

Charity Bolivia Newsletter November 2007

Although the year is quickly coming to an end, happenings with our charity and Colonia continue at full speed. This is certainly a time of year to give thanks for all that we have. We are certainly grateful for everyone who has generously helped with time, money and support since our charity became official. The past three months have been very successful and we want to share that success with all of you. We have been overwhelmed with people's generosity. Don't worry if you missed out – there are more events and opportunities to come!

Megan and Jim Filiault, fellow Portlanders who we met in Bolivia (Jim is on the board of directors), are organizing two additional fundraisers in the month of December! Megan is starting a read-a-thon with her elementary students and their annual holiday beer festival will collect "tips" in the name of Charity Bolivia. Now that's cause to raise a pint! Salud!



Our good friend Jill Hertel ran the Portland Marathon with a fantastic time of just over 4 hours! Although she ran the race physically by herself, many others supported her and our charity. Thanks to Jill's efforts, particularly her family and friends, our charity collected around \$4000! In addition to Jill running the marathon, we had 11.5 people (Emmet at 5 months old was our youngest helper!) volunteer at the marathon expo directing traffic, providing information, passing out t-shirts, etc. Thanks to these volunteers, the marathon committee will donate money to our charity. Volkswagen Credit, Inc., the company Wendell works for, also made a charitable donation of \$1000 to Charity Bolivia.

***From September to November, Charity Bolivia has collected an amazing \$5836.20!!!!** (This does not yet include the money from the marathon volunteers.)

So where is all this money going? First, money will be used for Dario's cochlear implant. After many tests, consultations with various doctors (a special thanks to the Let Them Hear Foundation in California), and even more tests, Dario's expected surgery date is in February. An experienced doctor will be flown in from Argentina to perform the operation. Even with the surgery, doctor's estimate that Dario will probably only obtain 60-70% of his hearing and speech development. Currently he is almost completely deaf, so this will still be a huge improvement and increase in his quality of life. Dario has quite a bit of ossification or hardening of his cochlea, which makes the procedure very challenging and, unfortunately, more expensive due to the special electrode that will need to be used. The new estimated cost of the surgery is \$20,000. Thanks to friends who run sister Charities in Switzerland and England, we hope to cover all of these costs collectively as they must be paid by January.

Second, the donations will also go to Charity Bolivia's primary focus, the university students: Favio, Roger, Susy and Monica, who will enter university in January (pictured on the right). The students continue to study hard and enjoy their classes. During their summer vacation (December and January) they plan to do more activities with the younger students at Colonia. Other than one time fees and costs that arise, we budget 1000 bolivianos (about \$125) per student per month for all expenses.



The year end closes quickly and we know budgets are tight as Christmas gifts pile up under the tree. But please don't forget to add the kids at Colonia Ecologica to your list this year. A sneak peek at Santa's list has them down on the "nice" side. Colonia continues to expand, grow and provide for more children. Charity Bolivia will also need to grow exponentially as our students in university will double in another year! Thank you to everyone again and we appreciate your continued support.

Besos y abrazos,
Carlye and Wendell
www.charity-bolivia.org

If you would like to be taken off the email list, please let us know at wendell@charity-bolivia.org.