



Students performing the traditional "Morenada" dance during the graduation celebration at the university in Carmen Pampa.

# con Bolivia

Working with communities and educational institutions to assist in the personal development of indigenous peoples in rural areas of Bolivia

November, 2011

Dear friends of *con Bolivia*,

After over nine years of dedication to the educational and community needs of the indigenous poor in Bolivia, a difficult decision has been made to dissolve *con Bolivia* at the end of our fiscal year, December 31, 2011. Some of you may ask, "Why?" In truth, it is time. Juan and I both believe very deeply in the cycles of nature, in the ebbs and flows, in a time to be born and a time to die. Nothing is, nor should be, eternal. Without change, there is no growth.

This is not a sad day for us. On the contrary, it is a time for each of us to reflect on and celebrate what we have, together with you, been able to accomplish during these years. And, perhaps as important, to reflect on how each of us has been changed in the process.

We had many successes, and yes, a few failures. Among our successful efforts was providing a warm and nutritious breakfast to school children on a wind swept, cold island in Lake Titicaca. We gave children trapped in poverty the opportunity to improve their chances for later educational success by supporting a state-of-the-art pre-school on the out-skirts of La Paz. We donated funds to a priest working with glue-sniffing addicted young boys in the streets of El Alto. In collaboration with a dental school, we provided dental clinics to a community where the closest medical facility is a three-hour boat ride away. We donated play-ground equipment so small children could safely jump, run, climb and just be kids. We helped to build a bathroom facility for a school in the Altiplano that is clean and actually has running water! We awarded university scholarships and provided thesis support to aspiring students from the poor regions of Cha'lla, Potosi and Oruro. And just this year, *con Bolivia's* matching grant will make possible the construction of a new community health center for the peoples in and around Carmen Pampa. All of this was made possible because of your generosity and the fact that 100% of all donations went directly to support the work in Bolivia.



For six years, *con Bolivia* supported the small students at Sol y Luna, until its closure in 2009.

Since 2003, *con Bolivia* has made over \$125,000 in grants. Perhaps some will say that this is not a large number. In fact, in a world where many individuals make 100 times that amount in one year, I suppose it could be considered insignificant. *But we are convinced* that many individuals who were touched by *con*

*con Bolivia*, 637 Copita Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87505 USA \*\*\*\* *con Bolivia* is a 501 (c) 3 publicly supported charity  
<http://www.conbolivia.org>

*Bolivia's* personal support, who were treated with respect and dignity, have indeed been changed. We know this, because we hear from Genaro that he is starting his own tourism company and is hoping to write a book on the history of Koati, (Isla de la Luna.) Román writes that both he and Silverina have good jobs in their respective communities of Oruro and Potosí. It was reported to us that Alicia, in whose humble hostel we stay during our visits to the Isla del Sol, was recently elected to an important political position in her community, the first ever female to have received such an honor. Beth tells us that young students from Sol y Luna tested directly into first grade, thanks to the "head start" they received at the day care center. Orphaned Olga tells me, via e-mail, that she will be "painting the millions of colors from the countryside" of Carmen Pampa, because she has finally felt the love and support from a mother she never knew. Lives being changed? Yes! One life at a time...



Gabriela and Napo, (here with their son), are looking forward to finishing up their university studies, thanks to *con Bolivia* scholarships.

An essential consideration in the process of closure is honoring the commitments that *con Bolivia* has made. More specifically, we currently have six university students who are depending on *con Bolivia* scholarships to complete their educations. We will not disappoint them! At the end of this year, we will be establishing a **multi-year scholarship fund** which will ensure their financial support through to graduation.



Scholarship recipient, Santusa, (middle) has only one more semester and a year of internship to finish her nursing degree.

It is with a sense of deep gratitude and humility that I am coming to you this one last time to ask for your donations to this **scholarship fund**. We have some money already set aside for this purpose and expect that we will need an additional \$8,000.

***Please be as generous as you can! 100% of every dollar that you send our way will go to the Scholarship Fund.***

With a heart full of gratitude, not only from us but from each of the individuals whose lives you have touched in Bolivia, we send "UN ABRAZO GRANDE," and many, many thanks.

Suzanne Dulle

P.S. As to "what's next" for us, ... starting in 2012, Juan and I will be responding to a request from the Universidad Academica Campesina (UAC) in Carmen Pampa by volunteering for three months each year. Whereas dollars are much needed in poor counties, there is a dire need for hands-on assistance from qualified individuals. Through the experiences each of us have gained during our long professional careers, as well as our fluency in Spanish and Juan's ability in the Aymara language, we feel we have skills that will be useful in Bolivia. Wish us success!

*con Bolivia*, 637 Copita Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87505 USA \*\*\*\* *con Bolivia* is a 501 (c) 3 publicly supported charity  
<http://www.conbolivia.org>

