



Winter 2011

Elena

by Penelope Eicher, co-founder and Board Member

Elena's face was contorted with pain. She carried her four-month old baby, the fourth of her living children, in the traditional *manta* sling on her back. The cheerful colors of the blanket did not hide the whimpering of her baby son. She told us that he has a fever.

Elena was one of the few women in her tribe who had an IUD installed to prevent another pregnancy while she was breastfeeding her baby. With no education, she could not understand the possible complications of the IUD. Three days earlier, she had hiked about 30 miles through high mountains from her home to the closest clinic, where they told her the IUD was missing. She had no money to pay for medications, surgery, or any treatments. She turned to us with worry on her face.



Elena Huaman Gerillo

As we talked with Elena, we speculated that perhaps the IUD became implanted and had caused an infection in her uterus. We transported Elena by 4x4 vehicle to the shortest trail to her home. We told her that we would drive by this same spot the next morning to take her with us to Cusco. There she can be seen at a hospital at no charge. She promised to return to this spot. Carrying her sick child, she walked off with her husband, Honorato, into the mists of these high and rocky mountains. They would walk five miles to their village.

The next morning Elena was not at the trailhead. We waited with so many questions. Why has she not returned? Is she terrified of surgery? Is she in too much pain to make the trip back here? Has her pain diminished so she no longer feels the urgency? Could she have died of infection during the night?

We do not know what happened to Elena. But we *do* know that -- with your help -- HWF can build a clinic to provide basic medical care for Elena's family and all Q'ero families. By building a clinic, we can offer better health and relief to all the villagers who suffer with conditions that are easily treated.

Donations Needed for our Auction

Sporting goods
Gift certificates
Yard and garden supplies
Home décor
Vacations
Jewelry
Fine art
Services
Rounds of Golf

Contact us at 435-619-0797 or
penelope@heartwalkfoundation.org

Save the Date!

**Stories from the Heart of the Andes Mountains
Sixth Annual Dinner and Auction
St. George Convention Center
February 25, 2012**

Join us for an evening of friendship and philanthropy. You will hear stories of adventure and of the forgotten people of Peru. You will hear heart-warming stories of generosity and success, and the love between the North Americans of the desert southwest and the South American Q'ero people of the Andes Mountains.

Dine with us. Participate in the silent and live auctions to raise funds for the Q'ero people. Go home with something wonderful.

Tickets \$40. Purchase tickets at www.heartwalkfoundation.org

heart WALK FOUNDATION

Winter 2011

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Eagle Scout Builds a Playground

by Dane Robinson, age 13

Last summer I had the privilege to volunteer at the Hueco Uno School in Peru. I worked hard to save money for almost a year for my expenses. I was determined to raise additional funds to build a playground for my Eagle Scout project.

Many people tried to dissuade me from my goal to raise all the money and supplies needed. I got creative and called Peruvian Chocolate Company to ask if they would donate some of hand-made chocolates to our cause. The Peruvian woman I spoke with was crying as she said "Yes!" She told me that many children in Peru grow up too quickly, and the playground would let them be children.

Almost 20 volunteers helped me raise \$2000 for playground equipment. We also filled 11 suitcases with donations for the Hueco Uno School. When the first swing set went up, I saw the joy in the children's eyes. It was not even all the way attached before a little girl was trying to climb into the swing. We built the swing from a huge truck tire, and soon there were twelve children on it. It felt good to build something that would last and bring joy to the children. This incredible experience was worth all the hard work.

Youth Open Their Hearts

The little children of the Hueco Uno used to play with old tires, rocks, and dirt for recess. Now they giggle on a huge tire swing, a swing set, monkey bars, tether ball, and a soccer field – thanks to the hard work of teen volunteers from Daniels Academy in Utah.

Six adolescent boys, who struggle with special learning needs, were joined by their teachers and one Eagle Scout to labor for a week in the Andes Mountains to construct the playground last July. The boys used power tools and materials funded by Dane's Eagle Scout project. (See article above.) They worked together to bring joy to the children of Hueco Uno School.

"Our teen boys loved playing with the children of the school, especially playing soccer and pushing the kids on the swing set and on the tire swing," noted Janet Robinson, who has returned a second year with the academy. "The boys came back with a real sense of accomplishment."

Tony (age 16) said, "Going to Peru was an awesome experience. It was great to see the kids play on the playground we built." Xander (age 17) agrees. "This was the best experience of my life. The best part of the trip was serving the school and playing with the children."



The children's first playground.



Even the teachers were thrilled.



Follow the Leaders

The following article is part of a series that features people who work to support the humanitarian efforts of HWF. We hope you recognize yourself in the stories of these folks.

Their story was compelling,” explained Sanjoy Bhattacharya when asked why he and his wife, Benita, support Heart Walk Foundation.

“I first met Tim and Penelope Eicher in 2005 when they gave a presentation about their humanitarian work in Peru. Tim and Penelope saw a need – almost by chance – and took some action. We have seen their ongoing commitment and perseverance over the years.”

“Clearly there’s a strong humanitarian need in the Q’ero villages. The help that Heart Walk provides is tangible and concrete. We feel that effort is worth supporting. The money is not being wasted.”

Benita and Sanjoy are actively involved in the Southern Utah community, volunteering for a number of organizations. Sanjoy has served on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity and for the United Way. You might also recognize him as a competitor in the Huntsman World Senior Games in pickle ball, racquetball, and badminton.

This dynamic couple connects with people. They have traveled in over 50 countries and hosted almost 80 guests from 15 countries in their home through their membership in SERVAS, an international friendship organization.

Benita and Sanjoy have supported HWF over the years, donating to the projects and securing a significant donation for one of the village schools. They have attended HWF’s annual auction dinners, brought dozens of friends to those events, and volunteered for the annual Holiday Gift Wrap fundraiser. Sanjoy arranged for a donation from a local dentist of dental hygiene supplies. They persuaded friends from Chicago, a dentist and a nurse, to go on one of HWF’s health care missions to Peru. They also continue to organize our annual fundraising effort through the sale of Dixie Direct books.

“We are inspired by Tim and Penelope,” Sanjoy continues. “We see that they are kind-hearted people who actually follow through. They have dedicated a lot of time and effort to the neglected people in the mountains of Peru.”

We salute Benita and Sanjoy Bhattacharya for their loyalty over the years. Everything that HWF accomplishes is due to the generous gifts of our many supporters.



Holiday Gift Giving

Purchase a unique gift for a friend or for yourself from the Heart Walk Tribal Arts Store. We meet with Q’ero artisans to select one-of-a-kind products. We pay the artisans fair prices for their incredible works of traditional art. We resell them to support the preservation of their culture. All items are made from natural materials of the artisans’ own land or animals.

Shop our online store for:

- Table Runners
- Wall Hangings
- Coca bags
- Woven belts and straps
- Peruvian hats
- Musical Instruments

Shop the Heart Walk Store
www.heartwalkfoundation.org

You are the heart of all we do!



Gifts that Keep on Giving

Donate a Gift in Honor for the holidays to recognize a special person or family. When HWF receives your gift in honor, we will promptly send a beautiful and personalized tribute card to you, or to the person you indicate, to notify them of your thoughtful gift.

Your donation will help support struggling communities to lift themselves out of poverty through sustainable projects. All donations are tax-deductible.

Contact us to tell us how many cards to send you. Mail a check in the amount of your choice, or make a secure online donation.

www.heartwalkfoundation.org



Zach, age 17

“I really had a lot of fun playing with the children and building the playground.”



Tony, age 16

“It was great helping people.”



Wonder, Concern and Commitment

by Elizabeth Van Meter

Elizabeth Van Meter is a professional filmmaker. She traveled to Peru with Tim and Penelope Eicher to observe and film the Q'ero tribal people in June, 2011.

I was filled with wonder, challenge, and a need to understand. My heart was touched by the strength and determination of the native Q'ero people, and my mind was filled with concerns for their survival.

I witnessed, first-hand, all the love that the Heart Walk Foundation has so generously poured upon these people through the sustainability projects that are meant to enhance lives and improve the challenging circumstances the Q'ero face each day.

I was struck by the need for education in basic hygiene and a great urgency for medical assistance, especially for women and children, in areas of birth control, child birthing conditions, skin infections, and children dying from diarrhea and respiratory infections. Most highland villagers have never taken a shower, washed their hands, or had the opportunity to use bathroom facilities, something I take for granted every day. Q'ero villages lie in remote regions and lack basic medical services. Small injuries can easily turn into major life-altering, and even life-threatening, conditions.

Please join me in supporting Heart Walk to make a clinic for the Q'ero people a reality.

What Your Gift to Heart Walk Provides

- \$1200** Buys a large greenhouse to feed all the children in a Q'ero village school.
- \$500** Buys one year of trout food for small-scale trout ponds in one Q'ero village, where trout supplements their single-crop diet of potatoes.
- \$250** Provides basic teaching materials for one classroom for one year.
- \$100** Pays for food staples for an elderly person too feeble to farm with hand tools.
- \$50** Buys hot lunch for one classroom of children for an entire month.
- \$25** Buys a month of school supplies for an entire classroom in a highland village.

Donate by check: Heart Walk Foundation, 437 S. Bluff St., Ste 202, St. George, UT 84770.

Give online with credit card at: www.heartwalkfoundation.org > donate.



***Our Mission:** Support the preservation of native cultures and traditional community living. Current efforts of Heart Walk Foundation focus on remote Q'ero villages in the Andes Mountains of Peru, the heart of the ancient Inca civilization. We serve the most destitute villages that suffer chronic malnutrition and infant mortality rate at 47%.*

Travel in Peru to Benefit HWF

- "Pilgrimage to the Inner Self" with Angela Mandato and archeologist Dr. Ruben Orellana. More info: angelamandato.com. Dec. 26 to Jan 8
- Humanitarian Service. Sacred Valley. Machu Picchu. Pisac. More Inca heritage sites. 12 days. April 2012.
- Machu Picchu. Paracas. Sacred Valley. Lake Titicaca. Lima. June 12 to 23, 2012.
- Travel with Angela Mandato. Late June - early July.

More information, contact:
J.T. Wills Travel 435-817-6680 Julie Williamson

Volunteer Opportunities

- Prepare and post short videos to You Tube
- Assist with our silent auction for February 2012
- Assist with graphic design of flyers and poster
- Manage our online handicrafts webpage
- Host a one-hour "trunk party" to introduce others to our mission and the beautiful handicrafts made by Native Peruvian artisans.

Contact: Melanie Kimbel at 408.375.0784

Our volunteers are the **heart** and the **foundation** of Heart Walk Foundation.



