

# AYNI Newsletter 2010

## SEASONS GREETINGS

<http://ayni.footboot.net/>



### A Message from Margie Orsi - Founder of Ayni

I had the opportunity to spend a few months in Alto de los Mores again this year. As usual it was action packed, & highly emotional. My time was filled with lots of laughs and tears, and ups and downs. As we approach our 10 year anniversary, so much has changed. One thing is a constant though, and that is Ayni is alive and well, we are still making miracles with pennies, and getting paid in smiles!

This year it was great to welcome back Chantal Bombardier who was not only my former student, but was also Ayni's very first international volunteer. It was great to have someone back from the 'ol days of when Ayni first started out, who could see the transformation that Ayni and the community of Alto de los Mores has been through.

This year we have been fortunate to have so many volunteers from all over the world join us in efforts to alleviate poverty. Having our local leader Ines Sernaque run Ayni's projects on the ground while working alongside our volunteers, has been a tremendous success! Ines who is one of the villagers herself is doing a fabulous job! A big salute to both Ines and all of our Volunteers for dedicating their time and energy to improving the lives of the children and families of Altos.

This year has been an exciting one. We have attracted the eyes of various film makers. Personal Philanthropy.Org and Tell Their Story.Org has made 2 short films on Ayni, and they are currently filming a 3rd documentary which will be judged by the head of the University of North Texas Film Department and also Guillermo Arriaga the author and screen writer of Oscar winning movie Babel and also the movies Amores Perros, & 21 Grams . Racing Green Endurance, a group of British Students driving an electric car from Alaska to Argentina also stopped in to check out Ayni's projects, the clip will be included in their final documentary by the BBC.

Other great news is that we BUILT our very own Community Library / Learning Centre in the village. This has become a hot spot for all the kids in Altos. Now Kids have access to books, puzzles, games, and opportunities to learn!! Our mud brick stove project has been rekindled, our micro-credit loans program is still in full force, and our Mothers Neem Tree Initiative has skyrocketed. A special thanks goes out to all of our donators, because without the dollars and cents that you have contributed, we could not continue our work!



### CHECK OUT THESE DOCUMENTARY SEGMENTS OF Ayni:



[Http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAKWPNFTivo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAKWPNFTivo)

Personal Philanthropy.org is a non-profit Social Enterprise that helps individuals and organizations integrate Philanthropy into their lives and their businesses. Through our philanthropic projects, consulting and educational programs, Personal Philanthropy provides all the tools you need to practice the joy of investing in the lives of others. Personal Philanthropy has been a strong supporter of Ayni.



<http://www.telltheirstory.org/ayni.html>

Tell Their Story.Org is a non-profit organization that uses media, education and travel to inspire others of means, time and talent to philanthropic action.



<Http://racinggreenendurance.com/videos.php>

The Racing Green Endurance team is a flagship project of Imperial College London, England. The team developed an electric sportscar which they drove from Alaska to Argentina to promote a sustainable transport future. The Radical SRZero aims to be the world's most focused, fun-to-drive alternative propulsion vehicle. By taking on this epic journey, they hope to add a sense of excitement and get people interested in electric vehicles. On their way to Argentina, RGE team stopped into Alto de los Mores to see Ayni's sustainable development projects.



[racinggreenendurance.com](http://racinggreenendurance.com)

**Special Thanks to all of our 2010 donators:**

- Brother Andre CHS
- Fr. Michael McGivney CHS
- Chasing Dragon Japan
- Bombardier Family
- Szczygielski Family
- Tim & Tom DeWitt
- Undine Hellmann & Family
- In Memory of Ilse Knake
- Klaus Hellmann
- Pat Quinlan
- Chris Gerwlvich
- Donna Tipping & Friends
- Olivia Nero
- McLean & Navarro Family
- Jeff Wright & Jeffrey Rich
- Tony Muhitch
- Pat McGary & Family
- Jim Vair & Charlotte Kirby
- Sean & Patty McNamara
- Veronica Tomaiolo
- Mark Halberstadt & FASTER Linen
- Clare O'Donoghue
- Leora Sas
- Alex Blando & Family
- Clare Cummings & Family
- Tara McElroy
- Anna Orsi
- Hunscher Family
- Marco Zoretic & Sue Tomich
- Colegio Trener Lima
- Additional Many Thanks to:**
- Rights Action
- Personal Philanthropy & Tell Their Story
- Maria Gerrard & Ali McLean (Ayni's Right Hand Women!)

# Saving Baby Denixta

When we first met baby Denixta, she was extremely mal-nourished and sick. She weighed less than 7 lbs. at 9 months old, and she had a severe skin infection from head to toe. With the help from various donors, Ayni immediately stepped in to provide medical support, nutrition counseling and baby formula. Within weeks her infection cleared up with use of neem leaves, and special soap. Today we are very proud to announce that Denixta who went from sitting on deaths doorstep is now a thriving little girl. She is 1.5 years old, has gained several pounds, grew hair, sprouted teeth and is starting to say a few words. I fell in love with child after visiting her daily and seeing her progress. Thanks to God for leading me to people that answered my calls to help this beautiful little child.



# Sponsoring High School & Post Secondary Students



As with previous years, Ayni continues to pay the tuition and school supply costs for all students who wish to attend high school and post-secondary education. We continue to see a high increase in the number of students furthering their education.

Ayni believes that by sponsoring these students, they can learn valuable skills that can empower them and break the cycle of poverty. Many of our students are the first in the village to complete

high school let alone attend a post-secondary institution.



# Newly Built Community Library & Learning Centre!

The very first community library and learning centre in Alto de los Mores was just recently built.

Ines Sernaque, the local leader of Ayni, generously allowed us build a new library / learning centre adjacent to her home. Now children in the village have a place where they can enjoy reading books, colour, play educational games or get extra help. With

tons of kids anxiously waiting outside the library door each day, it has become a community "hit." Instead of the kids playing in the sand while their moms work in the field, cook, collect wood or fetch water, they can now hang out in library to LEARN & have FUN! Thanks to all the volunteers who run the exciting library programs and to those who donated to make this possible!



I arrived in Altos on my first day back and was told that I should go and check on a very old ailing woman. Nothing had prepared me for the sight that I was about to see. I saw firsthand what happens when governments of poor countries & external trade policies together lead to the total neglect of its most vulnerable people. I walked past the straw walls, into a dark dusty room, and swatted the millions of flies away that covered an old lady clinging to life as she lay on the mud floor. Alone she was, as her 87 year old husband was working on his farm still trying to eek out enough money to buy food for the both of them. On the floor I could see a handful of camote (sweet potatoes) and a vine of bananas. This is all they had.

Immediately we gathered the troops so to speak to improve the immediate situation of this poor old lady. We went out to buy her a bed so she could get off the mud floor and a pillow to prop her up. After she had been cleaned up, given some neem tea to help fight infection, and had a bit of soup to eat, everyone moved her on the blanket to the new bed. Her husband was crying in gratitude as he believed God had sent us to help in their desperate hour. We embraced him, while assuring that we would do what we could to help. I left the house and continued about my day in Altos, promising to pop in again before I went home.. Upon returning I found Miguel sobbing that his wife had just died minutes earlier. I couldn't believe it, I mean it was in the morning that things took a turn for the better. I couldn't understand. Then Miguel in his deepest moment of grief said to my husband she died, because now she could die in **dignity**.

The next day upon revisiting Miguel, and to help with funeral arrangements, he was profusely thankful for what we had done, and while it was no sweat for us, it meant a lot to him. To further catapult me into an emotional mess Miguel insisted that I take his stem of bananas in gratitude. I of course didn't want to take his only bananas as this is everything he owned, selling a few bananas for 5 cents each was everything he had. The bananas he wanted to give me amounted to about \$2.00, and it would be his only source of income for the week. There was no way I was taking his bananas. Upon further pressure I accepted to take only a few to his disappointment. I had to hold it together because here was a man and his wife almost in their 90's left to fend for themselves for survival, with no help at all except from the odd community member or visiting relative. This is what it is like to live in total neglect. To die in a state of filth, like garbage, and shamefully this is the way that MOST people in this world live. Let us be thankful for what we have, and let do something more about those who don't .

## Volunteers.. The Veins of AYNi

This year many students from York University's new *Ayni at York program* came down to Peru to volunteer, expand their horizons, grow as persons, & have an experience of a lifetime! The club was started by Jessica Wong, a Brother Andre CHS graduate. Ayni also had some returning volunteers Chantal Bombardier & Megan Quantrall, along with a few of Margie's colleagues, Tony Muhitch, Pat McGary with 16 year old daughter Kieran and friend James Nelligan. We were fortunate to also have from around around the world. Our Volunteers are the veins of AYNi, teaching in the classrooms, running extra-curriculars, library programs, organizing field trips, fiestas and assisting with our development projects in the village. **So thank you TEAM AYNi 2010, you are all AMAZING!**



**2010 Volunteers include:** Lauren Krohn, (U.S.), Gabriella Nagy (Hungary), Troy Parks (U.S), Jessica Tallarico (Canada) , Shannon Hellman (Germany), Kristen Van Vleck (U.S), Hannah Love (U.S.).

**AYNI YORK U Team:** Jessica Wong, Nadina Abdullayeva, Jenny Edwards, Kirstie Henderson, Gelaine Santiago, Ben & Tom Fung, Maryam Najem, Yannis Koumarios, Farah Jouhar.

## Neem Trees

So far this year, Ayni has planted over 1200 Neem Trees, through the Mother's Club Neem Tree project . It has been a huge success, as more mothers latch on to this ECO-Income initiative. 3000 new trees are waiting to be purchased and planted. You can help us buy more trees for a **TWOONIE A TREE (\$2)**. The additional benefit of these amazing trees other than providing shade and oxygen in this otherwise desert landscape, is that villagers are now using it cure all sorts of common ailments for **FREE!**



## Ayni's Ongoing Wishlist...

## Gift Giving that Makes a Difference



Donations for Special Education, High School & Post Secondary Education.



Funds to help more families invest in small businesses to help cover basic necessities.



We want to build another set of swings for the 250 kids at the school.



We need to stock our bare shelves with new library books!



Contribute to our Medical Emergency Fund & help towards medicine, operations, doctors etc.

Donate on behalf of a friend or family member this Holiday Season ...Ayni will send them a Thank You Card and Feedback.



Donations for annual school supply purchase



Help Fund more Mud Brick Stoves which improve families quality of life and level of health.



Fund our Mothers Neem Tree project and support Forestation, Health & Women's Rights. \$2 a Tree, but 1000's of trees are waiting to be bought & planted.



Help Denixta stay healthy by buying more Formula & Vitamins.

## Make A Difference.. How to Donate

### Option #1: Direct Deposit or Transfer

Account Name: Ayni  
Account #: (0211)5206268  
Address: 3 Wooten Way N. Markham, Ontario,  
Canada L3P 2Y2  
Branch: 19972  
Swift Code: tdomcattor  
Institution #: 004

### Option #3: PAYPAL

Please go to Ayni's Website, <http://ayni.footboot.net/> and click Donate & follow instructions.

## Gracias!

### Option #2: Send a Cheque Payable to Ayni

C/O Margie Orsi 8 Spring Meadow Ave. Markham,  
Ontario, Canada L6B 1B5

### Option #3: TAX RECEIPT

For a tax receipt (for donations over \$150), please make cheques or money orders payable to Rights Action, an umbrella Human Rights NGO that supports Ayni's work. Please remember to write on the cheque it is for Ayni-Peru so that funds can be directed to Ayni. Please send to above address so that Ayni can forward the cheque to Rights Action.