

## Feliz Navidad, Seasons Greetings!



### Holiday Wish List

Making a "special gift" donation from yourself or on behalf of someone else this Holiday Season, will certainly bring more "quality" to the everyday life of those who benefit, long after the Christmas Season. As you know the community of Alto de los Mores has been slowly transforming itself as a result of each and everyone's joint efforts and donations.

### More funds are needed:

- To support Children's Annual Christmas Toy Party
- To buy more Spanish children's books for the library
- To support more children in elementary, secondary & post-secondary education
- To provide more families with income generating, micro-credit loans
- To fund more tree planting projects led by local Mothers
- To purchase 2010 School Supplies for 350+ Children
- To support the construction of an irrigation gate for our Tamarindo Orchard
- To build more Mud Brick Stoves with Chimneys
- To support Mother's Club Initiatives "experiencing art for the first time in their lives" and "learning to sew"
- For medical emergency fund & to re-stock medicine kits at elementary school
- To help us continue and extend our projects to more people, & help ease the burden of those living in constant poverty.

A Special Thanks to Donna & Friends for all their donations.

*Thanks everyone for your messages of support, endurance of PayPal and ignoring my sweat as I pounded the streets of London last week.*

*As you can see from the pic, the lap of honour was completed in the heart of London's Latin American community - Burgess Park - though early in the morning so I only received minor verbal abuse from other park users.*

*More than 30 of you generous people have brought my fundraising total up to £500 - which will be spent meeting various needs in Alto de los Mores, and on education & community projects next term. Ayni's last newsletter has more information about these projects. Thanks once again, your support is very much appreciated and I hope this has sparked your interest in the wonderful work this little charity does. Donna Tipping XO*



## Check it out...



### Tell their Story

A short film production on grassroots community development: *Ayni and the People of Alto de los Mores*. An overview of community based development projects which helps a village work its way out of poverty.

You can watch it [here](http://www.telltheirstory.org/ayni.html) or at:  
<http://www.telltheirstory.org/ayni.html>



### PersonalPhilanthropy.org

A thanks goes out to personalphilanthropy.org and all their help.

*Personal Philanthropy is a Social Enterprise that helps individuals and organizations integrate Philanthropy into their lives and their businesses. Through our philanthropic projects, our philanthropic travel, consulting and educational programs, Personal Philanthropy provides all the tools you need to practice the joy of investing in the lives of others.*



You can watch the documentary entitled "Ines & Ayni" [here](http://www.personalphilanthropy.org/ayni.html) or at:  
<http://www.personalphilanthropy.org/ayni.html>

Working with Ayni continues to be a challenging and exciting experience. Living in "el campo" (the country) of Altos continues to be a mind-opening learning experience. The family that I live with has taught me so much. They are so humble and generous, sharing their home, their food, & their ideas. Today we visited a loan-recipient and I learned how four sheep can become ten; I felt the empowerment that \$80 can have for a mother of 8 children. Tomorrow I'll be taking the grade 2 class into the library and we will be reading one of the newly donated books; it is a sorrow and a joy to be aware of my role as one of the sole sources of literary engagement for our students. Each school day the children laugh & play during & when I walk down the street, children call out my name and they take my hand in theirs while they ask me questions like how you can say 'Jose' en ingles; I am moved by the openness and trust that the community greets me with every day. All of these anecdotes are dimensions of the work that I have had the privilege of participating in as an Ayni volunteer. In this village, I find so much gratification in the smiles of the children and from the collaboration within the community. As my host mother teaches: it is a pleasure to be able to share, because in this process we grow and learn too. **Emily Green - Canada**

## Experiences from Volunteers

*"We are truly blessed to have such amazing volunteers. Despite no one on the ground to guide them, these girls were able to make miracles from pennies. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, passion and love that you have shown to the families and kids of Alto de los mores. You will certainly be missed."* **Margie Orsi—Founder**



Having the opportunity to work with the beautiful, talented, bubbly, lovable, eager children in Altos has been such a surreal and rewarding experience. The children and their families of Altos have been so accepting of us volunteers and although they always thank us personally for all the work Ayni has done for them, we feel and make a point of letting them know, how much they do for us. I have learnt so much from this community; about collective effort and compassion for one another, what it means to really work hard, how to appreciate the material and non-material things in life, and to not hold back with love! I have also learnt a lot about myself and my abilities, way more than I could put into words! Times here have definitely not been a walk in the park, I have faced many more challenges than I had imagined, but I am so grateful for these experiences and opportunities!

**Megan Quantrill—NZ**

I arrived in Peru expecting to experience the unexpected. The community of Altos rested on flat, sandy land as far as the eye could see. The school children eagerly awaited our arrival, and there were dusty binders lining the Ayni shelves, chronicling all that had been accomplished over the years. And now, with only 2 weeks left, I have been pondering how strange it is to feel so comfortable, cared for, and valued in a place is so far physically, traditionally, and culturally different from my own home. Be it through classes, stories, hugs, workshops, sharing a basket of mangos, loan interviews, letters, dances, or chicha, the people of Altos have truly demonstrated to me the human capacity to accept, to support, and to love. They have shown me how it is possible to create and maintain a strong community, even amidst extreme struggles and adversity. There are many people, old and young, who have deeply, deeply touched me throughout this experience. I feel an incredible amount of privilege and gratitude for having been able to spend the past months not only with the many students and families of Altos; but also with my fellow volunteers, Emily and Megan, who have provided me with a consistent flow of love, knowledge, nourishment, and laughter throughout very difficult as well as beautiful times. I will cherish every last hug, besito, and "Ciao Catalina" that I receive throughout the last weeks, and I will carry them within my heart forever. **Caitlin Gibb - U.S.A**



## Ines Sernaque "The Future of Ayni" Ayni

I'm so thrilled that the future of Ayni looks brighter now that Ines has become the Local Ground Leader of Ayni. Despite her mud floors, & partially bricked straw house, Ines has become quite the modern woman. Equipped with a laptop, cell phone, USB, and interact card, Ines has virtually taken over the management of Ayni. With Ines' virtues, hard work and straightforward approach, she will bring us into its next phase of community led development. Congratulations, you are an inspiration!



## THANK YOU

### 2008/09 Donators:

Chasing Dragon  
 Brother Andre CHS  
 Fr. Michael McGivney CHS  
 SLAFF  
 A&L Goodbody  
 Bombardier Family  
 Szczygielski Family  
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 Personal Philanthropy.Org  
 Donna Tipping & Friends  
 Marks Family  
 Colegio Trener  
**Special Thanks  
 to Rights Action**

## How to Donate:

### Option #1: Direct Deposit/Transfer

Account Name: Ayni  
 Bank: TD Canada Trust  
 Account #: (0211) 5206268  
 Address: 3 Wooten Way N.  
 Markham, Ontario  
 Canada. L3P 2Y2  
 Branch: 19972  
 Swift Code: tdomcatffor  
 Institutions #: 004

### Option #2: Send a Cheque

Please make cheques payable to Ayni and send to the following address:

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 \$200), please make cheques or money orders payable to the Rights Action, an umbrella Human Rights NGO. Please also remember to write directly on the cheque and attach a note indicating that your donation is for Ayni-Peru, which will ensure that your donation is redirected to us.

Ayni, c/o Margie Orsi  
 8 Spring Meadow Ave.  
 Markham, Ontario  
 Canada L6B 1B5

### Option #4: Paypal

Please go to Ayni's Website <http://ayni.footboot.net/> Click Donate & Follow Instructions.

## Another Special Thanks to Chasing Dragon

Chasing Dragon is a really cool band that has been performing concerts in Japan to raise money for Ayni since we first started out in 2001. If it wasn't for them, Ayni would not have been able to evolve as we have. We are so grateful for your ongoing commitment to the community of Alto de los Mores. We love you and we can't wait until you perform for us in Peru one day. Ari-gato!

Check out their website [here](http://www.fehemp.net/chasindragon/) or at

<http://www.fehemp.net/chasindragon/>  
[chasindragon.html](http://www.fehemp.net/chasindragon.html)

