



Water, health and education for Andean families



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## PARTNERSHIP WITH CALCA and MINISTRY OF HEALTH

DESEA is pleased to announce that Calca Municipality has voted to support installations of our PVC biosand filters in schools and homes in remote communities to which we are extending our program. For the community health program, including training of community health workers, we'll be working closely with the Municipality, the Ministry of Health, and with the closest health post (situated a three- to six-hour walk from the communities). Meetings with the Ministry of Health, have been very positive, and DESEA will be working directly with MoH to provide increased health services to the new project area. In 2012 the project area had higher than the national average of deaths under 5 years of age, and the Calca province had one of the highest maternal mortality rates in all of Peru, thus reinforcing the need for DESEA's water and health approach.

## NEW FILTER TECHNICIAN

In April, Lamay resident Rosberg Huallpa Torrab started full-time work as DESEA's water filter technician. Rosberg has quickly mastered all aspects of filter construction and installation. Fluent in Quechua and Spanish, he will be an invaluable member of the team as we commence filter installations in the new areas. In the upcoming months, Rosberg will be staying for extended periods of time in the high communities, working with local residents to screen and wash the sand and gravel filter media and to install the filters in schools and households.



## Project Expansion

DESEA Peru is currently extending its water treatment and community health program to four additional communities in the Calca District. This area is geographically isolated, with long travel by foot between households, no regular transportation, limited electricity, and no communication services. DESEA nurses, Vilma and Mary Luz, have just completed a detailed community survey and found a stark need for improved drinking water and local healthcare capacity. Of the 120 homes dispersed through four communities, not one has a potable water supply; 80% of children are critically malnourished; and 20% of children have suffered from diarrhea or respiratory illness in the preceding month. DESEA is now constructing water filters in its Lamay workshop for these communities and will begin qhali (community health worker) selection and training in September.

Isolated homes, such as these, will be the beneficiaries of new water filters and improved health services starting in July.

## BC students fundraising success

Students from Ms. Mah's Grade 2-3 class of Garibaldi Highlands Elementary School in Squamish, BC have raised an impressive \$627 to provide treated drinking water and hygiene supplies for the schools in DESEA's new project communities. These funds will provide for installation of biosand water filters in each of the new project schools, for the purchase of soaps and towels for each child, and for a school dental program. It is so inspiring to see these young children working so hard to help others.

Check out the article about them in the [Squamish Newspaper](#):

Congratulations and thanks to the Grade2-3 Garibaldi Highlands Elementary School classroom.



## THE QHALI PROGRAM

It has been a challenging spring for the community health worker program, with three of our qhalis having to step down due to personal complications. Fortunately, where we have lost a trained qhali, there has been another one willing to work the extra hours to maintain health services for her community. Since we'll soon be starting the training program for qhalis in the new project areas, we'll be able to train replacement qhalis where needed.

There have been great program successes as well. Our qhalis have achieved more than 90% correct filter usage and we have recorded a 50% decrease in diarrheal disease. The qhalis are also regularly assessing patients' vital signs and helping community members determine whether they should seek medical attention outside their communities. Recently the qhalis have helped to manage an epidemic of diarrheal infection caused by a contaminated community meal. Although one of the qhalis was too sick to see patients, another one attended to two community areas, travelling long distances by foot, checking on patients, and dispensing sugar and salt rehydration solution.

## VITAMIN ANGELS CAMPAIGN

For the past two years, US-based NGO Vitamin Angels has been donating children's and maternal multi-vitamins for distribution in DESEA's project areas and to NGOs and government agencies with which DESEA collaborates. Vitamin Angels carried out a community campaign with DESEA in April 2012 and will be returning this August to operate a campaign in the new project areas and to see how their support is improving health in the existing project communities. There have been noticeable improvements in newborn weights and heights, and there has been a 15% reduction in anemia and malnutrition. We're looking forward to showing them how much their contributions are helping.

## VOLUNTEERS

We have had some amazing volunteers over the past few months who have greatly helped to advance DESEA's work.

Allyson Schurtz, a marketing specialist from North Carolina, has helped to compile DESEA's community health records and improve our methods for spreading the word about project activities.

Simone Garcia, a graphic artist from California has been working to finalize the graphics we use for the training of and the record keeping by the qhalis. These materials will be made available on-line for use in other programs with similar literacy and education challenges.

Artist Marina Flevotomas, though now back in Greece, continues to expand the large portfolio of illustrations she has produced for the qhali training manuals.

Max Kudisch, a web designer and photographer from Colorado, is completely redesigning the DESEA Peru website and it now launched. Check it out!

Patricia Heintzman, a graphic designer from Squamish, BC, continues to help with production of our newsletters and with fundraising activities (most recently by her work with Garibaldi Highlands school).

Muchisimas gracias for all the volunteer work to improve the lives of the Andean people! Also, many thanks to all who have made donations in support of DESEA Peru's work. As a small organization these contributions are vital to the operation of the program.



Qhali Benita, who has never been to school, monitors filter flow rates, measures filter water levels, and provides family hygiene instruction.



A pre-school teacher distributes vitamins to 3 to 5-year-old children each day at school.

Matt Dayka - Vitamin Angels PE12

With the arrival of winter, all the communities have been busy harvesting and dehydrating potatoes and other root vegetables for long-term storage, a practice that has been maintained for millennia.



To learn more about this interesting aspect of Andean diet, please visit our Facebook page!

<http://deseaperu.org/donate/>

DONATIONS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!  
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS ARE ISSUED FOR AMOUNTS \$25 OR MORE.