

Adopt-a-Village International



Providing a hand up, not a handout, to break the cycle of poverty

SPRING 2016

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Our Mission:

The mission of Adopt-a-Village International (AaVI) is to partner with strategic leaders in developing countries to provide sustainable improvements in the basic human needs of impoverished villages. We accomplish this by providing a hand up, not a handout, to break the cycle of poverty.

Board of Directors:

Mark Backlin, *Chair*

Scott Perry, *Vice-Chair/Secretary*

Darrell Fleck, *Treasurer*

Maggie Adams-Holway

Barb Beaton

Kori Magallanez

Joe Mitchell

Karen Mitchell

Laura Peterson

Dave Ruckman

Karen Yuan

Letter from the Chair

We are finally moving out of winter and looking toward Spring! Spring always makes me think of a fresh beginning as plants flower and trees once again have leaves. There is a change that occurs that is truly remarkable. AaVI as well continues to change and evolve. Since the last newsletter we have added two new board members. It is with great enthusiasm I want to introduce Barb Beaton and Kori Magallanez as new members of the AaVI board! They bring a wealth of experience and fresh ideas to our efforts to serve those in Ecuador and Peru.

The past three months have been busy for AaVI. In Ecuador, we have begun the process to help a small jungle village called Pumayacu repair their school to include netting for the windows, rewiring of the school, and structural improvements. In addition, we are now exploring new opportunities to adopt other communities in the Riobamba area of Ecuador. In Peru, we continue our great partnership with CONAPAC in the areas of water, education and health. AaVI recently approved dollars for a micro-business project where the local village we adopted will grow and sell lemongrass that will be used in the making of perfumes locally in Peru and abroad.

I again want to thank you, our donors, because these things do not happen without your support. If you are reading this for the first time, please consider looking into what we do; we would love to get you involved. And as always I have to thank our great team, our board members. They are the best and as Chairman I am so appreciative of the dedication they have to make a difference for others. You are truly inspiring. Final note - on July 9th we have our annual fundraiser in Colorado Springs. Please consider attending, or if not, we would appreciate any contributions you may be able to make to the event. It will be a great evening for friends of AaVI!

—Mark Backlin, *Chair*

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Many New Projects and a Volunteer Opportunity



In Ecuador we continue to look for ways to improve the lives of others. We are now working with local community leaders of Pumayacu to begin the process for upgrading their school. This tiny village of 400 is located in the jungle near Tena, Ecuador. The school population is about 40 and they are in great need of school repairs, supplies, etc. Beginning in March, AaVI will upgrade several problem areas to include covering the windows with netting to keep the mosquitoes out (with the Zika problem now, this is even more critical), rewiring the entire school so they have good lighting and wall sockets to better use their equipment, reconstructing a floor in the kitchen, purchasing school supplies and donating three computers. In addition, we are now looking at areas in Ecuador's central highlands in search of a good candidate village to adopt for improvements in water, education, and health.

We are also preparing for a dental/optometry clinic scheduled for June. This clinic will be dedicated to Dr. Roger Allan who was so committed to helping the small communities in the Pedro Moncayo region of Ecuador. The clinic will be held in Malchinque and another village yet to be determined. If you would like to participate in the clinic as a volunteer or dental/optometry professional, please contact us ASAP at: Info@adoptavillageinternational.org.



LEFT: Mark Backlin with a group of community leaders in the village of Pumayaco

RIGHT: One of the classrooms in the Pumacacu school where AaVI is helping to provide upgrades and supplies



Help From the Local Government and a New Project



BELOW: Lemongrass ready for market



On the ground partnerships with respected organizations cannot be undervalued. Thanks to the persistent efforts of our partners at CONAPAC to involve the local government, three water projects funded by AaVI have and will be matched. In the fall of 2015, the local Peruvian government unexpectedly provided matching funds that allowed us to install two, rather than one water treatment system (WTS). Our next WTS has already received a matching funds commitment from the government. Such partnerships in a developing nation are encouraging indicators of progress. *RIGHT: Completed WTS*



There are many challenges to living in Nuevo San Juan, our adopted community on the Amazon River. Due to high water and flood conditions, cultivable soils remain underwater up to 5 months of the year. In collaboration with CONAPAC, we have determined that planting lemongrass (a common and inexpensive crop), will provide a marketable product for families to raise and sell during this short growing season. Lemongrass can be distilled into essential oils and perfumes to be sold locally in Iquitos and in Europe. AaVI will fund the initial expenses, which include materials and training. Through your generous support, the communities of Nuevo San Juan and neighboring Jorge Chavez will be able to undertake a more sustainable livelihood as a result of the lemongrass project.

AaVI Welcomes New Board Members

Barb Beaton explains her passion for AaVI:
“My first experience with AaVI was at a fundraiser that featured a demonstration of water treatment systems for small villages along the Peruvian Amazon River. I was so excited about this new found organization that I joined an AaVI building trip to our adopted community Nuevo San Juan, where I met and worked side by side with many of the villagers! It was because of the impact of their warm and loving hearts, that I want to continue to volunteer and support AaVI.”



Kori Magallanez first learned about AaVI from another board member, and was excited to hear more about this organization's great work in Ecuador and Peru at a local fundraising event. Having been to Ecuador twice, Kori is well aware of the economic challenges in that country and is glad to have the opportunity to impact AaVI's adopted communities. She looks forward to using her business acumen and community relationships to support the board. Supporting AaVI is a great opportunity to educate her children on the incredible economic privileges we enjoy simply because of where we were born. She hopes this realization will foster a heart of giving for her family and friends.

Colorado Locals: Save the Date!

Our annual Garden Party will be held in Colorado Springs on Saturday, July 9, at 6:00p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn more about AaVI's projects and programs, while enjoying amazing food and drinks with friends. If you are unable to attend, don't worry; you can support our efforts in Ecuador and Peru with a donation made online at www.adoptavillageinternational.org or by using the form below. We hope to see you in July!

AmazonSmile Supports AaVI

Do you love to shop online? Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Adopt-a-Village International when you use this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1150987>. You'll still get all the same great Amazon products and prices, but you'll be supporting AaVI at the same time!



We Welcome Your Personal Involvement



Your financial gift supports the life-changing projects of Adopt-a-Village International.

Please detach this portion and return it with your tax-deductible donation.

- I enclose \$ _____ to help with the ongoing projects of AaVI.
- I enclose \$ _____ for _____.
(name of project)
- I want to get involved. Please contact me.

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AaVI is a 501(c)(3) organization; all gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.



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AaVI is going GREEN

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