



Hoy por ti, mañana por mi  
Today for you, tomorrow for me

# NEWSLETTER #2

AYNI UPDATE – DECEMBER 2007

[HTTP://AYNI.FOOTBOOT.NET](http://ayni.footboot.net)

*Well, here we are again... a year after our first Newsletter, ready to update on another productive, exciting, challenging year with Ayni. We hope you enjoy reading about all the action in Alto de los More and continue to support the projects!*

*To all those who make our work possible, those who fundraise and donate, and of course, to our dedicated volunteers... **THANK YOU!***

## AYNI OPENS SCHOOL LIBRARY

One of our major projects for this year is a school library!

While it may not sound like a big deal at home, here in Alto de los More, books are very hard to come by, and so the first ever library is very exciting for our students.

Last semester, volunteers held book drives in Piura city, turned an unused classroom into the library and kids are having a blast discovering how much fun it is to read. This semester has seen the finishing touches to our creation: a newly cemented floor, library cards for each student, and opening ceremonies teaching the importance of looking after the books and bringing them back on time – we'll keep our fingers crossed for that one!

We're still looking for donations of books to add to our collection but at this point the library is looking beautiful and is open to borrowing – so happy reading!



*Photo: Volunteer Tamah Murfet reads to students in the library*

## FAMILIES MAKE GOOD USE OF AYNI LOANS



*Photo: Jenny Seminario Luga with one of her 18 pigs*

More families are off and running with their loans this year. While some have chosen to diversify their projects - buying crop-enhancing products or purchasing maiz (corn) to make and sell flour - livestock continues to be the investment of choice. Many families are successfully breeding multiple generations of healthy pigs, sheep, ducks, chickens and turkeys.

Jenny Seminario Luga is a prominent example in the community. In only 10 months, Jenny has managed to turn her original investment of 2 pigs into a healthy brood of eighteen! We now have our own local pig supplier in town...we can buy pigs for our future loan families from Jenny, spurring further growth within the village rather than having to import livestock from outlying markets in the region.

## PERU'S EARTHQUAKE

For those of you who may be worried about us after the earthquake a few months back, rest assured – we're all safe and sound here in Piura! The news wasn't so good in the south however, with the towns of Pisco, Ica and Chincha all badly damaged and facing a long, expensive road to reconstruction. The community of Alto de los More has undertaken a clothing drive. The kids were really empathetic, taking the time to truly think about what it means to have your home destroyed, and writing some beautifully artistic cards to express their sympathies. This is the true vision of reciprocity of AYNI.

## THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEER TEAM

Ayni's productivity is entirely dependent on the enthusiasm and hard-work of its volunteers.

This semester's group is a dedicated and positive bunch, with a wide variety of experiences, ages and geographic origins!

### Big Thanks to You Guys!



Photo: Ayni volunteers and school teachers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

## TEACHING REWARDING FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Ayni volunteers have begun to teach additional classes at the elementary school. While English classes are taking place, students who have a particularly difficult time reading and writing in Spanish are given extra attention in small classes of five to eight students. To date, this extra focus has really helped these students!



Photo: Volunteer Joe Sturla with Maria Santos

Maria Santos, a developmentally delayed student at the school, is also given one-on-one classes for 45

minutes per day. This extra stimulation through puzzles, colouring books and discussions is really helping her come out of her shell!

### NEW ARRIVAL!

Jorge, the irreplaceable caretaker of the elementary school, and his wife Haydee are proud to announce the arrival of their baby girl, Tamah Francisca, who was born in October! Ayni volunteers accompanied Haydee to the hospital in Piura for her post-natal check-ups and are happy to report that the baby is healthy and growing well.



Photo: Volunteers hand out bananas to students during recess

## PROGRAMS IN 2007 A GREAT SUCCESS!

Ayni has initiated some new daily routines for the students at Alto de los Mores.... Hand washing, Teeth Brushing and Fruit Distribution!

Before classes begin in the morning, students arrive to pick up their toothbrush and toothpaste to brush their teeth. Thanks to Ayni donors, we have enough toothbrushes to last the year!

Additionally, teachers lead their class to the hand-washing buckets outside their classrooms. Fruit is then distributed to each student in Ayni's new fruit distribution program which supplements the government's bread and milk program. And the fruit peels go in the new organic bins for composting!

## AYNI WORKS WITH COMMUNITY ON FIELD PROJECT

Photo: Tamarind tree in community orchard

Our orchard is beginning to flourish and fruit collection is expected before the end of semester! The parents of Alto de los Mores worked hard throughout July to reconstruct the canals in the field to ensure sufficient distribution of water to the trees. Corn and beans were planted between trees and was ready for harvest in August. The whole school enjoyed delicious corn-on-the-cob!



Our upcoming initiatives for the field are to plant organic banana trees in between the current fruit trees, begin a community composting system for the field and plant more beans and other vegetables. Within a year, we're hoping to report a steady harvesting of bananas to supplement our current fruit distribution at the school.



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## HEALTH WEEK 2007: PREVENTING AND TREATING ILLNESSES

During September, Alto de los Mores was buzzing with health related events. First order of business... health check-ups for all the kids. One by one, students lined up to see the two doctors who generously volunteered their time to provide check-ups – Dr. Jose and Dr. Oh. Health issues including parasites, anaemia and malnutrition, skin infections, head lice and poor dental hygiene are all very common in a community like Alto de los Mores, where households lack the means to prevent the most basic of illnesses. That's why it is so important that Ayni provides basic programs like daily hand-washing, teeth-brushing and fruit distribution.

Workshops were held for all the parents in hygiene, general and oral health, environmental health and maternal health. We had an amazing turn-out!!! After the workshops, Ayni provided all attendees with a “health goody bag” – filled with all the essentials to put what they learned into action... bars of soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, nail clippers, towels, band-aids, etc. Many parents came up to volunteers during the workshops to show their appreciation and everyone learned something new... even the volunteers!



*Photo: Dr. Oh provides much needed check-ups to students during Health Week*



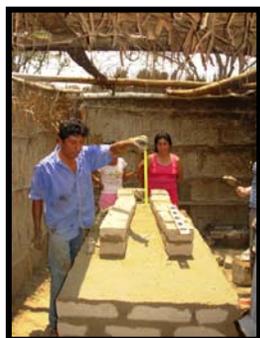
*Photo: A dentist from Piura checks for cavities*

Ending a successful health week, Ayni organized a Giant Fruit Salad Day at the school. Each class was responsible for preparing a type of fruit and a dozen cooking students from the city came out to discuss the importance of washing our hands before eating and the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. While the students enjoyed their bowl of fruit salad, volunteers performed “health skits” in the classrooms.

In August, a dentist from the city provided dental check-ups to all the students and gave a presentation on oral hygiene. We are still following up on many of the cases who will require fillings and extractions. All students received a new toothbrush, which is kept at the school to brush their teeth before class begins every morning.

Also this semester... an eye doctor performed vision checks for all students and Ayni has followed up on those who need glasses.

## NEW ADOBE STOVES IMPROVE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT



*Photos: The maestro measures for the correct angle of the chimney*

Ayni has undertaken the construction on a handful of “Cocinas Mejoradas” – which translates literally to Improved Kitchens. These adobe stoves provide a more efficient heating source for cooking and direct the smoke outside of the house through a chimney – thus keeping the air in the house cleaner.

Families in the community can receive support from Ayni to build these stoves in their homes, provided they assist in the construction and help on another family's stove too.

Ayni has also built a stove at the pre-school, so that the mothers who prepare the lunches can benefit from its efficiency and healthier air quality. To find out how to contribute to another family's adobe stove construction, see the 2007 Ayni Gift Catalogue for this and lots of other great ideas.



*Photo: The finished product – a new adobe stove for a family*

**Do you know someone looking for an eye-opening and rewarding experience overseas?**

**Ayni is currently recruiting volunteers for its 2008 semesters – from March to July and August to December, as well as for the Coordinator position.**

**Interested??**

**For more information, see our website: <http://ayni.footboot.net> and contact the Recruitment Officer listed for your home country.**

## VOLUNTEER REFLECTION – By Tamah Murfet from Australia

*Nothing ever fully prepares you for life in a foreign country. You can listen to other people's experiences and try to plan ahead, but the reality is always at least a little different to what you expected, and life here in Peru is no exception. I've now been with AYNI for about 4 months, which is enough time to go through a lot of the emotional roller-coasters that life here can throw at you. At times I feel uplifted and other times I feel completely overwhelmed because the help we provide represents such a small fraction of what is needed in hundreds of communities like Alto de los Mores. There are days when every project seems possible because as the saying goes, where there's a will, there's a way, and we definitely have the will. On other days, though, the sheer difficulty of life in Altos, with little water and less resources, makes my soaring ambitions drop alarmingly towards the ground. But for every day that seems hard, there are 30 smiling faces greeting me when I walk into a classroom. Every time I feel overwhelmed, there's a little hand finding its way into mine, or a thousand kisses on the cheek to remind me that we are making a difference. The 'Tamah! Tamah! Tamah!' chant helps too! It never ceases to amaze me how affectionate, loving and happy these kids are, considering how little they have in their lives.*

*In addition to teaching, I've had a lot of fun getting involved in the wider community through our loan program, which helps families start up small investments like stores or, quite often, pigs – this, of course, involves volunteers holding squirming pigs and trudging around pig sties! We've helped families with severe medical problems get the treatment they need, we've run education programs on health and hygiene, and we've opened up a library in the school so that our kids can experience all the worlds that books can offer. In fact, there are so many projects happening that sometimes it feels like I need 10 more hands, or 10 more months, to get it all done. More than anything though, the highlight of my time in Alto de los More has been getting to know so many beautiful people, both children and adults, and making an impact on someone's life. The smiling faces I see every day will stay with me forever, with a permanent soundtrack of 'un besito, un besito!' – 'a little kiss, a little kiss!'. Life with AYNI has its hard moments, but it's truly an experience I'll never forget.*

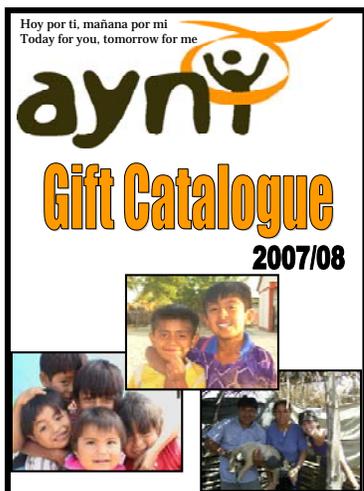


Photo: Volunteer Maureen Hill with some of her students

## AYNI'S FIRST ANNUAL GIFT CATALOGUE

*Not sure what to get someone on your Holiday List? Why not make a donation to Ayni in their name?*

This year, Ayni has put together an easy-to-use catalogue to help you select something that is really meaningful. Purchase **school supplies** for the students, support a family's **income-generating project** or plant seedlings in the **orchard**. Whichever you choose, we guarantee it will make a difference to this community in Peru. Check it out!



Ayni now accepts donations by **cheque** and through **PayPal** to make supporting Alto de los More easier than ever!

**Send your cheque (made payable to AYNI) to: 8 Springmeadow Dr. Markham, Ontario L6B 1B5 – Canada**  
(for donations + \$300, please make payable to **Rights Action**)

Or through Paypal to [m\\_orisi@hotmail.com](mailto:m_orisi@hotmail.com)

If you'd like to make a bank transfer, please see the **"How You Can Help"** section of the Ayni website for account info.

And don't forget to visit our website for lots more information...  
<http://ayni.footboot.net>