

Your Generosity at Work

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From left: Ramón Cañapataña, Dale Cantwell, Francisco Bellido Mamani, Mike Safley, Alejandro Tejeda, José Escalante Yana, and Fortunato Luquesé.
Photo by Ana Caroline de Lima.



Quechua Benefit's donors purchased 5 miles of pipe for the second phase of the project. Photo by Robert Els.

Picotani's Water Project: Creating Vicuña Habitat and Empowering the Community

Three years ago, Picotani's community leaders approached Quechua Benefit about helping them with a water project. As often happens there was a lot about this project that was lost in translation. At first, we assumed it was for the town's drinking water. After a few meetings, it dawned on us that the community leaders were talking about a project to provide water to their vicuña during the dry season.

With Dale's engineering skills and your donations, the water project relaunched after some speed bumps along the way. As of June 2022, this project is 80% complete, and by October it will be 100% finished.

"I Was Never a Child"

My smile is dry and my face is serious, my broad shoulders, my hard muscles, and my hands are broken by the raw cold. I'm only eight years old, but I'm not a child.

Behind my alpacas I walk the mountain, carry my firewood down to my hut to blow the fire to make my rope, **AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE A KID.**

The years go by and everything is the same. Dried beans with jerky, are my candies, my toy is the sheepdog, I have little time, **BUT I AM NOT A CHILD.**

My friend and truck is a very slow jogging donkey. **The fox steals my sheep, and I am not able to be a child.**

My face is that of an old man and my walk is that of a grandfather, my calluses are broken by stones from the hill, my poncho is torn by the wind, And this tells me that I am not a child.

And there are no wise men?
Aren't there children's days?
I never had the luck to be a child!

**A Poem by Fortunato Ramos,
Children's Village Casa Chapi,
Second Grade Elementary,
Translated from Spanish to English**



Xeina (center) in 2013 at Casa Chapi.



Xeina in 2022 at her high school graduation with Amanda VandenBosch.

Congratulations, Xeina!

Many of you may recognize young Xeina Ccallo. She set foot on the Casa Chapi campus in Chivay, Peru in 2012. Fast forward 10 years, we come together to congratulate Xeina on her high school graduation from the prestigious Cascades Academy in Bend, Oregon.

To understand this tremendous accomplishment for a young Quechua woman, you must understand the cultural barriers that girls face when it comes to access to secondary education in the remote highlands of Peru.

All secondary schools are in town, which means several hours of travel each day from their rural homes. Racial and social class tensions within the communities also play a role in a student's success, as well as the machista culture, which views women as having a very low place in society.

This fall, with your help, Xeina will be attending McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. Her hopes of becoming a pediatrician will lead her to a pre-med degree in the upcoming years. Like many of our college students, Xeina will act as a mentor, inspiring those at Casa Chapi to pursue higher education to break the generational cycle of poverty.



Meet Our New Communication Director, Sara Matsuzaki

Sara was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She comes from an artistic background, specializing in fine art and graphic design. Her role for Quechua Benefit consists of marketing, graphic design, and spreading the word about our nonprofit. In her free time, she loves to travel, try new food, listen to music and podcasts, and spend time with her partner, Yomi, and son, Bukayo.



2022 Peru Tour is Here!

RSVP now for the 2022 Peru Vicuña Safari Adventure! Spots are limited. Visit QuechuaBenefit.com/peru-tour for all the details.

In 2023, Quechua Benefit Peru Tours resume. More information coming soon!

Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Simon



I am a Norwegian student from Oslo, currently writing my bachelor thesis in Development Studies at the University of Oslo. My thesis concerns: *Exploring and identifying essential factors to Peruvians of Quechua origin and their identity with or resistance to the Quechua culture.*

Peruvians of Quechua origin either reject or uphold their Quechua identity. The main findings in this study demonstrate that cultural identity issues continue to persist, and are often inter-woven in complex structures affected by social, cultural and economic factors.

One of the most interesting findings is that gender should not be seen as an isolated factor but in conjunction with social mobility and rural-urban environments where males are less willing to uphold their cultural Quechua identity and females limitations in social mobility.



A female from Maca emphasized how connected she and the Maca community are with the preservation of their cultural identity by addressing the importance of wearing traditional clothes and arranging competitions rewarding young Peruvians who perform in their native Quechua language.

In contrast, her male cousin visiting from Arequipa expressed his dislike for the sound of the Quechua language and his lack of association with its culture.



Among the main observations is that tourism may potentially function as a pull factor, helping communities to resist cultural degradation by providing possible economic gains through the preservation of traditions and language.

Religious differences also arose during interviews (Catholicism versus Andean spiritualism). These variances are worth further investigation regarding the manner in which they influence Peruvians of Quechua origin to reject or uphold their Quechua identity.

In short, my findings involved social mobility, gender, rural vs. urban residence, economic empowerment, tourism, hybridization of Quechua, and intellectual bilingual educational policy (IBE).

My Journey in Peru

I reached out to Quechua Benefit for the possibility of volunteering as an English teacher at Casa Chapi.

Dale, Quechua Benefit's Executive Director, connected me with long time QB supporters Robert Els, Maria Belen Juarez Del Carpio, Kathe Torres and Abel Santander. They were a huge help to me while conducting interviews in Arequipa, Canon del Colca, Cusco and The Sacred Valley.

The warm and welcoming people of Quechua origin gave me insight into their way of looking at the world, which left me humbled, and inspired. I believe the world would likely be a better place if their worldview was shared with more people.



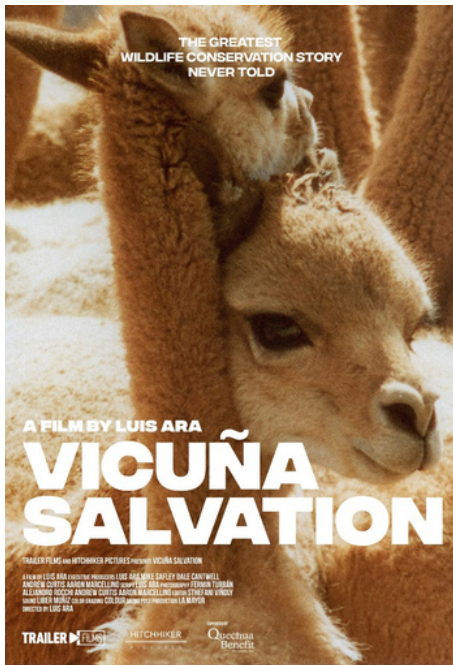
The alpacas surprise a guest during feeding.



Guests play lawn games during the event.

Family Night on the Farm Fundraiser + Auction

As many of you know, this was our first in-person event since May 2019. Thanks to you, it was more successful than we could have imagined! It was a great turn out albeit a toasty, summer day at Northwest Alpacas Ranch in Hillsboro, Oregon. It was an evening full of new friends, delicious food, chilled drinks, and fun activities for the whole family. Quechua Benefit Board Member Kris Wigger, was our MC for the night and FINALLY got to tell his alpaca joke! Our younger guests loved the juggling performance by Curt Carlyle of Shazam! Our community came together and raised over \$105,000 that evening. We couldn't be more thankful to all of you and we are excited to host everyone again next year!



Vicuña Salvation Premiered on August 20, 2022!

Our long-awaited documentary **Vicuña Salvation**, a film by Luis Ara, premiered in Napa Valley, California to a sold out crowd. A big thanks to the Yountville Chamber of Commerce for their support!

The National Geographic Network has purchased the streaming rights for South America, beginning in March 2023.

You can view the trailer online or purchase the book behind the inspiration, *Vicuñas: Survival of the Finest* by Mike Safley by visiting QuechuaBenefit.org/Vicuna

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