WINTER 2015

Adopt-a-Village International

"You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
- Unknown

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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:

Maggie Adams-Holway, *Chair*
Scott Perry, *Secretary & Vice Chair*
Karen Mitchell, *Treasurer*
Mark Backlin, *Incoming Chair*
Sam Erickson
Darrell Fleck
Joe Mitchell
Laura Peterson
Dave Ruckman
Karen Yuan

Message from the Chair

As 2015 gets underway, I have to reflect on the great projects we have accomplished since I joined AaVI and anticipate those yet to come. I never realized when I joined AaVI what an impact the experience would have on me, or my view of the world. I, like so many others, had no real idea of what life is like for those in developing countries. The thing that amazes me most about the resilient people of Ecuador & Peru is that they don't consider themselves poor or under-privileged – they are happy, immeasurably so, and so grateful for what they have: family, food, shelter, and always something to share with others (so aptly pointed out to me by one of our great supporters and partner in Ecuador – Dr José Suarez of CIMAS). This will be my last message as the Chair, and I can't express how humbled I am and what a privilege it is to work with such a wonderful people so dedicated to helping the people of Ecuador & Peru. I look forward to continuing to support AaVI for years to come!

- Maggie Adams-Holway

If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a member of our board, volunteering time/skills, joining us on a trip, or donating to help us fulfill our mission, please contact us at: info@adoptavillageinternational.org or by phone at (719) 492-8736.

Save the Date!

2nd Annual Garden Party

Saturday, June 13th 2015
6:00 PM
Casual Attire
(See page 2 for more info)

Peru News Update

Improving Nutrition and Sanitation at the Village School in Nuevo San Juan de Amazonas

In April of 2012, Nuevo San Juan lost its concrete school due to extreme flooding of the Amazon River. Within a few months the community built a new wooden one-room schoolhouse set on stilts and on higher ground. Thanks to the ongoing support of our donors, AaVI is funding the construction of a ceiling in the school, soffits outside (with the goal to eliminate bats), an elevated school and community kitchen, elevated school bathrooms, and an elevated rain catchment system for the classroom. This project is a collaborative effort with our CONAPAC partners, the community of Nuevo San Juan, and volunteers. The community is providing some of the needed wood, two toilet bowls, the water catchment tank and labor. Barb Beaton, Brad Yuan and Karen Yuan will represent AaVI on this project.

As seen in the photos, concrete foundations have already been set in place prior to the annual rise of the Amazon River. Several skilled carpenters are among the team of volunteers and will take the lead in the construction process. In addition, team members will work with the children doing a variety of fun activities in the community and at the CONAPAC Amazon Library.

This is the third collaborative project between the people of Nuevo San Juan, CONAPAC and AaVI. Our first two projects, the school boat and the household Sawyer water filtration systems continue to thrive. Karen Yuan, our Peru Project Coordinator, will assess each of these projects and other AaVI water treatment systems in the area, and explore new opportunities for development and service.

As we reported last fall our partner, CONAPAC, hosted a community water workshop at the village of Jorge Chavez. Thanks to all of our donors who helped us fund the clean water treatment system (WTS) in Jorge Chavez! This workshop and subsequent training and monitoring of the WTS are included in the cost ($12,000) of the water project.

Saturday, June 13th 2015

6:00 PM

Casual Attire

2nd Annual Garden Party

Enjoy an evening with good food, good wine, and great people in the beautiful setting of Kim & Darrell Fleck's gardens as we work together to provide water, medical & dental services and education to impoverished villages in Ecuador and Peru.

Learn about our projects with hands-on demonstrations and purchase hand made goods

Help Us Meet Our Attendance Goal of 100 people!!

Last year we had a great turn out, but we know we can do even better this year! Help us spread the word to get 100 people to attend the 2015 Annual Garden Party!

The Latest From Ecuador

Our work in Ecuador continues to expand. We completed a mission in the central highlands of Ecuador in December of last year treating 1,000 patients in the areas of general medicine and optometry in two very poor communities, Tixan and Caluma. Tixan is located in Ecuador's central highlands, a community of about 1,000 - mainly older adults. Caluma is closer to the coastal areas of Ecuador and was equally in need. Both missions were conducted with two of AaVI's outstanding partners - Metropolitana University of Quito and Catholic University of Cuenca. This mission offered free glasses to those who are in most need and over $2,000 in free medicines. In addition, we have acquired 6 computers to support the poor communities in the jungles of Ecuador and will distribute them soon. For 2015, we will have a medical brigade near Guaranda, Ecuador from 10-18 July of this year. This mission will include general medicine, optometry, dentistry, and cataract surgeries. Our partners in this effort include Rotary and Lion Clubs from Denver, Lions Club of Guaranda, CEMOPLAF (an Ecuador medical foundation), Catholic University of Cuenca, Metropolitana University of Quito, Equinoccio Rotary Club of Quito, North Technical University of Ibarra, and several U.S. volunteers. Guaranda is a beautiful community nestled in Ecuador's Andean Mountains in one of the poorest provinces of the country. We encourage you to come along and participate in this effort. Be a part of Ecuador and help us make a difference!

Volunteer Bio: Laura Peterson

My mom has been my inspiration since I was a little girl. She has always been one to put others needs before those of her own. She has taught me through her good works that everyone has a purpose in this life, and even one person can make a difference.

I have been so blessed in my life and I know that many of the opportunities and advantages I've been given have come from people who want to see me be successful and happy in life. If we all invested in others that way, what a world it would be!

"There are 7 billion people in the world, sometimes all you need is 1."
-Unknown

A Note from the Board: Laura has become a great addition to AaVI. Since joining us, she has taken responsibility for publishing our newsletter, is actively involved on the Fundraising Committee., and is our newest Board Member. Her enthusiasm and fresh ideas are a welcome addition...Thank you Laura for being part of the team!!

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AaVI is going GREEN

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