

Charity Bolivia is official! It is now recognized as a non-profit organization with 501 (3) c tax exempt status. The process took a while, but we're pleased to be able to start some more consistent fundraising for the education of students living at Colonia Ecologica in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Our sister charity was started in England and Holland by some friends of ours, Claire and Gertjan. We will be sharing the name, as well as the website, www.charity-bolivia.org. Their (Charity Bolivia UK/Holland) efforts go directly to the housing and daily needs of Colonia; our (Charity Bolivia US) efforts go directly to post-high school education.

Colonia Ecologica. To give a quick background on the organization, Colonia Ecologica is where Wendell and I volunteered during our two years in Bolivia. This is a children's home run by a Bolivian couple, Kiko and Carmen. They take in orphaned, abandoned, unwanted or street children ranging from infants to 18 years of age. The children are given a stable, loving environment in which to live. In the afternoons Colonia opens their doors and hearts to other children in the area who need a safe place to go, a snack, and help with homework and reading. Kiko and Carmen strongly push the need for education. They have built a library and many small huts for children to do their homework. Currently there are 27 children living there and up to 91 children enrolled in the after school program! To find out more basics and see photos of Colonia itself, go to the website www.charity-bolivia.org and click the link "project".

A child in need. Apart from the students in university, I must first make a pressing request for a special child in great need. One year ago Dario, also our God-son, came down with meningitis, spending more than two months in the hospital to drain the fluid off of his brain and heal. This was incredibly damaging to him since he was less than a year old. He is now almost completely deaf and delayed in development in many areas due to this tragedy. Fortunately, doctors believe that he can be helped with a cochlear implant. Unfortunately, it's an incredibly expensive procedure costing about \$19,000 and that's with assistance from a foundation in Bolivia. There is no doctor capable of doing this surgery in Bolivia, so one must be flown in from Argentina. It needs to be done before he is two in October. Kiko and Carmen are moving ahead with appointments and preparation for this with the hope that with donations from a Swiss couple, our sister charity, and us, Dario's opportunity for a cochlear implant will become a reality. We need financial help and ask for any assistance you can manage. Since there is no deaf community in Bolivia, the cochlear implant is really his only opportunity to lead a semi-normal life.



We have a breakdown of costs for his cochlear implant and post-surgery costs if anyone is interested in seeing the specifics of where your money will go.

Funding for university students. Once students at Colonia Ecologica graduate from high school, there is limited opportunity and funding to continue their education and find a decent job despite the five universities located in Cochabamba. Poverty is rampant in Bolivia and competition is very high for even basic jobs. The young adults also need to move out of Colonia once they graduate to make room for more children in need. That's where we all come in. We provide funding for housing, household expenses, utilities, tuition, books, supplies, food and transportation – pretty much everything. In exchange for these costs, students must work a minimum of 10 hours per week at Colonia to give back to the home that provided for them. They help with cooking, cleaning, getting the kids off to school, homework help, and many other special projects.

We already have three students attending university! Roger is studying computer science and technology; Susy is studying to become a teacher; Favio is studying graphic design. Roger and Susy are siblings that currently share an apartment downtown. Favio, Kiko and Carmen's biological son, continues to live at Colonia to help with the younger kids on a daily basis. The students study hard and send us monthly expenses to document all of their costs. Monica will be the next to graduate and the following year we will have 3-4 more.



How much does it take to help? Not much. A little definitely goes a long way in Bolivia and the students are very economical. Susy and Roger spend approximately \$1-1.50 on food per day. Susy and Roger rent an apartment together for \$100/month. Transportation to and from Colonia costs less than \$1.00 round trip. Tuition costs vary depending on the class and required materials. There are some one-time costs like pots, pans, sheets, etc. as well to get students set up for life outside Colonia.

Here's how to donate:

1. We have a business account with Washington Mutual where we deposit all funds. The account number is 188-380340-5 if you wish to go into any branch location. Cash or checks payable to Charity Bolivia are accepted attn: Rita Crawford at 1420 Ginkgo St. S.E., Auburn, WA. 98092
2. Paypal a donation to charitybolivia@wendellandcarlye.com –.The Charity Bolivia website is currently set up to donate to our sister charity online, but we'll be making it possible soon to link to our account as well.

Tax write-off. With your generous donation, we will mail you a receipt or send you an email from the Charity Bolivia email account – both options work for tax purposes.

There are NO administrative costs associated with Charity Bolivia – every penny donated goes directly to the students.

I'd specifically like to thank Jim Filiault for working so hard on the legal end of things and to Dan for communication and helping supply the funds on the Bolivian end. Thank you for your support and for taking the time to help these wonderful children.

We plan to send out newsletters a few times a year to give updates on the students, Dario and Colonia. Feel free to contact us with questions and forward this on to all of your friends.

Sincerely,
Carlye and Wendell

www.charity-bolivia.org
cb@wendellandcarlye.com

(Kiko's annual report has also been translated and put onto the website. It tells you more about what has been going on over the last year in his own words and you can read this by clicking on this link; <http://www.charity-bolivia.org/blog/2006/12/annual-update-from-kiko-and-carmen.html>)