

# Charity Bolivia Newsletter

March 2010

This past year Charity Bolivia has been filled with many successes and challenges, growth and frustration. We are celebrating our first student graduating university and five more students entering university this month! At the same time, we struggle financially and Colonia has been fighting a legal battle in Bolivia. Through these hardships we hope to gain strength and renew our resolve to provide opportunities to these very deserving students. Thank you for your continued support in these efforts.

**Check out this video!** Amy Burns, a volunteer through the non-profit Sustainable Bolivia, made this fantastic video documenting the programs at Colonia Ecologica. Hear from Kiko, Carmen and the kids directly! She captured the essence of Colonia in 12 minutes. Amazing!

<http://www.facebook.com/l/6a96a;www.vimeo.com>

login- email is [information@sustainablebolivia.org](mailto:information@sustainablebolivia.org)

password: sb



Monica

## Current students

1. Congratulations to Favio who successfully completed his graphic design program in December! He is our first graduate of the Colonia Ecologica's program for university students and is very talented! He created our Charity Bolivia brochure and business cards. Currently he is living with his wife and their infant son just outside Santa Cruz. Graphic design or art work has proven difficult to find, but he has been working odd jobs until he finds a job opportunity in his selected field.
2. Roger is completing his program this month! He will be the second graduate! He is hoping to find computer science work in Cochabamba. He will continue to help at Colonia and with the other students.
3. Monica has two more years of university to become a math teacher. After she finishes classes, she has to do two more years of work in the community to obtain her license. She has very good grades and studies very hard. She hopes to someday have a school to help all of the students at Colonia.
4. Maribel is starting her second year in business administration.
5. Susana continues to study part-time to become a kindergarten teacher while she and her husband raise their 9 month old, Camila.
6. Ismael is studying to become an auto mechanic. He worked for a few years in a mechanic's shop to support himself, and now he is finishing high school during the day while taking courses toward his mechanic degree at night. He is also the one who fixes the vehicles at Colonia!

## New Students



Choco (left) and Bernardino (right)

CB welcomes five new university students! Congratulations to Carla, Rosa, Bernardino, Iris and Nancy. Three of these students have earned scholarships! A non-profit called Sustainable Bolivia is going to pay university expenses and books. Charity Bolivia will cover food, rent, and daily living expenses.

1. Carla has chosen to study cinematography. She has already begun taking classes in this two year program.
2. Rosa plans to study psychology. She is completing the preliminary studies to the program and will begin her official classes in May.

3. Nancy has not chosen a career yet, but started a vocational orientation course this month to give her a better idea of what she would like to study.
4. Bernardino passed the preliminary studies for a career in architecture and will enroll in his first semester in March.
5. Iris graduated from high school two years ago, lived in La Paz, and now has returned to Cochabamba ready to study accounting.

Bernardino will move into the one available room in the shared apartment with the other university Students. Carla, Nancy, Iris and Rosa will continue living at Colonia. Good luck to each of them!

*Please consider sponsoring one of the students or helping with some of the one-time needs listed below.*

### **Current Needs and Budget**

Monthly expenses vary depending on the school and number of classes. They live very modestly with meager stipends for food, transportation and personal needs. Please peruse the list and sponsor one of these students in the area you feel led!

\*Iris, Rosa, Nancy, Bernardino: \$55/mo.

\*Ismael: \$64/mo.

\*Susy: \$80/mo.

\*Roger, Favio, and Maribel: \$138/mo.

\*Monica: \$172/mo.

\*Carla: \$171/mo

\*Rent in the shared apartment: \$347/mo.



Above: Carla (left) and Nancy (right);  
Below: Rosa

### **Total monthly expenses = \$1445**

- One-time needs:
- desk for Bernardino = \$71
  - dresser for Bernardino and Monica = \$71 each
  - vacuum: \$65
  - annual clothing allotment: \$36/student



### **Fundraisers**

Our annual neighborhood garage sale in June was a HUGE success! The grand total: \$1400! Yes, that's right. The donations poured in from very generous people – thanks everyone. We filled our driveway, courtyard, had an entire living room set up in the yard, and part of the garage was filled too. We also sold delicious baked goods and Kettle Korn thanks to Amy, Jill, Kelly and Gold Miner's Kettle Korn. Thanks also to Ron, Mark, Bruce, Rita, Janna, Kelly, and Megan for assisting during the sale. It couldn't have been done without all the help. *We're already collecting donations for this coming June. Let us know when you do your spring cleaning and we'll pick up your items.*

We had a small, but mighty crew volunteer for the Portland Marathon this year. Joan, Amy and Jill helped raise \$300 for Charity Bolivia as course monitors. Thanks!



The Tin Shed graciously allowed us to use their space on “Last Thursday” in July. The heat was blistering, but folks were friendly. The Filiault family and Amy joined us to sell raffle tickets, hand out brochures and talk to folks about CB. Thanks Janette and employees of the Shed, and Lyn for jewelry prizes.

Thanks also to those that contribute on a monthly basis! We need more of you to do the same, even if only a small amount. To meet the needs of all these students, consistent income is necessary. If 140 of you gave only \$10/month we could meet the basic needs of the current students and start on bigger more meaningful projects, such as a permanent facility for the students to learn and live.

## Upcoming Events

The second annual cribbage tournament is going to be on **Saturday, April 10**. Mark your calendars! More specific information will be sent soon.

Bulbs are already beginning to bloom. Flower Power has some new varieties of flowers to fill your yard. Check out the website and place your order. CB receives 50% of all sales. Seventh graders at Mt. View Middle School will also be assisting with the sale of the flowers. Our combined goal this year is to earn \$2500! **The sale starts NOW and goes through April 16**. Order online and have it shipped directly to you!

[http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign\\_id=2091](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign_id=2091)

\*Remember, we are also collecting donations for the annual garage sale in June.

\*Bolivian scarves in beautiful colors are still for sale. \$20 each!



## Colonia Update

Colonia has faced incredible challenges in the last six months. Last fall a Bolivian government organization shut down about eight different homes within Cochabamba under allegations of sexual abuse. Colonia was one of them. The children were removed and placed all over the city, and also had to undergo undue stress, interrogations and physical examinations. The press printed outlandish and slanderous material. The community and parents surrounding Kiko and Carmen came to their defense. Unfortunately, Kiko was sent to jail under 18 accusations – guilty until proven innocent. A few weeks ago, all allegations against him were completely cleared. He still remains in jail, though, awaiting paperwork and other minor bureaucratic details to get in order.

Through this huge ordeal, Kiko and Carmen’s resolve to continue helping others has only been strengthened. Some city leaders visited Kiko in jail, asking him to start other versions of Colonia in surrounding areas. Kiko now feels compelled to start an organization which will help innocent victims who have been falsely accused. Their hope is to move forward, enhancing their efforts to better the future of Bolivia and its children. We are all uncertain of the motivation behind the government’s mistreatment of these children and all of those involved in Colonia. It is not over yet, but hopefully soon justice will prevail.

Without the regular expenses of 30+ children living at Colonia, our sister organization, Charity Bolivia (UK), has graciously offered to assist the university students for a few months until we replenish our funds. We are incredibly grateful for this help since university population doubled! Thank you!

If you are interested in more details about these events or how to donate, please contact us:

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[www.charitybolivia.org](http://www.charitybolivia.org)