

Newsletter Oye LENA

Educational project, Curahuasi – Peru
March 2017



IN PERU

The end of the holidays - the start of a new school year!

As you could read in February's newsletter the new school year starts in March. This means that 10 of our oldest toddlers go to primary school and cannot attend the project daily anymore. But this also means that we are able to welcome 10 other kids: Rodrigo (brother of Jhoncito and Alberto), Karen (sister of Jose Abel), Cesia, Brith, Ruth Belinda, Belen, Alizee, Sarahi, Neri and Laura.

Unfortunately we also had to say goodbye to Liset, because her family moved to Abancay, a city one and a half hours away. Additionally, Elisban (Romina's brother) and his sister go to a school where classes last until the afternoon, so he is not able to make it every day. Off course we will follow these kids, and in a village as small as Curahuasi, we will often bump into each other.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST: Reyson, a boy with autism and a speech disorder - everyone's favorite - will go to a normal primary school. Together with his sister Zharit he will start in the first year. Off course we didn't just let him go, and agreed with the school to mentor him twice a week as a form of integrated education. We'll keep you informed!!



20/03/2017 New school year.. so back to the mountain schools Puka Puka and Ccochua

Since March we continue to go to the little mountain schools of Puka Puka and Ccochua. The toddlers are very enthusiastic when we arrive and participate well. In Puka Puka the big children join for 2 of the 5 classes: Sports and Sherborne (additional exercise to increase body awareness). Both teachers are the same as last year, which is uncommon, and has made working together easier. Both are also very interested to learn more about education. From now on we started making documents with more explanation to accompany the classes we give. We will also assist their classes so we can also learn from them; a nice opportunity for both.



18/03/2017 Monthly visit to the orphanage

Waking up early on a Saturday is always hard, but when you know it is to spend the morning with the children of the orphanage you just jump out of bed! The day started with a really nice ride to the beautiful town of Cachora. First we played some games we prepared, but after some games the children insisted on playing their favorite game 'Captain, can I cross?' a famous Belgian but also Peruvian game. The children enjoyed walking as a zombie or other crazy figures to avoid getting tagged. We finished our visit with a piece of cake and then returned to Oye LENA. It was quiet in the car, everybody was sad about leaving behind those grateful and enthusiastic children.

Liesbet Van Valckenborgh



10/03/2017 Monthly sibling's day, a day for the brothers and sisters of our children with a disability

Today was another sibling's day, a special day where the brothers and sisters of the children with a disability may come to Oye Lena.

We started the day with everybody together, and with a game where they had to earn fruits by doing different exercises: putting makeup on one of the volunteers face, following a trail, and eating a cookie on a string without using their hands. After, the kids got all the fruit as we cut it and made a delicious smoothie.

Then it was time to do something only with the brothers and sisters. We made little dream puppets out of carton and wool. While making them, we talked about their dreams. All the children said that their biggest dream is being able to study and become a professional. This was very comforting to hear because this is not a certainty in Peru and because we know that very few youngsters of Curahuasi succeed at getting accepted to university.

When we asked which gift in the entire world they would like to get, they could not immediately think of something. Eventually one girl said she would like to travel, another girl said she would want a stuffed animal, and one of the boys wanted a cell phone. It was a nice and interesting day for everybody!

By Lisa Vermeulen



22/03/2017 Monthly visit to the hot springs of Cconoc

On Wednesday, the 22nd of march, we went with the volunteers Zaïda, Tine, Yanaïka, Charline, Fleur, Melissa, Lauren and the special kids to Cconoc. It was a nice drive where Abel enjoined the trip. Everybody was looking forward to this special day. When we arrived in Cconoc we had breakfast and got ready for swimming. Clariza enjoined the water and the special attention of volunteer Fleur, Lucho played some search games with us, and Jean Pier laughed even more than usual with Diana and the volunteers. Jose Abel didn't dare to go into the water but he didn't want to get out of the shower! Maria was lying on her inflatable ring and enjoyed the sun on her skin. Fernando played the whole time without a break!

They all enjoined the swim so much they didn't want to leave! It was a quiet drive back because everybody was so tired!

Lauren Vancampenhoudt

20/03/2017 Cooking class for the volunteers in the local bakery of Cesar and Karina

On the 20th of March we were invited by César and Carina for a special cooking class. In their bakery, they taught us how to prepare two typical Peruvian desserts: alfajores and suspiro a la limeña. After washing our hands, we were set to go. With clear instructions and under strict supervision of Carina, we were able to prepare both dishes without any problems. Both Carina and César were very good teachers and explained everything very well. Of course, the best was saved for last: tasting our lovely self-made desserts. We returned to Casa LENA with a full stomach, great recipes, and a taste for more.

As a big thank you for introducing us to these delicious desserts, we invited César and Carina at Casa LENA and prepared them a typical Belgian dish: chicken with applesauce and fries. Again, it was a lovely evening. So lovely, we made it a monthly tradition!

By Hendrik Vuerinckx



21/03/2017 – Ccocchua

Today some other volunteers and I went to a school in the mountains in Ccocchua. We prepared a couple of classes related to the theme 'body and hygiene'. After an adventurous ride we arrived at the school. In my imagination we would find a school in the mountains, but actually it turned out to be a tiny classroom with seven students and one teacher. From the beginning it was quite clear they were enthusiastic about us being there. After breakfast we played some games, practiced their fine motor skills and tried out our gift. The previous volunteers made tin can stilts. After this we closed the class with a multisensory story about "washing hands". We told a story where kids really experience the story by smelling soap, washing their hands and a lot more!

By Yanaika De Cooman



Short messages

Volunteer Fleur bought shoes, clothes and nice cars for her godchild Rodrigo and his brother Jhoncito.

Volunteer Hannah got Jhordy a scooter, and Naymar, her parents godchild, a t-shirt.

Yanaikas mother bought a lot of lovely clothes in Belgium and Yanaika had the honor of distributing them at the project! In addition Tine and Yanaika also brought a lot of fun stuff.

Moreover, three nice persons (Rachelle Thijs, Mieke Beel and Edith Cauwels) gave them money to spend in Curahuasi. They used it to buy shoes for Lucho and a sweater for Maria, the remaining amount was transferred to our bank account.

Thanks to all of you!



Feliz cumpleaños Ruth Betsy, Damariz, Elisban y Emerson!

Ruth Betsy and Emerson graduated in February, and Damariz a couple of years ago.

But for their birthdays we invited them for a little party. Emersons godmother transferred some extra money to buy clothes to dress up.

And Ruth Betsy and Damariz received some nice garments from the mother of volunteer Yanaika.



21/03/2017 World Down Syndrome Day

The 21st of March is World Down Syndrome Day and for this occasion student Charline organized a workshop for the volunteers. In the evening all the volunteers came together and learned a bit more about the disability of our students Maria and Jose Abel. They learned to understand them better and how to support them the best. Another interesting evening!

What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome arises from the fact that the person has an extra chromosome. A person normally has 23 pairs of chromosomes. But a person with Down syndrome is born with a third chromosome in the twenty-first pair.

The result of this extra chromosome is a mental disability. There are also a couple of physical features, who are linked to the syndrome of Down. Some of these features are a rounder face, eyes who stand a bit askew, they have a skinfold at the inside of their eyelids, a smaller throat, a thick tongue in comparison with their small mouth, and low standing ears and a lower nose bridge.

People with Down syndrome have a higher risk for health issues. Some examples are Alzheimer at a younger age, epilepsy, diabetes type 1, leukemia and problems with their intestines like their heart or thyroid. People with Down are to not live far a long time. (a small fact: a couple of weeks ago I saw that the oldest person with Down, just had his 77th birthday).

The way in which a person with Down syndrome develops, depends on the person itself. Every one of them is unique and goes through a different development. For example: it is possible that one person with Down has an IQ of 100, but another only reaches 45.

By Charline Loontjens



Volunteers come and go

This month we said goodbye to the Austrian Hannah Bauer and the Belgian Jolien Santens, and two great students Fleur Wetzels & Lisa Vermeulen.

Four ladies with a heart of gold who engaged themselves for our children for weeks. From early in the morning until late in the evening they were busy and until late into the night they were studying spanish! Day after day they made sure our kids had a nice and instructive time! We will miss you! Muchas gracias amigas!

We also said goodbye to our volunteers Yanaika and Tine. Their stay was short but very appreciated! We are not only going to miss their enthusiasm, their energy and warmth for the special kids, but also their expertise and their drive to share this. What a pleasure and added value to have a speech therapist and audiologue with us! Thanks a lot Yanaika and Tine!



IN BELGIUM

Baby Lou raises money for Oye LENA



Lieselot Bronselaer and Jeroen Winderickx became god mother and father of two of our toddlers, Romina and Elisban. On the 4th of April Lieselot gave birth to a wonderful son LOU. Instead of asking money for their diapers bill, they asked friends and family to transfer money to our Oye LENA account! In the hospital the visitors were given finger dolls, also to the benefit of Oye LENA. Oye LENA received 1440 euros already, a fantastic amount of money to realise a lot of nice things! Thank you to this lovely family! Enjoy your little baby boy!!

Primary school 'De Magneet' raises money for Oye LENA!

Godmother Rita Houben (mother of ex-volunteer Laure van Hove) and her school organized a fasting action. The students had to look for sponsors for their 'sponsored run' to collect as much money as possible. The income was divided over three projects: Broederlijk Delen, the parish' project and Oye LENA. Oye LENA was given 500 euros! Thank you!!



Oye LENA at the travel fair 'Reismarkt' in Bruges.

At the yearly travel fair 'Reismarkt' in Bruges project manager Stefanie and Ilse Maertens introduced Oye LENA. In this way they hoped to attract volunteers and sponsors and increase the awareness for the project. A lot of visitors came by for information. An interesting and successful day, worth to repeat.



Oye LENA part of 'GROG' – meeting

Oye LENA is a part of the GROG (the council of development cooperation of Grimbergen) and has two fantastic representatives: Hilde Vandepitte and Ingrid Vandekelder. During her stay in Belgium project manager Stefanie took part in one of their meetings. Thank you Grimbergen and all the inhabitants for this support, year after year!



Oye LENA part of Teachers without Borders – meeting

Oye LENA also is part of the non-profit organization Teachers without Borders; their aim is to provide better education around the world. To realize this they cooperate with different associations and non-profit organizations. Volunteer Shana Berrevoets represents Oye LENA at their gatherings and was accompanied by Stefanie for once.

Work group in Belgium

Another meeting worth mentioning is the one of our Belgian work group. This group consists of 7 fantastic ladies: Shana Berrevoets, Isalien De Block, Kim Dierickx, Lisa Dieleman, Kim Welman, Milena Vleminckx-Huybens and Paulien Van Aelst. Linde Scholiers joined this year. Their principal tasks are to answer the questions of future volunteers, to distribute flyers in their region and to represent Oye LENA at different fairs and festivals. They meet two or three times a year. Do you also want to become a member and help Oye LENA expand in Belgium? Do not hesitate to contact us!

Short messages



In 2014 **Lieke and Jack**, a fantastic couple from the Netherlands, did some camping at Casa LENA and together with Gilder they did some adventurous tours. After all those years they did not forget about us and donated 300 euros to the project! Thank you Lieke and Jack, we wish you lots of nice travel experiences in the future!

Ron and Heather Strawford, grandparents of ex-volunteer Catrin Harris, donated 114 euros to the project, all the way from Wales! Thanks to our favorite Welshmen!

BECOME A GODPARENT

Welcome to our newest godparents.

In January and February Hannah Bauer from Austria volunteered at Oye LENA. But in March she also thought about our lovely toddlers and convinced her family at home to become a godparent. Her parents Christine and Wolfgang Bauer became Neymar's godparents and her parents in law Ulrike and Stamatios Dourakas of Karen. Thanks a lot to all of you.

Margot Wuyts became godmother of Diana, one of our kids with cerebral palsy.

BUT OYE LENA IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE GODPARENTS!

Offer a whole new future to a child for only a couple of euro cents a day.

Thanks in advance!

Godparents can let us know if they prefer to sponsor a boy or a girl, aged 3 or 4. When you become a godparent, you receive a picture via email.

Most of the communication will happen via email in order to keep costs down. Two times a year you will receive regular mail.

If you do not want to send your godchild messages via mail or email, that is no problem at all. If yes, you can do so in English. We will make sure a translation is available. However, keep in mind that our children are still very young. A nice picture will do more than a long letter. Also, do not forget that it can take a while before your letters arrive in Peru. If you want to avoid long waiting times, it is also possible to send an email. We will make sure your email gets printed and given to the child. You can send your email to oyelena.peru@gmail.com.

The postal address is:

ONG OYE LENA (Stefanie Van Erps + the name of your godchild)
Oficina oficial de correos de Curahuasi,
Curahuasi,
Abancay,
Apurimac,
Peru

It is also possible for you to come and visit the project and your godchild, just tell us in advance if you want to come over.

In order to make sure payments go as smoothly as possible, it is best to use a standing order. That way, you automatically deposit a fixed amount into our bank account (a minimum of €10 = €0.30 a day). Oye LENA has a Belgian bank account: BE28 06889753 0620 BIC: GKCCBEBB

The money is not destined to your individual godchild, but will be used for EVERY child on the project, for:

- buying food and drinks. The children receive a free lunch, fruit, a snack and drinks every day;
- financing visits to the doctor's, where the children receive free treatment and medication;
- buying toys and educational materials;
- celebrating birthdays and other festivities: cake and presents!

If you wish to stop being a godparent, you can do so anytime. You only have to send us an email and cancel your standing order.

We will also keep you up to date with all the latest developments of the project and your godchild!

DID YOU KNOW ...

You can receive a tax certificate for your donations from € 40 and more?!

This certificate can be added to your tax declaration and the amount of your donation will be deducted from your taxable income.

To determine if you have the right to a tax certificate for a certain assessment year, all the donations you did during that year are being count up at the beginning of the next assessment year. If you reach a total sum of € 40 or more, you receive a tax certificate (at the beginning of the year following to the year you made the donation in).

The certificate will only be given for donation to the account number:

IBAN BE48 5230 8027 2427 / BIC TRIOBEBB

Leraars zonder Grenzen vzw, Jan de Graefstraat 7, 2600 Berchem

with mention: **"donation for ONG Oye LENA"**

