

# DESEA PERU NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 2011 - [www.deseaperu.org](http://www.deseaperu.org)



- 1) In mid-August DESEA will be welcoming Sandra Izquierdo, a Peruvian who has lived for seven years in the U.S., working as a health clinic administrator. She also has a background in community development work in Peru, both professionally and as a volunteer. With this experience she brings invaluable skills to DESEA, not to mention an essential fluency in both languages. Of course, there'll be no end of confusion having two Sandra's and a Sandy in the office.
- 2) DESEA has received another generous donation from the NGO 'Vitamins Angels' in California. This donation will allow 400 children to receive a complete multivitamin/micronutrient supplement, which is desperately needed for these children who suffer from some of the highest rates of malnutrition in Peru. DESEA is seeking travellers who can help transport vitamins from the U.S. to the Sacred Valley. Please contact us if you can help with this - [info@deseaperu.org](mailto:info@deseaperu.org).
- 3) Vilma and Sandra have had many opportunities to meet with community members and leaders regarding the health components of the project. Community response has been very positive as we outline the scope of the health clinic and community health worker (qhali) training programs. Our health worker program differs significantly from those with which they are familiar, in the extent of training, in the broad role to be undertaken by the qhalis, and in the fact that in-kind remuneration is provided; for most community health programs here the local women receive no compensation and thus are disinclined to commit much of their scarce time to these tasks.
- 4) In Accha Alta, our new, part-time nurse, Mary Luz, has been very well received by the community and is adapting well to the work, which involves so much travel by foot throughout the three community sectors. Vilma, Mary Luz and Sandra will be looking for two or three new qhalis for Accha Alta, two having had to resign to attend to demands of family and farm.
- 5) A group of young Rotarians, the 'Cusco Rotaract', from the Cusco Rotary Club have volunteered to assist with a project in one of the communities. They will raise funds for materials and carry out the much-needed repairs to the health room which we'll be using in Chaupimayo Sector of Huarqui. We're very grateful for their enthusiastic help.
- 6) With the assistance of Leandro, a member of Huarqui Community and a Lamay resident, Sandy has been conducting a survey of drinking water resources and basic family health and demographic data. This information will allow us to prioritize water treatment needs for community households, schools, and community centres. With GPS locations of these sites we'll be able to prepare GIS mapping to which our health and water databases can be linked.
- 7) Biweekly clinics are being initiated in the three new project communities of Huarqui, and will begin in Sapacto in September. As well, house visits are being made to each community member, giving them the opportunity to meet the medical staff and to become familiar with the health program approach.
- 8) Four volunteers who have provided invaluable assistance through the past few months are moving back to school and work - Matt, Elna, David, and Nora - we're very grateful for all their hard work!
- 9) We've just updated our website, finally with a Spanish translation, thanks to the hard work of Nora (as translator) and David (as website designer).
- 10) DESEA has signed an agreement with the Lamay District Municipality outlining areas of mutual interest and collaboration; this will form a basis for close cooperation both with the Municipality, which has responsibility for water, hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition, and with the Ministry of Health, which operates monthly clinics in Huarqui Community.

