



Update

Chair's Message

As we end this year it is a good time to look at the places our hearts have traveled and identify the connections that graced our lives. Sometimes these connections both in Canada and Peru affirmed our efforts and enriched us. At other times they challenged us. Always they engaged us in the belief that with good hearts we are trying our best to do good work.

Something we plan to share in more detail with our supporters over the coming year is how our model of partnership in Peru is shifting from centrally managed service delivery to local capacity building particularly for women.

For example, as much as we value how hungry children are nourished at the three comedores (community kitchens) we support, equally important is the priority we give to sustaining the leadership of local women in this and other programs. We believe sustainable development happens when there is community participation and empowerment of women.

At the end of a year we offer thanks and my list is so long I can only touch on a few impressions. Our Spring bazaar is a mini-community gathering, I am so impressed with the work of the organizers

and thankful to all the committed volunteers and loyal patrons.

I deeply admire all our Committee members and Board members who fully engage in all parts of the work that moves this organization forward. I am warmed in the annual glow that emanates from our work awareness trip knowing it nurtures the relationships with our partners in Peru.

Thank you all for the connections that sustain and bind us together.

Pat Howe

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Work Awareness Trip 2006

What is staying with me most prominently are the words from a woman at the Aviacion comedor: "Thank you for feeding our children" These words are what I want to share as they are more a thank you to all who work with and support Heart-Links, not to me. I feel I received these words on your

behalf, thus I send them to you now.

Ken Naftel

One of the nice things about digital cameras is

that you can take a lot of pictures of memorable sites, events or moments that might otherwise be forgotten. Such was the case during our recent trip to Zana where I made a point of always taking my camera with me and by the time we

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left, had taken more than 2000 pictures! Because of this, one would think that I could readily show a picture of my most memorable experience of the trip. But I can't.

The most memorable experience for me was a gut wrenching one. So much so, that I didn't need to snap a picture as the situation was indelibly and instantly recorded in my mind's eye. It occurred during our visit to Cajamarca and involved sitting and listening to five campesinos describe the devastating impact that the Yanacocha gold mine has had on them, their families and others in the area. Gone forever is their traditional lifestyle and a physical environment that used to be among the most pristine in Peru. Instead, there are now a myriad of physical, social and mental health problems among the campesinos and their families, dysfunctional communities and a ravaged environment marked by a bare and topless mountain, polluted streams and rivers and contaminated farmlands that have robbed them of their food supply and livelihood.

The image of anguished faces and body language of the campesinos describing their plight is a haunting one. There sat five grief-stricken men who have been victimized by political forces beyond



Friends Welcoming us at Chiclayo Airport

their control and are powerless to do anything about it. Their despair was profound and sense of hopelessness overwhelming.

Despite their tragic fate and all that they've lost, it was apparent that these five men have retained at least two admirable traits characteristic of campesinos in the Cajamarca area. They've retained their dignity and selflessness. When asked, by one of our group, "What can we do to help?" The direct but soft spoken reply was, in effect – when you get back home to Canada, be more aware of and appreciative of your own natural environment and do all that you can to protect and preserve it.

Mario Faveri



The awareness trip for me was the culmination of four years of volunteering on the Special Events Committee. I had heard from other Heart-Links members how meaningful to one this experience truly was, and finally the summer of 2006 was my year for the Peru Awareness Trip.

The most memorable times were visiting the Heart-Links Projects: the school in Zana, the three community kitchens, the rural libraries, the school program with Father Victor, the two Centers of Hope in Chiclayo, and of course the womens' centre in Zana. At each, we were warmly welcomed with a greeting, a hug and a kiss. On these occasions, there were banners on the wall with messages of "Thank you Heart-Links", Canadian flags, red and white balloons; walking into a room of children who were waiting eagerly for our

Gone forever is their traditional lifestyle and a physical environment...



Visit to Rural Library Family- Cajamarca Region

arrival and being met with clapping and more kisses; the embrace of a Peruvian saying with such appreciation "thank you for helping our people".

deep affection for the people I had the privilege to meet and journey with for three brief weeks of my life.

Rosemary Elward

Due to limited space more participants' articles can be found on our website www.heart-links.org

How humbled and moved to tears these experiences brought me.

How humbled and moved to tears these experiences brought me. Sharing a morning at the Zana school with my daughter and two friends/trip participants was another highlight for me. It was wonderful to see the childrens' eagerness as made a craft together, and were able to have this one on one time with each child. It was difficult to leave at the end of the morning, but we did so, and not without embraces from all of the children.

I shall always remember my Peru experience with



Time for Goodbyes

In Memoriam- Pat Mailloux

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICK MAILLOUX An early Heart-Links Team member

Patrick Mailloux was one of the original team members in the early years of Heart-Links. He and his wife, Toni, inquired about Heart-Links following an article that appeared in the London Diocesan Newsletter in the Spring of 1995, written by S. Janet Zadorsky.

Soon Pat and Toni became members of the first Heart-Links team formed between 1994-1995. The team included S. Janet Zadorsky, S. Marie Celine Janisse, John and Laura Zadorsky and then Patrick and Toni Mailloux (April 1995). S. Janet, Pat and Toni met weekly to administer the daily activities and responsibilities of the growing organization. Pat was an ever resounding voice for Heart-Links, never failing an opportunity to spread the 'good news' about Peru, its people, and the needs to which Heart-Links responded through the generosity of its donors.



On their initial Awareness Trip experience with S. Janet, he and Toni fell in love with the friends from Zaña.

Everything about Pat was BIG - and despite a lack of Spanish, Pat communicated through his big smile, his big laughs, and his big concern and care for the people. He returned for several trips in his role as a trip leader, and once remained a month to simply 'be with' and learn

more about his Peruvian friends.

Through the early team members' dedication, Pat and Toni's enthusiasm, and Pat's careful administration and energy, Heart-Links continued its growth through these early years. Heart-Links will ever be grateful for this BIG man, with the BIG heart for the Peruvian people.

Janet Zadorsky

Patrick communicated through his big smile

Women Leaders of the Lambayeque Region

To be part of this project has allowed me, along with other women, to develop my self-awareness and recognition of my gifts and abilities; as well as my faith and liberated

spirituality, on a daily basis and in solidarity with others and all of God's creation. Walking along other women who aspire to a more just and equitable world has filled me

with courage, hope and strength.

I thank the friends from Heart-Links for their

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What's New

HEART-LINKS: OPEN FORUM ABOUT OUR NEW DIRECTION

Date: March 18, 2007

Time: 1-3pm

Place: TBA

HOLD THAT DATE - MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

ANNUAL HEART-LINKS BAZAAR

Date: April 14, 2007

Time: 9:30am to 2:00 pm

Place: St. Michael's Catholic Church Hall
515 Cheapside (at Maitland)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
MARGARET AT 519 472-6881**

*Two big events
coming up.*

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presence and support
through this project

Rva Puyen Condor

From the "Ayn Karim"
Circle



The training program for
women leaders has helped
me to know myself more,
to understand others
better, sharing their

worries, their problems, and
has taught me to show
solidarity with others.

On a personal level, it has
helped me to improve
myself and to reexamine
and strengthen my
spirituality as a woman. I
discovered that the purpose
of life is not just to live but
also to make others happy;
that men and women can
succeed in building a
decent, committed and
responsible life, reflecting

on and searching for
equality, with faith and
hope.

All the topics covered have
been educational and
stimulating. I send
mygreetings to the Heart-
Links friends with
gratitude for your
solidarity.

Teresa Dias Callirgos

I wish to **help the**
people of Peru and to
support the work of
Heart-Links.

I would like to contribute
\$25 __, \$50 __, \$100 __, \$500 __, \$1,000 __,
Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Work Phone #: _____

Email: _____

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

HOW

a) *Work/Awareness Trips*

Consider sharing your time and talents.

Apply for a two-to-three week Work/Awareness Trip in July. Selected participants will gain first-hand knowledge of the development projects in the valley of Zaña and Cajamarca, and work with Peruvian people according to personal areas of interest. *Deadline for applications: Dec 1s*

b) *Projects Support*

Make a donation to help support our various programs. Make your cheque payable to:

Heart-Links

Westminster College
361 Windermere Road
London, Ontario,
Canada N6G 2K3

A tax deductible receipt will be issued

Charitable Registration No: 86596 7517 RR0001

CONTACT US:

HOW TO

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