Serving Ichupampa

In August of 2016, an earthquake leveled nearly 80% of the town Ichupampa, including the community kitchen that fed many of the town's residents. **Quechua Benefit's generous donors quickly raised funds** to rebuild the kitchen in honor of Sister Antonia, a nun who served millions of meals during her 30 years in the Colca Valley. In March the new kitchen celebrated the 3-year anniversary of **your** gift and the kitchen's opening.



The "Madre Antonia Comedor" under construction. Alejandro Tejada, Quechua Benefit Peru Country Director, is second from the left.

We want to report back to **you** in how **your generosity** has changed lives. Here is what some of the town's people told us about what **your** donation did for them:

"I am very old, but I am the happiest person about the kitchen. I don't have to eat alone, and I can see my friends."

"The best thing about the kitchen is that it allows us to take care of our own."

"The kitchen allows the community to work together."

"The community says thank you to Quechua Benefit."



The new community kitchen stands at the center of Ichupampa.

The kitchen is open daily. Everyone pays for their meals according to their means. The oldest folks and the small children eat for free. The Community Association provides volunteer labor to operate the kitchen, and the crew changes each week.



Volunteers warm the heart as well as fill the stomachs of diners.

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Dr. James Anderson: Volunteer with a Generous Heart

by Mike Safley

Dr. Anderson, an orthopedic surgeon, inquired about being included in Quechua Benefit's international medical mission in 2013. I told him that there were no operating facilities in the rural highlands. He said he would break out a General Practitioner's manual and do a crash course on health checks and wellness exams.

The medical team and volunteers journeyed to 16,500 feet elevation over roads so narrow that the view from the bus was often straight down a sheer rock cliff to the canyon floor a half mile below. As Jim put it, **"the trip was hair-raising."**

During the first week we wound through the remote communities of the Corani district. Long lines greeted the doctors and nurses at daybreak, the day's work ended when the sun went down and there was not enough light to examine the line of patients still waiting. After a few days Jim, who is very quiet, said, **"these people are really tough."** And he meant the patients!

The halfway point of the trip was Macusani. At the end of the first day, Dr. Anderson approached me with a worried look. A little girl had come to be treated for a cold, and he discov-



The people in the remote highlands are blessed by Dr. Anderson's kindness and care.

ered she was deaf. He treated the cold, and the girl left. But he could not get her out of his mind. Her last name was Quisepi, which is as ubiquitous as the name Smith is in the USA, and Jim asked if I could find her. After searching for two nights and three days, we located the girl who lived with her single mother on the edge of town.

Jim asked her mother if we might take the 10-year-old girl, who could hear

for the first 6 years of her life, to Arequipa for a diagnosis. Not long after that Jim purchased hearing aids for a girl who, for all practical purposes, had been deaf.

When we returned the next year, her mother found me on the town square and said,

"Before you came last year, I had prayed every day for many years for God to fix my daughter's ears. Then God sent Quechua Benefit to answer my prayers."

When I related the mother's thank you to Jim, he replied in his typically understated manner, **"I really like taking care of people."**

Jim has volunteered with Quechua Benefit in Peru many times. He says, **"I found a group of people I love working with."**

His contributions to Quechua Benefit did not stop with his volunteer work. Jim's generous heart has made him one of the charity's largest donors. We thank him.

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The entire operation is sustainable into the future and as one lady told us, **"It is the most beautiful kitchen in town."**

We want you to know that your generosity is hard at work.

These are difficult times for the people both in the USA and Peru, but Quechua Benefit is still hard at work on **your behalf** to assist the Quechua people.





Introduce Your Group to Quechua Benefit

Quechua Benefit was founded in 1996 to break the cycle of poverty among the Quechua people of Peru. Here are some observations that animate our mission in the highlands.

“The need in Peru is like a dripping faucet that never stops.”

—Don Julio Barreda, Alpaca Breeder in Peru

“We are the poorest of poor provinces in a forgotten corner of Peru. We are at the end of the road and even our own government does not remember we are here. But you have found us year after year. The Peruvians in the highlands thank Quechua Benefit for their kindness.”

—The Mayor of Macusani, Peru



Quechua Benefit's founder, Mike Safley, would love to visit your church, service or community group and answer questions and discuss Peru, it's culture, people and Quechua Benefit's mission. Find out how **you** can help.

**Contact Mike (503-703-6020), Mike@alpacas.com
or Dale (303-902-4503), DaleCantwell@yahoo.com**

**We invite your church,
service or community
group to discover
the story of hope
Quechua Benefit
brings to a
forgotten people.**

**Learn how your
generosity will
transform lives**

Education for
Kindergarten-12th grade
at Casa Chapi

Anemia Prevention for
women and children
throughout the
Colca Valley

Economic Empowerment
for Alpaca Breeders and
their families

BREAKING THE CYCLE
of
POVERTY

We will help you

- Provide information for your group
- Host a gathering in your home
- Plan a large group event

Shop to Support Quechua Benefit

When **you** visit quechuabenefit.org/shop you will both give and get. You'll find unique Peruvian alpaca-centric items for yourself or to give as a great gift. Shop our sale on all things alpaca—100% handspun alpaca knitting yarn, scarves for all seasons, and adorable 100% alpaca teddy bears AND MORE! Not only will **you** receive a quality item, but best of all **you** will also support women and children in Peru.



100% of proceeds from your purchase directly benefit Quechua Benefit's programs in the highlands of Peru.

- Casa Chapi School with more than 150 kids in grades K-12
- Anemia campaigns reaching women and children throughout the Colca Valley
- Livestock husbandry for alpaca breeders



Visit www.quechuabenefit.org/shop

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CONTACT US

11785 SW River Road
Hillsboro, OR 97123

QuechuaBenefit.org
503-628-3110

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100% of your generous donations go directly to children's education, preventative medicine campaigns and economic empowerment programs in Peru.