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NEWSLETTER

Ecuadorian Volunteers Association

“A helping hand for the needs of Ecuador”

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Number 20 — December 2006

Editor: Marco A. Peña

Inside this Newsletter

- *Words from our President*
- *Special Reports*
- *Accomplishments*
- *Future Activities*

From our President

Receive from all of us at E.V.A. our warmest greetings for the **HOLIDAYS** and our most sincere wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2007. May love fill your lives!

What a remarkable closing for 2006! It is so encouraging to be able to share the development of two new initiatives that will impact many lives in Ecuador. But the intrinsic value of these new projects is that E.V.A. has acted merely as a catalyst: a good deed leading to another good deed, a generous and caring heart opening the doors for something that E.V.A. alone could not possibly undertake.

The years that you have supported E.V.A.'s organizations, and your willingness to stand by our side, have created an obligation, a commitment on the part of the people who benefit from your generosity. We are starting to see that some of the very organizations that we helped, have evolved sufficiently to become “helpers of others”. Amen!

Please help us maintain this circle of commitment strong!

Clemencia Peña, President

Special Reports

NEW PROJECT: “LEMONS, LEMONADE AND WALK ECUADOR”

This article was submitted by Mr. Ernest Freudman, a loyal *Friend of E.V.A.*, whose compassion and initiative have resulted in a new project called *Walk Ecuador*. It will be implemented with the valuable cooperation of the Northwestern Orthopaedics Institute.

What is significant about this undertaking is that *Tierra Nueva*, an organization currently supported by E.V.A., will offer its medical facility to help in the implementation of this worthy project. This is how it all began.

“About 3 years ago, I realized that my right hip was not going to get better, I would have to replace it. Fortunately, I was directed to Drs. David Stulbergand and Victoria Brander at Northwestern Orthopaedic Institute. The operation was successful, and a few days later, I began to walk without pain. At my first check up, Dr. Brander mentioned that she and 40 other surgeons, physicians, nurses and support personnel were going to China to operate on Chinese patients who could not afford a hip or a knee replacement. My blink reaction was “Why the heck not Ecuador?” As I phrased the question more diplomatically, Dr. Brander suggested that I see if I could find a hospital in Ecuador that was amenable to such a project.



Hospital *Tierra Nueva* where project *Walk Ecuador* will take place in 2007

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Page 2

I immediately thought of Ecuadorian Volunteers Association. I approached some of the members with the idea. In addition, Graciela Chediak, the Secretary of E.V.A. and I were introduced to Suzy Leonard, an American expatriate living in Quito who was eager to help in the endeavor.

*Dozens of e-mails later, and after a couple of visits to Ecuador we decided to work with **Hospital Tierra Nueva** on the south side of Quito. This hospital is the creation of a remarkable man, father José Carollo, an Italian priest who was so successful in his ministry of the poor, that he was affectionately called the ‘Mayor of South Quito’. Unfortunately, Father Carollo died recently, but his works live on.*

Last month, Dr. Victoria Brander and two associates visited Quito and ‘Hospital Tierra Nueva.’ Dr. Juan Chediak happened to be in Quito at the time, and he and Suzy Leonard accompanied the delegation to ‘Hospital Tierra Nueva.’ The

*upshot is that in November of 2007, **WALK ECUADOR** will become a reality when a team of 35 surgeons, physicians, nurses and technicians of Northwestern Orthopaedics will visit Ecuador to perform hip and knee replacements. The team will also take all the necessary equipment which will be donated to Tierra Nueva. I read recently that presidential candidate Alvaro Noboa was handing out free wheelchairs to disabled supporters. **WALK ECUADOR** will insure that 25 or more Ecuadorians will not need wheelchairs!*

*The Hebrew word Mitzvot, roughly translated as “good deeds”, is what E.V.A is all about. Margot and I are delighted to be able to join all of you in E.V.A. to support **WALK ECUADOR**.”*

*Ernie Freudman
“Friend of E.V.A.”*



Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Freudman for your vote of confidence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Alliance, Development, Education and Culture (A.L.D.E.C.)

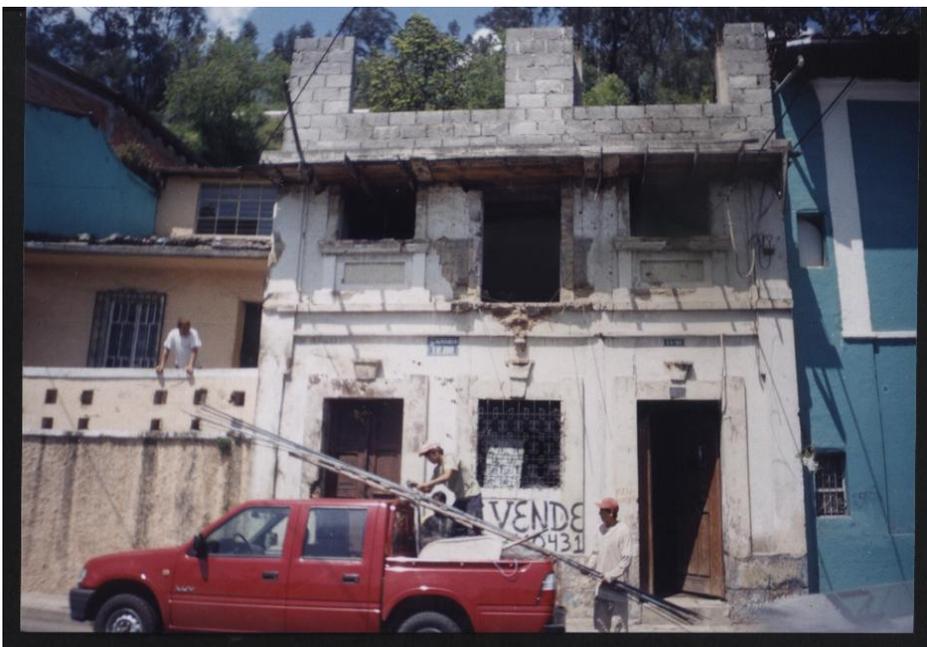
In our last Newsletter we were pleased to inform you that we are supporting a new and innovative organization called A.L.D.E.C., dedicated to the protection, development and education of children and adolescents at risk. One of their dreams was to rehab and convert an old house donated to them, into a shelter for these children, many of whom have no place to spend the night. The challenge was to find the means to make this dream a reality.

We are pleased to report that **their dream has become a reality!** In October 2005, the City Council called agencies to present their projects for resolving community problems and improving the quality of life in the Historical Center of Quito. The winners would qualify for a grant given by the Inter-American Development Bank. Over 50 organizations applied for this grant, A.L.D.E.C. was among them.

In February 2006, A.L.D.E.C. received a visit from delegates of the granting organization who inspected their premises, their work, and the house to be renovated. Five (5) organizations received the grant and A.L.D.E.C. was one of them.

The disbursement of the grant will be done in different stages. The first stage is the rehabbing and equipping of the house. The second stage will be the purchase of an industrial oven so the home can start a bakery business, which will allow children to receive training and abandon the work on the streets.

Our heartiest congratulations to A.L.D.E.C. for their innovative spirit and hard work. For our part, we pledge to continue our support with the help of our members and friends.



A.L.D.E.C.'s building before reconstruction and rehab

Accomplishments

CARSON PIRIE SCOTT'S COMMUNITY DAY EVENT

It has become a yearly activity for E.V.A. and a source of much needed funds towards our fundraising efforts. This year, Carson Pirie Scott introduced a few more changes that made it more attractive for people to participate. As in former years, E.V.A. sold coupon booklets for the event, at \$5 each. Each booklet, however, contained a **\$10 coupon** good on almost every merchandise item of \$10 or more. The customers spent \$5 for the booklet but received \$10 back on their first purchase. In addition, the coupon booklets contained **eight** 20% coupons valid even for merchandise that was on sale! All these “perks” netted a good return for the not-for-profit organizations that participated. E.V.A., as always, was first in line and was given **two** opportunities to work at the stores on Harlem and Irving and in Naperville. We anticipate a good return for our involvement.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

On November 18, 2006, E.V.A. hosted a **Holiday Boutique** at **Team Blonde Bead Studio** located at 7324 W. Madison in Forest Park. Guests could browse and shop for a variety of tasteful accessories and a beautiful selection of jewelry.

There was a family with three little girls who thoroughly enjoyed one of the features of this boutique: being able to design and make your very own piece of jewelry under the designers' expert direction, at **Bijoux by You** bead workshop. When newcomers arrived, they were directed to the “party downstairs”. And it was a happy gathering, with some adventurous neophytes creating beauty with crystals of every color, silver ornaments, good aim and a lot of patience. It was a fun way to spend Saturday evening for a good cause.

Ceramics by Ungué also exhibited and sold from an impressive collection of unique ceramic and porcelain

pieces. E.V.A. served hors d'oeuvres, wine and coffee and will receive a percentage of the evening purchases.

Future Activities

E.V.A.'S FUNDRAISING 2007

Our annual fundraising event is a **Dinner-Dance** scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2007**. It will be held at the Village of Morton Grove Memorial Civic Center located at 6140 W. Dempster in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053, with free and ample parking for our guests. Music, food and drink will be offered, in addition to our Silent Auction and Raffle.

Come and enjoy a social evening that will help us fulfill our commitment to **seventeen deserving organizations** whose activities and dedication are known to you.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!



YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO E.V.A.

This could be an important factor in our fundraising endeavors. Some of our supporters and “Friends of E.V.A.” have extended their generosity through these gifts and we hope that you will consider doing the same. It is a practical way to double or even triple your donation to the poor in Ecuador.

MATCHING GRANTS

Some of our friends and sponsors have obtained matching grants from the companies or organizations where they work. If everyone would consider adding this extra support for E.V.A. it would easily translate into another grant for a new organization whose request is waiting for a response from us.



A.L.D.E.C.'s building after renovation. A dream come true!

Future home for children and adolescents at risk

FRIENDS IN FAR-OFF PLACES

You may have heard the saying "It's important to have friends in high places". For E.V.A. it is important to have friends everywhere, even in far-off places. At the moment we have 53 "Friends of E.V.A." all over Chica-goland, and as far as California, Colorado, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, South Carolina, Texas, Ecuador and Germany. One of our "Friends" in Virginia who has traveled to Ecuador and become involved with one of our sponsored organizations is so enthusiastic about their cause, that she is exploring the possibility of having her own fundraising event to raise donations for that particular organization.

We are very thankful and pleased at your response to address some of these needs.

Our mission continues to focus on those social groups that are at risk and vulnerable, especially our youth, single mothers and our elderly. Without creating dependence, we constantly prioritize our grants based on the impact and long-term results of our intervention.

Life's Journey

We travel and suffer
in our daily toils
seeking to fill a void,
a quiet anguish,
that gnaws and tears
our saddened hearts asunder!

We err and spend
half of our lives, unyielding,
twisted our will,
refusing to change focus...
until a sunset comes
and realize we are dying.

Frightened, we pause.
For once we ponder inwardly
and around us discover
a universe of suffering.
(We know what is to suffer,
in a selfish seclusion.)

We are moved.
We feel compassion
not for ourselves,
but for others...

At last we filled our void!

Are you a "Friend of E.V.A.?"



Family fun at **Team Blonde**. You "crystallize" your dreams for the holidays

*If not,
Ecuadorian Volunteers
Association
invites you to become*

A FRIEND OF E.V.A.

*Please complete,
detach and mail to:*

E.V.A.
Graciela Chediak, Secretary
1506 Lathrop Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

*Your annual contribution is
tax deductible*

\$25____ \$50____ \$100____

*Other*_____