

Mark your calendars: E.V.A. Fundraiser on April 26, 2008

NEWSLETTER

Ecuadorian Volunteers Association

"A helping hand for the needs of Ecuador"

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Number 25 — March 2008

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From our President

It is time again for E.V.A.'s annual fundraising event. This year we are celebrating 17 years of being a **Helping Hand for the Needs of Ecuador!**

It is rewarding to know that the money raised at this event will go directly to our sponsored projects in Ecuador. Iván and I have personally visited some of these organizations and we have seen the excellent work they do. Back in November, one of the projects we sponsor, *Hospital Tierra Nueva*, was the site of *Operation Walk*, an Orthopaedic Brigade from Northwestern Memorial Hospital. E.V.A. coordinated this important medical mission that performed free knee replacements in the poorest sectors of Quito.

Since many of the services provided depend on our financial help, we hope you can join us for a fun-filled evening that will go a long way towards funding these efforts. Invitations have been distributed or mailed for this event that will be held at the **Morton Grove Memorial Civic Center on Saturday, April 26, 2008**. Your contributions and attendance are greatly appreciated by us, but, most importantly, by the people we are helping.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mariana Barriga, President

Special Reports

FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON OPERATION WALK ECUADOR

Dr. Patricia Jarrín, Coordinator of Medical Brigades for *Fundación Tierra Nueva* in Quito, Ecuador, has submitted the enclosed correspondence to update us on the recovery of the patients who benefited from the surgeries performed by members of *Operation Walk Ecuador*.

As you know, last November 11th through the 17th, **'Operation Walk Ecuador'** visited *Fundación Tierra Nueva* to perform knee replacement surgeries, **thanks to the initiative of 'Ecuadorian Volunteers Association', whose mission is to serve persons in need in our country.**

A total of twenty three (23) patients received 35 knee implants. These complex surgeries were performed with great medical expertise and high technology by surgeons with skillful hands and big hearts, generous people with immense solidarity and desire to serve those in need, whom they did not even know.

During that week, as we visited the patients, regardless of their discomfort, they were happy for the opportunity to have been cared for by the physicians, nurses and therapists from 'Operation Walk'.

The patients are now under the care of the specialist from our institution and they continue to receive physical therapy. Just a few days ago I met one of them who, despite some on-

going pain is happy to be able to walk. Thankfully, they are all doing well and there have been no complications.

There are still many people who continue to come to our institution hoping to find a solutions to their problems. Unfortunately, the cost of a prosthesis is high and they can not afford to receive this treatment.

We hope to continue receiving the invaluable assistance of organizations such as E.V.A. and 'Operation Walk'. They truly make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Accomplishments

FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

E.V.A. is pleased to report that thanks to your loyal support and cooperation, **Sixteen (16)** Ecuadorian organizations received much needed funds to continue their programs for the needy, elderly, children and youth at risk. **84% of the funds were distributed directly to the following organizations:**

- 1. Asilo San Ignacio de Loyola**
Home for 24 destitute elderly
- 2. Escuela José Amadeo Jácome**
Scholarships for children K-6
- 3. Fundación San José**
Scholarships for seniors' home.
- 4. Colegio María Auxiliadora**
 - Six scholarships K-12
 - College tuition for one graduate

5. Fundación A.B.E.I.

Assistance for terminal patients

6. Fundación Brazos Abiertos

Care: children of working mothers

7. Fundación San Pedro Claver

Dining room for senior citizens

8. Fundación F.A.S.E.C.

Temp. care: chemotherapy patients

9. Fundación Kentenich

Scholarships for children K-8

10. Fundación Tierra Nueva

Mobile Dental Unit for schools

11. Instituto José Martí

Education: children with disabilities

12. Madre Rafaela Veintimilla

Home: orphaned/abandoned girls

13. Oratorio San Juan Bosco

Weekend club for street children

14. Nuestra Señora del Carmen

Pharmacy/scholarships for children

15. Operation Walk

Donation for Orthopaedic Mission

16. Fundación A.L.D.E.C.

Education/shelter for street children

FISCAL SUMMARY FOR 2007

* Support to Organizations	84.0%
* E.V.A. Expenses	2.4%
* Reserved for 2008	13.6%

Future Activities

E.V.A.'s FUNDRAISER 2008

We are pleased to inform you that our annual fundraising event will again be a **Dinner-Dance**, with an interlude of Ecuadorian folkloric dances presented by **Pachacamac Folkloric Ballet**. This important event will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2008** at the Village of Morton Grove Memorial Civic Center located at 6140 W. Dempster in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053, with free, ample parking for our guests. A **sit-down Dinner** will be served at 7:00 p.m. and our traditional **Silent Auction** and **Raffle** will take place throughout the evening. Music will be provided by a professional D. J.

Hurry up and purchase your **Raffle** tickets to win a variety of articles from the Ecuadorian folklore and many other interesting items. Be also prepared to participate in our **Silent Auction** where you will find a variety of enticing articles, ranging from crafted Ecuadorian objects of art to a generous tray of delicious *empanadas* or *quimbolitos* prepared by Clemy Peña, with Ecuadorian flair.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!



PACHACAMAC

Ballet Folklórico

Representing the rhythm of the soul through the movement of our bodies, and the sound of a distant world rushing through our veins.

Two years ago, 12 women of various ethnic and national origins, including Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Italy, Mexico, Mongolia, Puerto Rico, the Phillipines, Romania, Turkey and the United States, came together to form *Folkloric Ballet Pachacamac*, an Ecuadorian folk dance troupe. The group, directed by **Carmen Edith Freeze** performs regularly in the Chicago area. Notable performances include dancing for Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the *Museum of Science and Industry* and, most recently, the *Old Towne School of Music*, located in Lincoln Square, Chicago. Pachacamac's performances have been well-received by the general public and the cultural community. Pachacamac is proud to share the rich cultural tradition of Andean folk dance not only with Ecuadorians but with people of all backgrounds. The Director believes that dance and music represent the universal language of the heart and knows no borders.



Members of E.V.A. pose with Ms. Pierina Correa, sister of the President of Ecuador, when they thanked her personally for her support with *Operation Walk*