



# grassroots

a publication of Curamericas Global, Inc. (formerly Andean Rural Health Care)

## Youth Work Team Brings Donations, Enthusiasm and Hands-On Assistance To Curamericas Global's Montero Worksite



"By the end of our 9 days in Montero, it was clear that we were the ones who had been given the greatest gifts... Each of us was changed forever by this experience and left a part of our hearts in the village and with the people we met."

- Matt Zimmerman

Teens from FUMC-Cary take a break from their construction project to spend an afternoon with indigenous children in a village outside Montero.

First United Methodist Church in Cary combined global awareness with youthful energy when it decided to send a team of youth group members and church leaders to Curamericas Global's medical clinic worksite in Montero, Bolivia in late July.

Armed with 16 suitcases of donated supplies, plus donated clothing, blankets and toys for a nearby orphanage in the village where they would be volunteering, 11 youth and 4 adult chaperones joined Youth Director Dawn Woody in venturing where they had never traveled before.

"It took a lot of courage, but we wanted the kids to see what we all take for granted, and at the same time give them a cultural experience they would always remember," says Woody. "By pitching in and helping at a clinic that treats children, they instantly got the message that what they have at their homes in America is drastically different from the lives Bolivians lead. Plus, they got to attend a local Methodist Church and visit an Indian village to play with other kids. They can't wait to go back!"

The trip was organized by Elizabeth Barricklow, International Volunteer Coordinator, who called the trip "extraordinary. The teens were so polite that we were complimented every step of the trip. They were so quick to want to join in and help wherever we went. It was truly inspiring to be with teenagers who were so concerned about the children and families at our project site."

The group's main purpose while in Montero was to help with the construction of an addition to the Cruz Roja Health Center, which will provide the community with a 24-hour maternity center. Currently most of the women, especially poor women who cannot afford hospital fees, give birth at home where there is greater risk of infection

and complications. According to the team's calculations, they hauled 6-7 tons of sand, 5 tons of rock, and 1.5 tons of concrete mix up 3 stories using ropes and 5-gallon buckets.

The teens also learned about public health challenges and development issues by accompanying community health workers on home visits. The workers gave vaccinations to children, monitored weight and nutrition, and referred sick children to the clinic.

Curamericas Global's website, [www.curamericas.org](http://www.curamericas.org), contains more pictures and news about this work team's experiences. If your church, civic club, or group would like the satisfaction of making a difference in children's lives, call Elizabeth toll-free at 1-877-510-4787 for more information.

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## Spotlight on... Central United Methodist Church Asheville, NC

*Editor's note: Each issue of Grassroots will highlight a church that has been especially supportive of our work. If you would like to see your church in a future issue, please e-mail Jeanne Lawson at [jlawson@curamericas.org](mailto:jlawson@curamericas.org).*

Central United Methodist Church, located in downtown Asheville, North Carolina, is a beautiful church with a generous and active congregation. The church building was first established in 1837 and has since grown to accommodate over 3,000 parishioners. Central UMC has been actively supporting Curamericas Global for many years, and continues to follow our progress in Bolivia,

Guatemala and Haiti. Jessica Tripp, Central's Director of Christian Education, says "Scripture says that to neglect the needs of others is to neglect Christ. Everyone is called into the mission field, both locally and globally."

We appreciate Central's long history of support, and our close ties with Central's staff and congregation. Whether it's to give financial support, send work team volunteers, or help another church's work teams make a difference at our project sites, there's plenty of opportunity for churches to be involved with us. Call us at 1-877-510-4787 for more information. Catch the spirit!

## Under Construction..... Jeanne Lawson, Director of Development & Marketing

### **CFC – what is it?**

The CFC – which stands for Combined Federal Campaign – is the annual campaign in which federal, military, and postal employees make charitable contributions. Curamericas Global is a participant in the CFC, and we encourage you to consider us when it's time to make your CFC contribution choices. Our CFC code number is 10145. Call us at 1-877-510-4787 if you have questions, and thanks for your support!

### **United Way reminder.**

Many United Way campaigns are underway around the country. If you'd like to contribute to us through your United Way, please call us at 1-877-510-4787 to get the code number you'll need. We appreciate our donors who support us through the United Way.

### **Planned giving.**

Many supporters of charities are looking at planned giving as a way to continue their support and ensure that the organization can continue its mission. Curamericas Global is opening a Planned Giving Program that encompasses many aspects of planned giving,

including stocks, major gifts, blended gifts (that combine planned gifts using deferred strategies with major gifts, using current assets), and estate planning. Look for more information in future issues of *Grassroots*, and call Jeanne Lawson at 1-877-510-4787 for more information. Planned giving gives our supporters yet another opportunity to show their endorsement of our work.

### **Is your church planning an Alternative Gift Fair this December?**

We've noticed that some churches offer their congregation a different way to shop for Christmas gifts: an Alternative Gift Fair featuring different non-profits to allow parishioners to "shop" for meaningful gifts for friends and loved ones. We'd like to participate in your church's fair this Advent season! Call Jeanne Lawson at 1-877-510-4787 to let us know your church's name and the date of the event. Thank you for including us!

### **Are you an American Express cardholder?**

Great news – American Express has included us in their GivingExpress Program! Now you can make donations in either dollars or Membership Rewards® points. The

Curamericas Global's two government grants came to a close at the end of September. We are seeking support from new sources, such as foundations and civic groups. The needs are great, and your support is crucial for us to continue. Your donation will help ensure that children and their families get the right medical treatment and nutritional advice. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of so many. Please send us your check in the attached envelope today!

website we've set up enables you to set up recurring donations, as well. Donating to Curamericas Global will also earn you Membership Rewards points for every dollar you donate on an eligible, enrolled Card.

Just go to our website and click on the American Express logo on our home page!

Visit [www.americanexpress.com/give](http://www.americanexpress.com/give) for more information. To be eligible to earn bonus points, you must be enrolled in the Membership Rewards program at the time of the donation and must charge your purchase on an eligible, enrolled American Express Card. Donation of Membership Rewards points are not tax deductible, but your dollar donations are.

## Dr. Lorinda Parks Continues to Make a Difference

*Editor's note: Lorinda Parks is a doctor who has moved her family to El Alto, Bolivia for a year to work at a clinic. Curamericas Global has been chronicling her experiences in previous issues of Grassroots. Here is her latest report.*

El Alto continues to be cold as we continue our year of service to the Senkata clinic. As the season went through the coldest and sunniest part of the year, we certainly understand the worship of the sun. It brings life and energy needed to survive the cold long nights. The clinic has incorporated solar-heated water into the clinic rooms. During this part of the year especially, warm water is very welcome for everything from hand washing to cleaning wounds and newborn babies.

The clinic is also going through a process of making changes to utilize the completed addition and provide expanded services on a 24-hour basis. This means finding funds for new staff and getting the needed equipment in place. As the population continues to grow in this part of El Alto, it has been determined that Senkata needs a more full-service hospital. The Senkata clinic has been in conversation with the local government to decide which services will be most helpful to this entire district of Senkata.

The clinic participated in a large campaign in June to vaccinate all dogs and cats against rabies. The lines of dogs and owners were an amazing all-day event. Dog bites are very common in my experience here at Senkata and rabies is definitely a risk. By offering free vaccinations and information, we helped to send a strong public service message for prevention of rabies.

The staff and I are really looking forward

to Internet access at the clinic. This will come to fruition in the next month. The lack of written medical information is one of the most difficult obstacles for the doctors here. This will provide a wonderful resource! In the meantime, I continue to give ongoing medical talks about topics pertinent to cases and common illnesses here. The staff continues to meet monthly to evaluate cases of pneumonia, malnutrition, prenatal care and diarrhea. This constant evaluation is important to assure the highest quality of care possible for our patients.

My husband Brad and our two kids continue to improve their Spanish through our friendships with wonderful Bolivians. Brad completed registering the two Aymaran women for medical school whom we are sponsoring through support from the U.S. Jannet completed her first semester and did so well she was given a substantial tuition reduction for second semester. Dolores just started and has really enjoyed the challenges.

Recently we thoroughly enjoyed a Bolivian folk concert by our friend Humberto and his group Wiphay. They are having their second community education concert this month about dental hygiene. This provides much needed fluoride treatment to all the kids in a village and free toothbrushes along with songs and educational theater! We enjoy seeing the enthusiasm it generates in very rural areas.

Our family is wrapping up our year of service to the Senkata clinic. It has been an incredible experience, mostly to see how difficult life is on the Altiplano and how these Aymarans are really survivors. The healthcare that the clinic provides is an essential part of making life bearable under these extremely desperate conditions.



Top: An FUMC-Cary youth volunteer shares hugs and smiles with two Bolivian girls in Montero; Bottom: CSRA coordinator Daniel Ortiz helps a local health worker weigh a baby during a home visit in Montero.

We are heading back to the U.S. to use our Spanish skills in another needy area. We will move from Minnesota to Washington State to work in a clinic that serves Hispanic farm workers. We are looking forward to this new mission and grateful for the work that will continue in Bolivia through Curamericas Global.

*Editor's note: Lorinda returned to the US on September 18. Her e-mail address where she can receive your comments of support for her work is [lorindaparks@hotmail.com](mailto:lorindaparks@hotmail.com).*

## Volunteers

### Volunteers Needed in Haiti and Guatemala

Work teams are needed to help with two exciting community construction projects in Haiti and Guatemala. Visit the volunteer page of our website [www.curamericas.org/getinvolved/volunteers](http://www.curamericas.org/getinvolved/volunteers) for more information.

### Calling All Past Volunteers!

Have you been part of a group that made a hands-on difference at one of our project sites in years past? Curamericas Global invites you to join our Volunteer Corps — a new community we've created specifically for past volunteers! Visit our website at [www.curamericas.org/volunteercorps](http://www.curamericas.org/volunteercorps) to read news from the field, share your stories and advice with new volunteers, and learn about ways to stay involved with our project communities. Any comments? E-mail Elizabeth Barricklow, our International Volunteer Coordinator, at [Elizabeth@curamericas.org](mailto:Elizabeth@curamericas.org). Be part of a special corps — our Volunteer Corps!

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