



Your gift helps make them healthier and happier.

Each dollar you donate to Mano a Mano buys a lot of health in Bolivia, where we build a clinic for just \$21,000. But your gift works even harder than you think. Your dollar, earmarked for our medical programs, releases another \$3 in matching funds from an anonymous donor. Your \$1 gift for community-based projects like schools and public baths releases another dollar.

Here's what your donation (plus matching funds) buys:

- Medical care in rural areas that otherwise lack a doctor, nurse or clinic.
- New roads that improve health by opening up access to markets and education.
- Sanitation and reservoir projects that deliver one of life's basics: reliable water.

Send your tax-deductible gift to:

Mano a Mano, 774 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota Heights, MN 55118
Or call us at 651-457-3141 to learn about additional giving opportunities.

Donate on line at www.manoamano.org. Click on "Donate"



About Us: Mano a Mano International Partners is a non-sectarian 501©(3) non-profit organization with over 12 years' experience bringing health care into impoverished Bolivian communities. Mano a Mano, Spanish for "Hand in Hand," operates on principles of volunteerism, frugality, competence, accountability, empowerment, flexibility, respect and partnership with communities.

Find out more by calling 651-457-3141 or at www.manoamano.org.

Give the Gift of Mano!
Need a gift for someone who's got everything? Consider an "alternative gift" from My Shopping List for the World, a catalog that includes a donation option to Mano a Mano! Visit the website at www.alternativegifts.org.

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Boletín

WINTER 2008

OUR 13TH YEAR

Donors See Their Money at Work

Rotarians, donor families inspect schools, clinics, roads, reservoirs, more

Cochabamba's Jorge Wilsterman airport was filled with visitors from North America one afternoon late in December. Weary but excited, travelers ranging in age from 5 to 75, from Boston, New Jersey, Florida, New Mexico and Minnesota, converged for a whirlwind tour of Mano a Mano projects.

Among the arrivals were 17 members of Joe and Charlotte Blitt's extended family, including 10 grandchildren. Smaller in number, but no less vitally interested, were the four members of St Paul, Minnesota's Bond-Skrief family: Charles, Andrea, Peter and Katherine. A few days later, three members of St Paul's Rotary Club—Vicki Gee-Treft,

Roger Nielsen and Valdi Stefanson—arrived.

Visitors to Mano a Mano this year saw a considerably expanded enterprise, which has branched out from simply building clinics, schools and teacher housing. In fact, the expansion has led to a name change; the US-based Mano a Mano is now re-



The Bond-Skrief family: Charles, Andrea, Peter, Katherine.



Rotarians Vicki Gee-Treft, Valdi Stefanson, Roger Nielsen

christened Mano a Mano International Partners, to better reflect its diverse mission. Through its oldest Bolivian sister organization, (Mano a Mano-Bolivia), Mano a Mano International Partners continues its medical and educational efforts: constructing primary care clinics, staffing and supplying them, and building school rooms and decent homes for rural teachers.

A second, newer program, Mano a Mano-Nuevo Mundo, concentrates on heavier construction projects such as reservoirs, irrigation systems and new roads. A third program, Apoyo Aereo, is all about aviation. "All of our programs are linked together, and all share a common mission—to make life better for impoverished Bolivians," explains Mano a Mano International Partners co-founder, Segundo Velasquez.

This expansion of Mano a Mano's programmatic scope means there is now almost too much for one set of visitors to take in, even in a weeklong stay. Visitors' days were filled with caravan drives to remote villages; speeches,

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Mano Expands Air Program

New hangar, plane and training program means increased airlift capability

A newly remodeled hangar at Cochabamba's airport is home to Mano a Mano International Partners' latest venture: a program to train Bolivian mechanics to retool airplanes and help raise funds for other operations. The hangar also shelters the Cessna 206 used to transport staff to remote locations and airlift critically ill or injured patients to emergency rooms in the city.



From left: Mechanics Oscar & Alberto Terceros, Jose Luis Almanla, Pilot Tony Murrin with airplane in our new Cochabamba hangar.

he says. "With an airlift, we can reduce a trip of 16 hours to one or two hours. The time difference is enough to save a patient's life."

A second plane is being added to Apoyo Aero's operations which will address the growing demand of flight services. "The second plane is better equipped for the conditions we fly in" says

Such airlifts are memorable for full time pilot Tony Murrin, director of the

aviation program. "We fly nearly 450 hours a year, but our emergency airlifts are the most rewarding flights we make,"

Murrin. "It will greatly increase our safety margin when flying over rough terrain."

From Dan's Desk: To One Person, You Can Be the World

A sign in my office given to me by a dear friend reads; "To the world you may be one person but to one person



you may be the world." Each morning those words catch my eye and I think of all of you, our donors and volunteers. For an

impoverished Bolivian you can be the world. Conversely, by choosing to support our efforts in Bolivia I hope you feel you are creating a new world for yourself as well.

In 2007, Mano a Mano continued to accomplish amazing things. We established some significant

new corporate relationships this past year, and we welcome Caterpillar and Newmont Mining Company as partners helping us build our capacity and expand our operations, which in turn allows us to serve more communities than ever before in our history. In another form of relationship, physicians from Regions Hospital are exploring ways to enhance our health care delivery and develop an educational exchange program for Mano a Mano clinic doctors. Two physicians traveled to Cochabamba in November and a second trip is being planned for April 2008.

As many of you know, Mano a Mano is involved in many projects beyond medical supply distribution and the construction of community health care clinics. Because we are doing so much more: building schools, roads, water

reservoirs, air landing strips, and running a scholarship program, the Board felt our name no longer defines us well. As of January 1, 2008, Mano a Mano Medical Resources officially became Mano a Mano International Partners.

All of Mano a Mano's initiatives are helping to increase opportunities and to build more sustainable communities for our partners and friends in Bolivia. On behalf of our Bolivian friends and partners, thank you to all of you for your untiring commitment and dedication to support our efforts. If you have been out of touch for some time, I extend an invitation to come back and take a look at what we are doing and the impact the work is having. I promise that 2008 will be another very exciting year!

DONORS

Continued from Page One

ribbon-cuttings, and festive dances. "When we visited Laimiña (where a clinic was built with funds donated by the Blitt family) we were treated to a spectacular welcome, which was a total surprise," recalls Charlotte Blitt. "There were floral arches over the roadway, and huge wreaths over the doors, made from flowers they had just picked. The residents made wreaths for all of us—even all the grandkids! Clearly, people were happy with the new clinic, and that's something we wanted our family to see first-hand."

Andrea Bond and Charles Skrief also hoped that by spending their Christmas vacation in Bolivia, their two adult children might better understand their decision to fund a school in the village of Jatun K'asa, four hours' drive from Cochabamba. The Bond-Skrief parents chose to fund a school in part because their daughter Katherine, a college

senior, plans to be a teacher. "Our family feels really strongly that once you have your health and access to food and potable water, education is what will open doors for you," Katherine explains.

While the Blitt and Bond-Skrief parents wanted their offspring to understand their family's philanthropic choices, the St. Paul Rotary members who visited came to ensure that their donation was well spent. "This is the kind of project that, as Rotarians, we are very interested in. We were looking for a partner with a track record of performance," said St. Paul Rotarian Valdi Stefanson. "We've found it in Mano a Mano-Nuevo Mundo. This reservoir offers 600 families a chance to lift themselves out of poverty. We view this as economic development, we don't treat it as charity at all."

SEE MORE: Watch Rotarian Valdi Stefanson talk about the club's involvement in the Laguna Sulty reservoir project. View a short video at www.youtube.com. Use the search term, Laguna Sulty.



THE WHITE STUFF: Mary White has been involved with Mano a Mano since its inception. About a year ago she called the Mano a Mano office to see if she and her friends could help out on a regular schedule. They now are coming every second Tuesday, and do everything from sorting supplies to helping with craft inventory. From left, Marian Heinrichs, Kathleen Jesme, Alaina Hagen, Mary White, Judith Lester. (Missing - Linda Walther)

This Just In...

WE'RE NOT LOST: Many so-called roads in Bolivia are closer to cart tracks or even animal paths. The result: it's not always easy for Mano a Mano staff to be sure they're headed in the right direction when driving to remote project sites. Thanks to the generous donation of several GPS (global positioning system) units from volunteer Joel Lagerquist, Mano drivers can tap into a satellite-based information system to help get them to the right place with confidence.

GOT TIME? Mano a Mano needs you! Volunteers are needed to: sort and pack medical supplies; help raise funds; staff craft fair booths; help load shipping containers; pick up donated medical supplies and much more. To find out how and when you can go to work, contact Nate or Amy at the Mano a Mano office, 651-457-3141.

GO DIGITAL: Every copy of our newsletter costs 50 cents to print and mail. Help reduce our costs — and give the trees a break — by getting an emailed version. Sign up for electronic service by calling Nate at 651-457-3141, or email nate@manoamano.org.

REMEMBERING NANCY: Nancy Geiger, a long-time Mano a Mano volunteer, died on January 6 at the age of 90 and was buried in her hometown of Syracuse, NY. For years Nancy made regular trips to St. Vincent DePaul to gather donated medical supplies. She passed them along to her friend, Gloria McRae, who brought the donated goods to our office. Nancy asked that memorials be sent to support Mano a Mano. For more information, call our office at 651-457-3141.