

The Daycare Center in Ushpa-Ushpa celebrates its third Birthday

Sometimes we are really astonished when we see at what speed our project grows. It's only three years ago that we celebrated the inauguration and now it has become a major institution in its category.

The power and the motivation of all members of the team is as good as at the beginning and we achieved to become known far outside of our region while keeping the very personal character.

Since January of 2007 more than 170 children visit the six different age groups. For the first time this year we organized the first grade class. This helped us to gain experience for the future school program. Our staff, specifically Gisela Delgadillo, Mabel Romero and Guadalupe Cordova developed all training material on their own, based on their experience in working with children from our social background.

Thank to the excellent work of Markus Koch and all other members of the German/Austrian organization "Börsianer Handeln - Hilfsprojekt für Kinder" we were able to proceed with the construction of the school building as planned. These days, the workers of the construction company "Amanecer" finished the first part of the building with a total of 10 classrooms.

Beginning February 1, 2008, the children from Ushpa-Ushpa can visit the the first eight gardses of school. We will start with morning sessions. Within the next two years we will expand the building by another 17 classrooms and will be able to host more than 1,600 children. We also developed the study material for the school classes based on the official guidelines to which we added specific content and structure.

This year we also changed our ornaizational structure. We are now an independent NGO ("non-governmental organization") called "Horizonte Ushpa-Ushpa". The organization is governed by a board, which consists currently of five members. Nicola Pauli, who joined us in November 2006 heads the area „Communication and Coordination". She is our Chief Operating Officer. Osvaldo Castro, heads "Administration" and Mabel Romero and Guadalupe Cordova head the area "Education". My responsibilities are the overall management, development and funding. The new NGO allows us to comply with the new laws for social security. We are able to employ all our 35 team members according to the new rules.

If you visit Ushpa-Ushpa you will find several new initiatives being started and you see great progress. This year we collaborated with over 30 other organizations and foundations. Our high reputation as a well managed project with excellent educational standards helps us a lot. Here are a few examples:

- In order to achieve a sustainable improvement of the health conditions we installed a health care center two years ago. This year, with the help of a series of volunteers, we conducted a census of the whole settlement about the status of health. Based on the results and using the support of other NGOs, we now can focus on the main issues.
- The children of Ushpa-Ushpa visited a series of other daycare centers around the region and were able to learn from other children living in different environments.
- Thanks to the support of a local organization we were able to start a theater workshop for people, aged 15-22 years. This group is quite critical as they suffered from no-

existing education in the past and therefore can endanger the overall success of our initiatives.

Tantakuna (the club of the mothers) has taken a quite prominent role this year. Since July, Francesca Cipolla is the full time employee, responsible for the group. The bakery, operated by the mothers bakes bread on five days per week, and since a few weeks, the mothers also started to work on handcraft which is sold in local markets. At the same time the core principle of Tantakuna, namely to provide a center for meetings and socializing for the mothers remains in focus. We have organized a series of seminars and trainings for the mothers including classes to learn working with computers and the internet.

Since July, one employee is in charge of the area of „Microfinance and Microenterprise. Erica Zambrana started with the development of a lending facility for employees. Now she organizes seminars for micro entrepreneurs. We will offer the classes also for the whole region. We started a training program with a local textile company. After a few weeks of training, the women can produce textiles from alpaca wool at home.

The cooperation with the village representatives is very close. We meet on a regular basis to coordinate and inform each other. We also support the village in their initiatives to build up a sportsclub and a cultural program. During one of my last visits, I was already welcomed by the village orchestra.

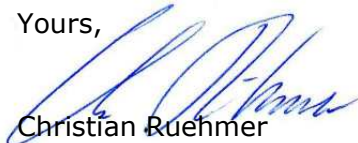
During the current holidays (mid December 2007 through mid January 2008) we will work on two constructions. The sports ground will get a sunroof and a playground will be built on the remaining area inside the place of the day-care. These two constructions were sponsored by last year's holiday donations and a primary school in Munich respectively.

We have big plans for 2008. As mentioned above, the school will open its doors in February (regular start of the school year in Bolivia). We will incorporate approx. 15 teachers in our team. They will mainly be paid by the state of Cochabamba. We will also have an evening-school for adults. They will be able to receive their high school degree within five years. We will also employ a series of social workers in the village and start a couple of other initiatives, like a village newspaper, to increase the level of education and social responsibility.

All these activities would not be possible without the ongoing support and donations we receive from so many people. The confidence in our work is a huge motivating factor and we will continue to strive for excellent work. We can assure you that we will use the funds with maximum efficiency and can proudly report that close to 100% of of your donations are used in Ushpa-Ushpa.

On behalf of the children and the whole team of Ushpa-Ushpa I wish you all happy holidays and all the best for 2008.

Yours,



Christian Ruehmer

Donations:

USA: please make checks payable to "Bolivian Charity Foundation" (BCF) and send them to Bolivian Charity Foundation, c/o Christian Ruehmer, 1 Riverplace #2219, New York, NY, 10036. BCF is 501c 3 registered

Europe: transfer donations to "Verein zur Foerderung des Kindergartens in Ushpa-Ushpa", account number 7595 at the Raiffeisenbank Isar -Loisachtal (BLZ 701 695 43), IBAN: DE80701695430000007595, BIC : GENODEF1HHS

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