



Mano a Mano Bolivia

Social development and Health Volunteering

NEWSLETTER

Mano a Mano Bolivia
Mano a Mano is an NGO with non-profit status by resolution 315/99, consisting of a multidisciplinary team of volunteers working to support the health and social development of Bolivia.

Roads : Work realized in 2010

Our road construction department is working in following areas: opening and improvement of roads, construction and improvement of airstrips for planes, and infrastructure involving the use of heavy machinery.

In 2010, they realized following projects:

Project No. 35. Opening of a 7 km. road "Tojra Collo - Totoral" in the Municipality of Cuchumuela-Cochabamba.

Project No. 36. in the Municipality of Acasio, Province Bilbao,

Potosi: **Cleaning 45 km of roads:**

Butuslaca - Taconi Bilbao (15 km.)

Llallaguani - Villque (7 km.)

Wayranas - Lick (14 km.)

Siquira Khasa - Piarani (9 km.)

Trenching:

For rollerbump and gabions in Tuquiza and Yanay Grande.

Project No. 37 Opening of a 13.5 km road Laja - La Joya in the Municipality of Mojocoya - Zudañez - Chuquisaca, which has a Health Center built by Mano a Mano Bolivia.

Other community work was the excavation of 3.5 km of sanitary sewer trench in the community of Pucara, Colomi Cbba



These roads, new ones and improved ones, are of vital importance for the communication, local trade, and transport of agricultural products, in addition to the use for patient transport in medical emergencies.

The communities have been waiting for more than two generations for the road from Laja to La Joya. Previously they only had a road in a riverbed through a canyon, usable only occasionally for 7 months of the year, and very precarious when passable.

CONTENT

Roads: Work realized in 2010	1
Impresions of a volunteer of Mano a Mano Bolivia	2
Construction of the health centers in Copachuncho and Tika Pampa	2
Thank you, Mano a Mano Bolivia, thank you, Project Dream.	3
Students who meet their dreams	4
Health days, an opportunity to help our neighbours	4



Impressions of a volunteer

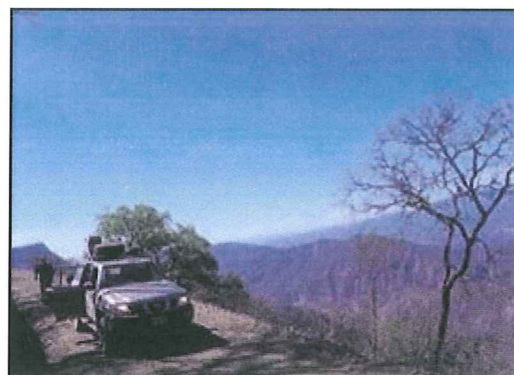
Inauguration of the road Laja – La Joya

We started our trip on Sunday, December 5th, in the afternoon. The director, Dr. Velasquez took us safely to Sucre, where we had dinner and continued afterwards to Redención Pampa.

The trip from Sucre to Redención Pampa normally takes about 3 hours, but the first heavy rain of the season had just fallen, so we had to travel carefully, as there were landslides and a lot of mud on the road. About 5 hours later we arrived at our destination.

During the trip, Mano a Mano Bolivia (MMB) showed that they are not only willing to support the construction of roads, health centers, and schools, but that they also will help others at any time they can. With the 4x4 of MMB, they towed out vehicles that were stuck in the mud.

The next day we continued our way to La Joya for the inauguration of the new road



Travelling in Bolivia always fills me with wonder at the beautiful nature and diversity here. The road went uphill until we had the clouds at our side and the valley far below. We stopped a moment to admire this wonder, and at the same time we could see road No. 37, which we were on our way to inaugurate, on another mountain in front of us. Very impressive.

On our way, we passed through Quivale, where we did the inspection of the current health center, because they requested MMB to build a new one.

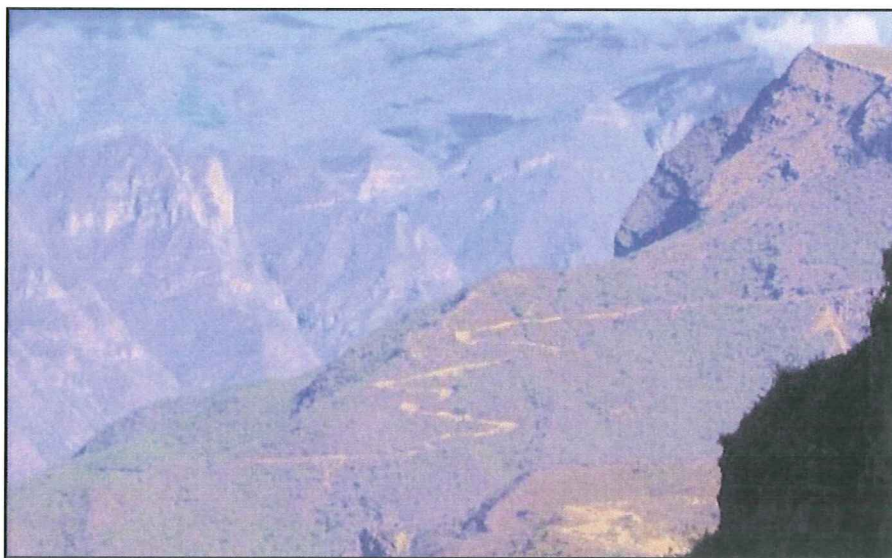
We found the current health center in very poor condition, with little space, without a delivery room, and without basic services. We were convinced of the need of a new health center. After an interview with the nurse and some people of the community, we continued to Laja, where the new road starts.

It's almost unbelievable how they could build a path up this mountain. During the descent from 3000m to 1500 m, over a distance of 13.5km, I realized that it must have been very hard work. Arriving at La Joya, filled me with even more joy, because I could see the benefit of this road for the people who live there.

La Joya is a poor community, without electricity and where access to the village previously depended of the level of the river.

Thanks to MMB there is now a continuous connection to Laja that provides year round access for an ambulance, and moreover they can use the road to transport their agricultural products.

Ineke Plaetinck, December 2010.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE HEALTH CENTERS COPACHUNCHO Y TIKA PAMPA

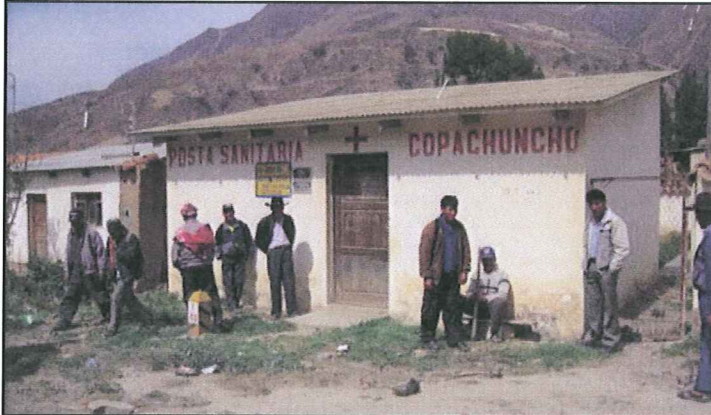
The communities Copachuncho and Tika Pampa are in the municipality Totora, in Cochabamba, located 155 and 170 km, respectively, from the capital. This area is a flat, windy valley, and its economy is based on agriculture products like corn, wheat, barley, beans and potatoes.

Both communities had shortcomings in health services, especially in infrastructure, and they did not have suitable clinics or health centers. Because of this, the peoples and leaders of the communities presented a request to Mano a Mano Bolivia for consideration, in 2004 in the case of Copachuncho, and in 2007 of TikaPampa. In March of 2010, Mano a Mano made a commitment to work on both health centers in this same area, they would be the main financier for both projects. They started construction in July, finishing all construction work in October of that year. Because the two projects were in the same municipality, there was a spirit of healthy competition between the two communities, trying to finish one clinic before the other community. As a result of this competitive spirit, more local people contributed to the projects.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE HEALTH CENTERS COPACHUNCHO Y TIKA PAMPA (Continued)

During the construction of both buildings, there was no lack of assistants. Everyone worked with a lot of responsibility and commitment, all with the goal to have a new, adequate, and functional health infrastructure.

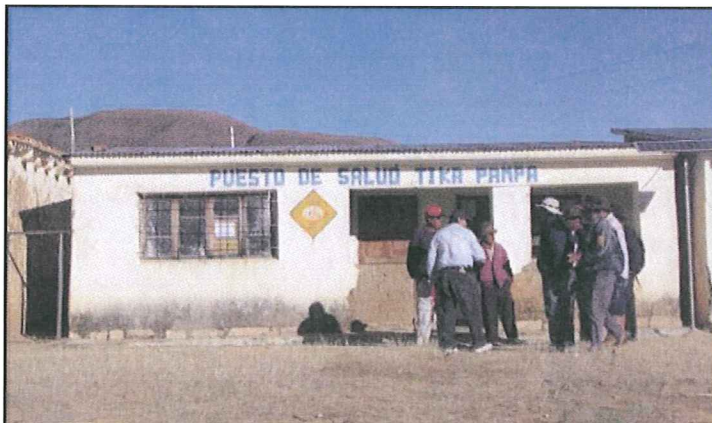
Once the construction was finished, volunteers from Mano a Mano Bolivia and Mano a Mano USA helped set up the equipment. Included in the equipment was a dental chair and an examination table in each of the centers. The new centers were inaugurated on October 13 and October 25, 2010 respectively. The community showed their appreciation and gratitude through musical acts, and presented gifts and traditional food to all attendees.



THE OLD HEALTH POST "COPACHUNCHO"



Nº 116 NEW HEALTH CENTER "COPACHUNCHO"



THE OLD HEALTH POST "TIKA PAMPA"



Nº 117 NEW HEALTH CENTER "TIKA PAMPA"

THANKS MANO A MANO BOLIVIA, THANKS PROJECT DREAM

My name is Jessica Grisel Mollo Condori, I am 21 years old, and live in Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, and I recently finished my degree in Professor of Language and Communication, the third cycle. This will allow me to be part of a process of profound and positive societal change, because children are the main stakeholders of future generations.

This and future achievements would not have been possible without the support of my parents and Mano a Mano Bolivia, because my economic condition is not favorable, and the benefits received were crucial in difficult times. During three years I received the financial support provided by Project Dream.

Becoming a part of the family of Mano a Mano Bolivia, I started an era of new experiences. The volunteer activities helped me develop a positive attitude, and helped me focus my personality, preparing me to face the challenges I will meet in my life. In the workshops that are organized by the project, I learned valuable information, and learned to open my mind to changes in society. I have realized that Mano a Mano is there for those who really need it.

Also thanks to Duluth Rotary for giving this benefit to young entrepreneurs who just need an opportunity like this; Without their support, there would be many more people who are frustrated about their dreams and see their aspirations as far away.



Jessica Grisel Mollo Condori

Students that "met their dreams"

In the last trimester of 2010, nine members of the "Dream Project" graduated in different careers. Each of the "dreamers" (as they are called by the staff of Mano a Mano Bolivia), contributed their qualities and skills to the staff of the organization during their education. They offered their support to various departments and activities every time they had the opportunity to interact, especially during the inauguration process. Progressively, they showed maturity and commitment to completing their studies. They contributed many hours of volunteer work and hours of effort and dedication. They did not ignore times to strengthen friendship with their peers.

For some, the academic career was a bit difficult, but the important thing is that the whole time they had a "helping hand" to guide and help them. We emphasize our gratefulness for the continued financial support of the Rotary Club of Duluth and Mano a Mano USA. Some Rotarians visited Mano a Mano Bolivia and met some of these young "dreamers" in person.

The joy reflected in the "dreamers" faces and the gratefulness of each of them and their families motivates us to continue this support. We know that there are many more young people DREAMING of this OPPORTUNITY.



Belinda Lucas
Tec. Administration



Jessica Mollo
Teacher



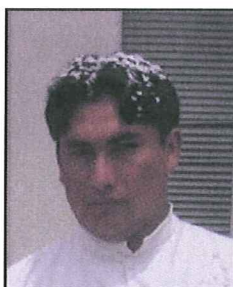
Ever Urquidi Tec. Sup.
Automotive Mechanic



Eloina Delgadillo
Nursing assistant



Carolina Zapata
Nursing assistant



José Sánchez
Nursing assistant



Gabino Aguilar
Nursing assistant

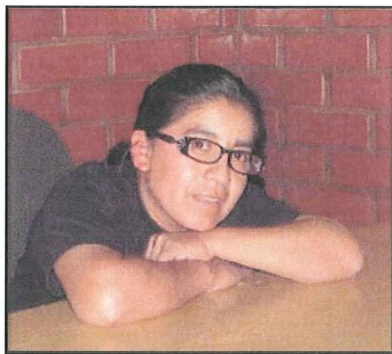


Paola Kanahuaty
Lic. Agronomy



Félix Rodríguez
Tec. Nutrition

Health days, an opportunity to help our neighbours



In the community Asuta in Beni, when I extracted a woman's tooth, she grabbed my hands and said: "Thank you very much, God bless you! I have had pain for 3 months."

I understood then that there are still places that have never seen a dentist, where you cannot communicate without a translator, where people still live in "subhuman" conditions, and where you can only take care of patients sitting on stones or on a simple chair, just looking for the most comfortable position to receive medical attention.

I learned that it's not necessary that they pay you with money, but that a blessing is sufficient. I know that through my work I am helping my neighbours. I want to thank Mano a Mano Bolivia for giving me the opportunity to reach people who most need it in remote communities. I know we could still do more for people if we had portable orthodontic equipment, and were able to perform oral rehabilitations. But even now, with the equipment we have, we are making an improvement in the oral health of the people in these forgotten communities.

Dra. Jeanneth Córdova Taborga - Volunteer



MANO A MANO BOLIVIA

Voluntariado de apoyo a la salud y desarrollo social

Teléfonos: 591-4-4722584 Fax: 591-4-4722585 Casilla 3889 Cochabamba - Bolivia
Página Web: www.manoamanobolivia.org E mail: info@manoamanobolivia.org

Dirección: Avenida Villazón (Carretera a Sacaba) Km 3,8 - Zona Quintanilla, Calle Cardenal Terrazas N° 5 395

For more information, or to join us in our work, please do not hesitate to contact us.