

# Newsletter Oye LENA

Educational project, Curahuasi – Peru

September - October 2018



Dear loyal readers and new readers,

In the green boxes, we created some **fixed sections with general information that remains the same**. Under the boxes, you will find new information and pictures.

## AT THE PROJECT

### How we work

A day at Oye LENA starts with a short meeting with all the volunteers. In the morning we work one-on-one with the children with disabilities. Every child with a disability follows his individual schedule, adapted to his or her needs. In the afternoon we pick up the toddlers and other children with a disability. When they arrive at Oye LENA they receive a hot meal. With development goals we set up ourselves, we try to stimulate the children through various activities. Every day the children follow a class and after that they can choose out of different learning centers where they want to play. We also organize a lot of special activities. You can read more about this in what follows!

### Special events

#### Check-up at the cardiologist with Jose Abel

In October we went to the heart specialist in Abancay to get a check-up for Jose Abel. We learned that his right heart valve has a slight disfunction. For now we don't have to worry too much yet. In 6 months we will go again for another check-up. We will see how his condition evolves.



#### Susy's birthday!

This month it was our Peruvian teacher Susy's birthday. We celebrated this in our daily circle with a delicious cake!



#### Decent education in a safe environment

The ministry of labor in Peru set up some rules for safety on the workforce in companies and NGO's like ours. To meet these rules we had to invest in a lot of materials: more fire extinguishers, plastic foil to protect the windows, more signalisation, a gurney and much more. Ex-volunteer Jehan Vandedrinck and Katrien Brewaeys made a big donation for these materials. Thank you!



## Good news! Oye LENA starts with a new way of volunteering: virtual tutoring with Apple employees.

Oye LENA became part of Quipunet (<http://quipunet.org/cms/en/About/index.html>).

*Quipunet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of Peruvians and friends of Peru, residing all over the world, who have formed a cybernetic link offering their knowledge and help towards the project: Education at a Distance.*

And of the volunteer program Benevity (<https://www.benevity.com/about-us/>).

*Benevity is the global leader in online workplace giving, matching, volunteering and integrated grant management solutions. Some of the world's most iconic brands rely on Benevity's award-winning solutions to power their Goodness Programs and corporate philanthropy, helping them attract, retain and engage today's workers by connecting people personally to causes that matter to them.*

Employees of companies that are part of Benevity can give to or volunteer at one of almost 2 million charities across the globe, whether it's in their own backyard or half a world away.

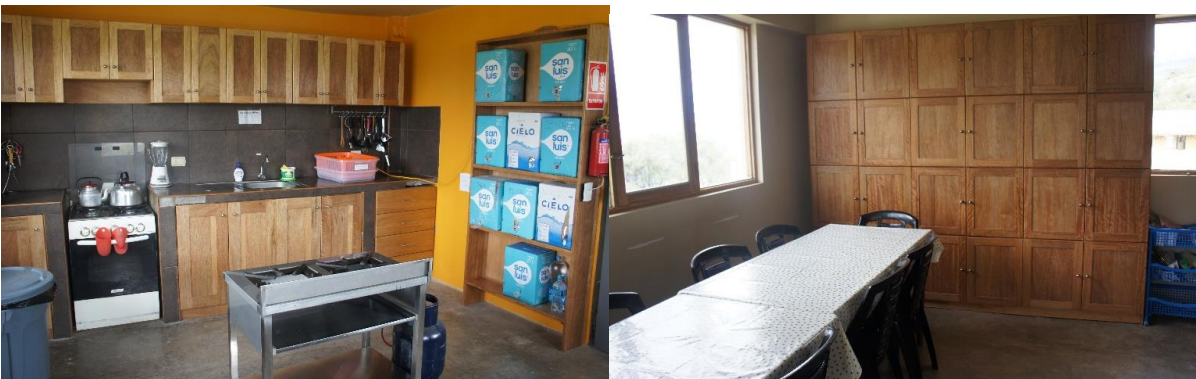
Oye LENA is one of these charities and Apple is the company that introduced us to this new way of volunteering. Every time an employee of Apple volunteers for Oye LENA or another charity, the charity itself receives 50\$ an hour. So, we get a wonderful class AND a donation all at the same time!! Incredible!

In September we started with the virtual classes through Facetime with Jonathan, an Apple employee and artist in Tacoma. The program created by this wonderful magician is called 'English through art and technology'. He teaches our children how to draw with the application 'Procreate' and in the meanwhile they practice some English words (body, colours, forms,...). He works with the oldest toddlers but also with the children with a disability! And they love it & him!

Thank you Marita Paly for introducing us to the Apple Staff, Emily Chamberlain for getting us into the volunteer program and of course Jonathan Himmelstein for being our first very enthusiastic volunteer!!



## The kitchen of the volunteers got a whole new look!





### Parade for the day for people with a disability

In Curahuasi they celebrate the Day for People with a Disability on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October with a parade on the plaza. The mayor, the director of the school for special education and the representative for people with a disability from the municipality talked about how they work. Afterwards, some children of the schools in Curahuasi did a parade.



### Visit to the local bakery

In September we went to the local bakery in the afternoon. It was an educational and interesting visit! First, the children could discover what they sold. After that they got a tour behind the scenes and they could see how the bakers makes cakes, pies, cookies and bread. As a delicious ending the children could taste a cookie! Mmmmh!



### Halloweenparade through the streets of Curahuasi

Halloween, es mi fiesta favorita! What a party ... Together with the children, we dressed up, put on some make-up and most of all, had fun! After the project we came together at the main square where the children got their homemade ghost lanterns. These showed them the way to the many shops and houses that offered them sweets and a big smile. The kids liked it, but they weren't the only ones ... We are already looking forward to the next event!





## Theme based working

At Oye LENA, we use monthly themes in our work with our special kids, our toddlers, as well as the project and the classes in the mountain schools. Every month we pick a new theme, which will then become the common theme throughout all the lessons and classes. These themes are fixed for three school years. Every theme is linked with (Peruvian/Belgian) objectives. Cognitive goals are important, but also social and emotional well-being, as well as attitudes. In every theme, we incorporate methods like 'Sherborne' (Development Movement), 'Snoezelen' (Controlled Multisensory Environment), learning centres, Multisensory Storytelling, yoga, writing dance,...

Our education starts from the children's living environment consisting of challenges and experiences, calling for experimenting and exploring. This forms a basis for motivated learning. Through 'playful learning' and 'learning by doing', we try to stimulate the development of the children to increase their chances of a better future.

### September = Occupations

In September we worked around occupations, more specifically the baker, the hairdresser and the gardener. Together with the children we discovered what these people do. We went to the local bakery Dely Huasi. At the project we made a cookie-pie with the toddlers and the children with a disability.

We also organized an "afternoon at the hairdresser". They children could get a massage, a facemask and they could "shave" themselves. Everyone went home totally relaxed! 😊

### October = Exotic animals

This month we learned about the animals in the jungle. We made a jeep and discovered more about the behaviour and their appearance. At the end of the month we did a play with the volunteers about a girl in the jungle who wanted to find her talent, togetherwith the help of all the animals.



### Weekly visits to the mountain schools of Ccochua and Puka Puka

Once a week we go to a remote mountain school, alternately, in the villages Puka Puka and Ccochua. We give classes to the toddlers there and try to improve the level of education, in cooperation with the local teacher. We want to teach them methodologies like Writing Dance, 'Snoezelen' (Controlled Multisensory Environment), 'Sherborne' (Development Movement), Multisensory Storytelling,...

The children in these mountain villages mostly, or exclusively, speak Quechua at home, while classes at school are given in Spanish. In addition, most kids have low-skilled parents who do not always acknowledge the importance of education and do not stimulate the development of their children at home. Due to this, the children have a huge disadvantage compared to their peers.

**Ccochua** is a 45-minute drive away from the project. Miss Myriam has nine students in her class, aged 3 to 6 years.

**Puka Puka** is a 20-minute drive away from the project. Miss Pelaya has 5 students in her class, also aged 3 to 6 years. There's also a primary school, apart from the nursery school, where all ages are divided into two groups. The classroom is slightly bigger, but the means of the teacher are still quite limited.

By visiting these schools, we try to support the local teachers and improve the level of education. The volunteers, children, and the teachers already reacted enthusiastic!



### Monthly visit to the hot springs of Cconoc

Once a month we pay a visit to the hot springs of Cconoc, a 20-minute drive away from the project. One month we do this with our toddlers and the other month with our students with different abilities. First, we teach the toddlers to enjoy the water. The ones that feel ready can start doing preparatory exercises for swimming.

Children in Curahuasi rarely, or never, go to a swimming pool, which causes a lot of children to be afraid of the water for the first time. They overcome their fear rather quickly. In the end they cannot wait to jump into the water again!

Volunteer Eline started with a new program for the toddlers so they can get used to the water and learn to swim!





## Bristers' Day

The term 'Bristers' refers to **brothers** and **sisters** of our special children. In the past, we noticed that our special kids were not always treated correctly by their siblings. In some cases, we even noticed abuse. In specific, signs of jealousy towards the presents and care they were given at the project. By organizing this day, we want to include the siblings. The objective is to offer them psychological support and to pay attention to their feelings as well. We try to reinforce the relations between the siblings in order to improve the quality of life for both parties this way.

Since October the sisters of Reyson, Zharit and Selena join us on the Bristers' Day. We played a fun Halloween game, made by volunteer Eline, to get to know each other. After that each family made a basket to collect their candy on Halloween. To end the afternoon the children could jump on the trampoline!



## Parental participation

Every month, we meet with the parents of our children. While enjoying a snack and a drink, we show them pictures of what we did in the last month.

First of all, we want to keep them updated about the ins and outs at Oye LENA and the evolution of their child. Also, we organize workshops to teach the parents how they can stimulate their children and their development. We talk about education in general, the difficulties that come with this, and the importance of healthy food and health in general. We meet with some of the mothers more frequently. They cooperate in the project 'Mamita Made Materials'. These mums create handmade objects (mittens, scarves, dolls,...), of which the entire profit of the sale goes back to them. More information about this project can be found later in this newsletter, and at the Mamita Made Materials Facebook page

This month we helped the mothers make Halloween costumes for their children. The mothers don't have to invest in the materials and the children can all get dressed up when we go to the village to collect candy. We made sure we had all the materials and invited everyone to come and start knitting at Oye LENA! A lot of parents were happy with this opportunity and all the children looked beautiful!





## Monthly visit to the orphanage of Cachora

In May 2016, we discovered that two of our loyal students, Brayan and Jesús, were abandoned at the orphanage of Cachora, and we decided to pay them a visit. It was heartbreaking and -warming at the same time. By experiencing these mixed emotions, we were compelled to return every month.

The 2 boys barely have contact with their mother and little brother. They merely visit them once or twice a year. It is obvious they still suffer from the situation, but after a long period of domestic violence and abuse, we hope they will get more stability in their lives and a better future.

To contribute to this, we go visit them one Saturday or Sunday a month. We organize activities, catch up, eat, and drink something tasty. The focus is on entertainment and joy. We want to offer the kids a day to look forward to every month. Every month it's a very nice day that goes by way too fast!

We played a lot of games outside with the children, like “tik – tak – boem”, “duck, duck, goose”, ... After that we ate delicious cookies!



## Graduated children

Every Friday afternoon and during the holidays, the children who graduated from Oye LENA over the past few years still come to the project. The oldest child is already 10 years old now! They follow their own program, separate from the toddlers, and get lessons adjusted to their own level within different development domains.

Starting in November the graduated children can come every day and they get study guidance.



## Oye Mundo

Oye LENA works with volunteers: people from all over the world who come and help on the project. Our volunteers are our key figures; thanks to them we can achieve our goals every day, for and with the children.

We organized two workshops; one about Cerebral Palsy and another about Sherborne, a movement pedagogy.



## Volunteers come and go

Oye LENA works with volunteers: people from all over the world who want to help. The number of volunteers varies throughout the year, but 3/4 of the year we can count on 10 volunteers. Some volunteers stay for 4 weeks, whilst others stay for a year. But every visit and contribution is much appreciated.

Lize Wouters started in August at the project. She worked two months with all her heart and soul. She was always really well prepared and helpful. Thank you, Lize!

Later in August, physiotherapist Tessa Crois came to the project. After a few weeks her friend Kato Debrabandere came to help. Nothing was too much for them. We won't forget your smiles everyday!





## Short messages

Volunteers Fien, Lien and Juline brought a big bag full of stuff for the project and student Helena also gifted us a lot of materials. Heather Strawford, de grandmother of volunteer Catrin Harris, sent a package and Inge Janz brought materials to build a climbingwall. Thank you everybody!



## Gifts from godparents

Emerson (with a present from Charlotte Crockaert) en Diana (with a present from Jacqueline Thues). **THANK YOU ALL!**





## Happy birthday!

We celebrate the birthdays of our children with a personalized crown, a song and a present. Sometimes, godparents send a gift to their godchildren, or they donate some extra cash so we can buy something. The other children receive a present out of the big birthday gift box. Happy birthday!

Roywil (with a present from Helen Van Den Brande), Judith, Naymar (with a present from Cynthia Sneyers), Asiri (with a present from Joanna Jonckheyd), Aaron (with a present from Heidi Bortels), Yaneth, Romina, Brith (with a present from Delphine Coomans and from Hilde Plaetinck), Carol Eva (with a present from Bert Boekaert), Alberto (with a present from Sarah Tibbels and from Elisa Raes), Samantha (with a present from Delphine Claerhout) en Zharit.

**THANK YOU ALL!**





## IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT

### Grant Herenthout

Our volunteer Lize Wouters asked a grant for Oye LENA in her town, GROS Herenthout. She managed to get 1250 euros! With this money we could buy a lot of things for the children. The first thing we bought with the money were new sunhats for all of them, to protect them for the dangerous consequences of the sun. We are really happy with the support of GROS Herenthout!

*By volunteer Lize Wouters*



### Grant Schilde

*In 2016 I travelled to Peru. My friend convinced me to visit OYE LENA in Curahuasi for my first stop.*



*The project in all its forms made me want to support them. In 2017*

*I became a member of the DB for GROS Schilde and I looked into what Schilde could mean for OYE LENA.*

*Together with Stefanie we made a request for a grant and it got approved. The result? 2000 euros from the municipality of Schilde.*

*If someone in or around Schilde wants to help me make publicity for OYE LENA, you can contact me; tel. 033835001, GSM 0499112218.*

*Door Ingrid Hendriks*

### Oye LENA helps on the Kick-Off Festival, Gent

On Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, Kick-Off Festival had their 13<sup>th</sup> edition, to celebrate the start of the new schoolyear of all the students in Gent. Students pay 1 euro to enter the festival and the money goes to all kinds of educational projects around the world. This year NGO Oye LENA, together with Finado vzw, Zambians, Ujeli Care Center, Afractie vzw and Kompanjon vzw, was again a part of it.

Volunteers from these organisations worked 250 shifts in total en received money in exchange for the hours they worked on the Festival. Oye LENA did 75 shifts and in exchange we got 5425 euros! Next year we will participate again and can use all the help we can get. If you would like to help, contact us as soon as possible.

Thank you so much to the organisation of the festival, all the students who came and of course everyone who worked one or more shifts!



### Jazz concert for Oye LENA

Griet Simkens, mother of ex-volunteer coordinator Lydwin Bulckens, and Annemie and Luc Pieters - Simkens organized a benefit evening for Oye LENA in Hoevenen.

Their nieces, Laura and Jessica De Jongh, performed a unique mix of own songs and old Jazz classics, together with singers Lize Colson and Mara Rosiers. 96 people showed up to enjoy the concert! They managed to collect 2805 euros and sold artisanal products from Peru for 261 euros. Muchas gracias!!



### More good news! Marita raised money to buy three iPads!

In the last newsletter you could read that Marita Paly, together with her colleagues of Quipunet, sold handmade jewellery at the Latino festival. This time they organized a food event where they sold typical Peruvian 'Picarones'. Again it was a big success and they raised in total 1278 dollars and with this money could buy 3 iPads!

In March Marita will visit the project and will bring the iPads with her.

Thank you very much to the second group of Quipunet (Martha, Inna, Roxana, Mari, Cecilia, Graciella, Manuela, Alexandra, Charito, Elvi, Narda y Rosita) for their hard work, to Consuelo and Lilian for the delicious picarones, to Bachi, Magui, Irma, Tere, Lilian, Monica, Daniel, Elenita y Florita for helping us and to all their friends for their generous donations.





## Donations:

Volunteers Tessa Crois and Kato Debrabandere convinced their families to support Oye LENA and they managed to raise 890 euros! An incredible amount, thank you everyone!

Hans and Nelleke Pekaar organized a birthday party and asked their friends and family to support Oye LENA instead of giving a present. The said: *"We celebrated well. We were really happy that our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours supported the project so generously. Hartwarming for us, for you and for everyone."*

Together they collected 1000 euros, thank you so much!

Dirk Lahouter and Nadine Roey asked the same thing to their friends for their birthday party. They raised 250 euros!

Philip Pierins, alderman of public works, city cleaning and nature in Brugge, has supported Oye LENA since 2018 with 50 euros every month; with this money he sponsors the wage of one of our teachers.

## Support Oye Lena for free? How is that possible?

Do your online shopping at <https://www.trooper.be/oyelenaperu>, no extra costs for you and a percent for us = everyone happy!

You can buy a lot of different things at Trooper:

- Electronics & lots more in one of the 323 webshops (Coolblue)
- Toys (Fun / Bart Smit / Maxitoys)
- A weekend away (Booking.com, Cheaptickets, of Sunweb)
- Clothing (JBC, Torfs, De Bijenkorf, Etam, E5 Mode....)
- Parfum / make-up (ICI Paris XL, Online-Apotheek)
- Presents (L'Occitane, Proxis, Mamzel)
- Wine (Wijnbeurs)
- And plenty of other things...

By visiting the online shop through the Trooper page, the shop knows you are helping us. You buy whatever you want at one of the partners without paying any extras. Oye Lena gets an average of €5 per €100.

# TROOPER



## NEW GODPARENTS

**Oye LENA has 5 new godparents:** Bert Boekaerts (boyfriend of volunteer Karolien), Axel Brumberg (friend of volunteer coordinator Sofie), Jan and Lieve Vermeulen-Pennewaert (parents of class coordinator Lisa), volunteer Tessa Crois, Raf Van den Brande and Helga Moras (parents of volunteer Helen)

## Mamita Made Materials: a knitting project for and by our mothers

Mamita Made Materials is a project we started in January 2017. The intention of this side project is to help the mothers of the pupils by giving them a decent wage in exchange for knitting or crocheting of different materials.

Over and over again, many mothers quite desperately asked for a job or financial help. At first, we didn't know how exactly to help these moms. In the past, we proposed that they knit or crochet hats, scarves, sweaters, etc., but surprisingly nobody reacted positively. Later on, we discovered why: no one had the financial means to buy the necessary wool. So... we decided to provide the wool ourselves.

From now on, we supply a few spheres of wool to the mothers who wish to participate in the project. They are also able to consult some specialized knitting magazines as an inspiration source. In exchange for a knitted or crocheted item, they obtain a fair fee. Part of the profit goes to the mothers, and the other part to Oye LENA for the purchase of new wool.

Zonta Club Roeselare made it possible for us to realize this project. They donated a starting capital of 2000 Euros, so we could purchase the wool, the crocket hooks, the knitting needles, the magazine copies, etc.

Our tote bags are a big success! Already 75 bags were ordered and around 30 got delivered. The others have to wait a bit more until the mother of Ruth Betsy, our specialist in making tote bags, is ready with making all the orders.

Are you also interested in a doll or a tote bag? Let us know your preference and we let the mother make your order!



All our volunteers are big fans of their new tote bags!



## BECOME A GODPARENT

### OYE LENA IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE GODPARENTS!

You can offer a whole new future to a child for only a couple of eurocents a day.

When you become a godparent, you first receive a picture via e-mail. Godfathers and godmothers who are active on facebook are mentioned in the pictures we post of their child.

Most communication will happen via e-mail, in order to keep the costs down. Two times a year you will receive regular mail of your godchild. If you do not feel like sending your godchild messages, that's no problem at all.

If you do feel like sending something, you can do so in English, and we will make sure to translate in Spanish. 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 e-mail. We will make sure your e-mail gets printed and handed over to the child. You can send your e-mail to [oyelena.peru@gmail.com](mailto:oyelena.peru@gmail.com).

The postal address is: ONG OYE LENA (Stefanie Van Erps + the name of your godchild)

Curahuasi, Abancay, Apurimac, Peru

It is also possible for you to come and visit the project and your godchild. Just tell us in advance!

In order to make sure payments arrive smoothly, it is best to use a standing order. This way, you automatically deposit a monthly fixed amount into our bank account (a minimum of 10 Euro per month = 0.30 Euro a day).

The money is not specifically destined to your individual godchild, but will be used for every child on the project. It will also be used to:

- buy food and drinks. The children receive a free lunch, fruit, a snack and drinks every day.
- finance visits to the doctor, where the children receive free treatment and medication.
- buy toys and educational materials.
- celebrate birthdays and other festivities (cake and presents!).
- pay the wages of our Peruvian cook and teacher.

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

And of course, we will keep you up to date about the latest developments of the project and your godchild!

## GIFTS

Oye LENA can only exist because of generous sponsors. Businesses and organisations that wish to support us, can publish their logos on our website and Facebook page.

## BELGIAN ACCOUNT NUMBER OYE LENA

Oye LENA has a Belgian bank account: IBAN BE28 06889753 0620 / BIC GKCCBEBB

## TAX CERTIFICATE? Yes, that's possible!

Did you know that you can receive a tax certificate for your donations from 40 Euro onwards? 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 are entitled to a tax certificate for a certain assessment year, all donations you gave during that year are summed up at the beginning of the next assessment year. If you reach a sum of 40 Euro or more, you receive a tax certificate. You receive this at the beginning of the year following the year in which you made the donation.

The certificate will only be given for donations to the account number of LZG:

IBAN: BE48 5230 8027 2427 / BIC: TRIOBEBB Leraars zonder Grenzen vzw, Jan de Graefstraat 7, 2600 Berchem. With mention: **"Donation for ONG Oye LENA"**