



*A Quaker Response to Poverty*

# Quaker Bolivia Link

[www.qbl.org](http://www.qbl.org)

## QBL–US Board Annual Report for 2009

Dear Friends:

In 2009 Quaker Bolivia Link continued to support impoverished communities in the Bolivian Andes. Though donations were down 10% from 2008, we were grateful for generous donations from individuals, Quaker Meetings, and foundations. An encouraging sign was the 50% increase in Quaker Meetings that contributed: a total of 24, up from 16 in 2008.

This past year QBL-US funded village projects in eight villages. We built greenhouses and water systems, and we funded animal breeding projects. Throughout the year we continued to monitor past projects as well. Community members are now growing vegetables, using water to which they'd had no easy access. Additionally some families are generating income through the sale of gladiolas, chickens, and eggs in local markets.

The United States board and staff worked in conjunction with the UK Board and the QBL Foundation in Bolivia. We're proud of this international teamwork. In April members of the QBL-US Board traveled to Bolivia, at their own expense, to visit project sites with staff from the US and UK. The visitors came away confident that donations from the US and UK were being used effectively. Dawn Kennedy, a QBL-US Board member, visited Bolivia in July and saw for herself how QBL brings hope and positive social change to the villagers.

Carla Ortiz, a well-known Bolivian actress known for her philanthropic work, became a QBL supporter in 2009 and organized a film crew to visit some QBL projects in Bolivia. Their new short film will be made available on our website [QBL.org](http://QBL.org).

In 2010 we will be expanding our grant applications to foundations, thanks to the work of our grantwriter, Peg Martin. Most of our income however, will continue to come from donors like you. You have been loyal and generous over the past years, and thus we begin 2010 full of hope for the future of QBL.

Sincerely,

The Board and Staff of Quaker Bolivia Link - US



## QBL Projects in 2009

### QBL projects completed and in progress in 2009 will change the lives of 522 families:

Water and irrigation projects to 253 families, averaging \$327 per family;

Chicken Projects to 103 families, averaging \$383 per family;

Other projects (trout, tarwi, greenhouse, llamas) to 166 families averaging \$277 per family.

### Projects Finished in 2009

**Evaluation of 2004-05 Projects** - We recognize the importance of evaluating projects implemented in earlier years, in order to learn from the past, improve the proposals that communities bring to QBL for consideration, and continuously improve the activities of Quaker Bolivia Link. This evaluation was co-financed with our QBL-UK office. QBLUS and QBLUK Contribution: \$3,923

**Carabuco Tarwi** – 60 families were organized in a cooperative, provided with certified seed, and learned about the Pest Infestation Management program, therefore increasing their gross income. QBLUK Contribution: \$9,262

**Khara Kota Trout** – 20 families are increasing their income through a trout producing project which included infrastructure, training and supplies to improve a local trout farm cooperative. QBLUK Contribution: \$10,803

**Titicani Sehuencani Water** - 43 families now have access to water and apply information that they have learned to improve their health. They attended project workshops and are improving their habits concerning hygiene, health and water usage. They were trained in the operation, administration and sustainability of the system. QBLUK Contribution: \$12,277

**Huancollo Irrigation** - This community of 53 families has a new irrigation system and received training in the management and maintenance of the system. The expectation is that these families will be able to increase their agricultural production by 15% as a result. QBLUS Contribution: \$16,118, Partner Organization: PRADERA

**Canahuaya Chickens** - In the village of Canahuaya, all 16 families have chicken coops and hens, for an improved diet of meat and eggs. QBL also provided chicken feed. The families have been trained in the productive and sustainable management of the hens. QBLUS Contribution: \$7,857. Partner Organization: CEPRODIM

**Sojata Greenhouses** – 26 families are improving their nutrition and income through greenhouses, vegetables, flowers and training provided by QBL. QBLUS Contribution: \$16,106

**Santa Maria Chickens** - In the village of Santa Maria, 16 families have chicken coops and hens, for an improved diet of meat and eggs. QBL also provided chicken feed. The families have been trained in the productive and sustainable management of the hens. UK Contribution: \$4,691

**Utavi Chickens** – 20 families in the community of Utavi now have chicken coops and hens, improving their diet and income. QBL also provided chicken feed and trained the project members in the productive and sustainable management of the hens. UK Contribution: \$4,964

This Bolivian child looks very proud of her chicken.



## Projects in Progress at the end of 2009

**Tupaltupa Chickens** - Through this project, 21 families will improve their nutrition and income with chicken coops, chickens and training provided by QBL. QBLUK Contribution: \$4,964

**Huancuyo Greenhouses** – 30 families will improve their nutrition and income in the community of Huancuyo through greenhouses and training provided by QBL. QBLUS Contribution: \$17,018

**Sora Lupirana Water** - 51 families will have access to water and apply information that they have learned to improve their health. QBL will provide workshops on hygiene, water usage and the operation, administration and sustainability of the system. QBLUS Contribution, \$14,536

**Qhotia Camelids** - This project aims for the 60 families involved to improve the genetic quality of their llama and alpaca herd through new breeding stock, stabilize birth and mortality rates and increase fertility rates and increase fiber production and carcass weight. QBLUK Contribution: \$9,766

**QBLUK, Hucuri Milluni Irrigation** – 61 families will improve their crop production after receiving an irrigation system, and training in production schedules, crop diversification, forage crops and irrigation system maintenance. QBLUK Contribution: \$15,334

**Condo Chejwaya Water** - 45 families will have access to water and apply information that they have learned to improve their health. QBL will provide workshops on hygiene, water usage and the operation, administration and sustainability of the system. QBLUK Contribution: \$24,507



## Why Bolivia?

Sixty five percent of Bolivians are indigenous Andean people. They are poor and marginalized in their own country. They face many obstacles including poor soil, a short growing season and a lack of safe water for drinking and irrigation. There is widespread malnutrition.

The international community often overlooks Bolivia because its problems are not the result of natural disasters, violent conflict, or terrorism. The plight of the indigenous Bolivians remains largely ignored.

QBL funds projects are generated by these communities. We do not impose our ideas, but work with the populace to meet their self-defined goals. QBL provides skilled planning, supervised construction, maintenance and management training, and long-term evaluation.

### QBL-US Mission Statement

Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) is an international, non-sectarian development organization guided by Quaker principles and dedicated to reducing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. We fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects to secure food sources, promote better health, and generate income.

The following principles guide our actions:

- QBL works to raise awareness of Bolivian culture and society.
- QBL seeks to include men and women equally in the planning and leadership of projects.
- QBL does not fund projects that have a religious purpose and neither includes nor excludes communities because of their religious beliefs.

### Six reasons to support Quaker Bolivia Link

1. We respect the people in our project communities and include women in all phases of development. We listen, consult, and work as partners. QBL avoids western paternalism.
2. Our four university-trained technicians in La Paz are all native Bolivians. By working with QBL they are giving back to their people.
3. Every project is painstakingly assessed before it is submitted for financing. Donors can be confident that a QBL project is efficient and effective.
4. We monitor each project after completion. Our technicians periodically check on progress and address problems that may have arisen.
5. From time to time we work in partnership with other Bolivian organizations. We approve these projects before funding and monitor them carefully.
6. QBL projects do not create dependence on outside aid. They promote sustainability in communities by training people to fund, manage, and maintain QBL projects.



## Financial Summary for the Year Ending December 31, 2009

**Total 2009 revenue:** \$ 83,614

- \$ 82,691 Contributions (1), (2)
  - \$ 65,274 from 281 donations from individuals, including Securities donations of \$ 24,065
  - \$ 5,217 from 25 Quaker Meetings and Churches
  - \$ 12,200 from Foundations
    - \$ 10,000 from Dickler Foundation
    - \$ 2,000 from AMB
    - \$ 200 from Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
- \$ 923 Other Net Income

**Functional Expenses:** \$114,036

- \$ 93,206 Program Services (2), (3)
- \$ 14,707 Support Services -- Management and General Activities
- \$ 6,123 Support Services -- Fundraising Activities (2)

**Net assets, End of Year:** \$ 141,463 (4), (5)

### Notes:

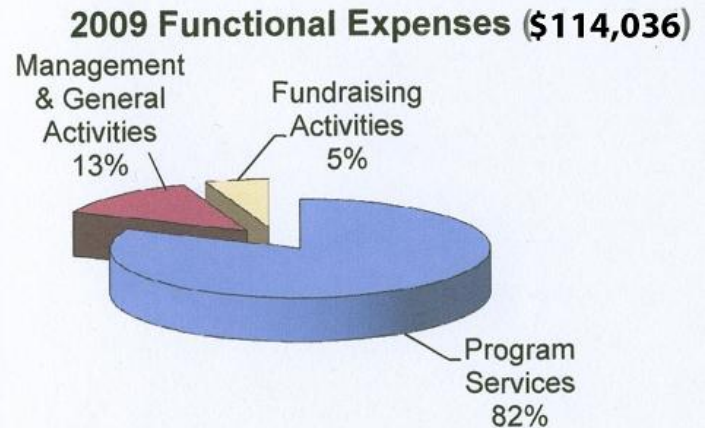
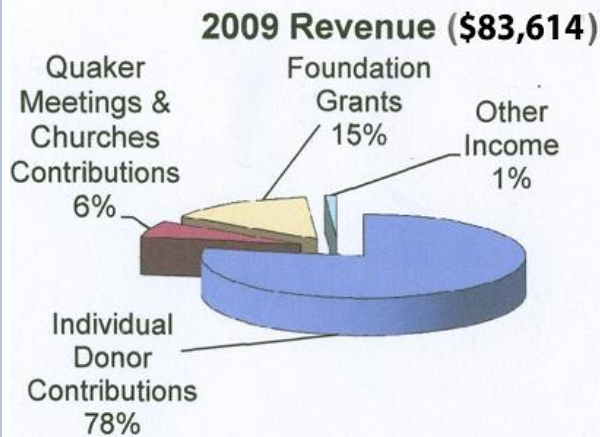
(1) Of contributions received in 2009, \$72,691 was unrestricted and \$10,000 was temporarily restricted.

(2) A QBL employee contributes his net salary as well as the employer's portion of health insurance to QBL. This contribution, which does not cover payroll taxes (employee and employer portions), is netted against related expenses.

(3) Program Services include the following: Direct project costs in Bolivian communities (\$67,766), Local Administration in Bolivia (\$14,410), U.S project management of Bolivian projects (\$9,334), and U.S. awareness education (\$1,696).

(4) Of net assets at December 31, 2009, \$12,555 remains temporarily restricted and \$128,908 is unrestricted.

(5) Net assets were augmented significantly in 2006 as a result of a single donor making a generous gift of \$132,000, at which time the Board decided to expend this gift over subsequent years.



### Some Resources Available on our Website, QBL.org

Our QBL website: this leads to the Home/News page showing recent news items. It also shows the main menu of website sections.

Newsletter archives: Entry to previous print newsletters, e-Newsletters, annual reports like this, and other communications.

QBL Projects: Overview of projects (water, agriculture, etc.) and links to details

QBL Tote Bags: photos of these attractive bags, and how to get them

QBL DVD: how to get this half-hour program about QBL, on a disk or streaming on the internet

Report on Board Visit to Bolivian projects, April 09

Contribute: How to support QBL

Contact us: initiate an email to QBL staff.



## Outreach

In 2009, news about QBL reached more people than ever before.

- Our expanded website QBL.org includes regular updates on QBL activity, detailed information about individual projects, and the capacity to accept donations.
- We continued to send newsletters and E-newsletters to our supporters.
- We have a PowerPoint presentation on DVD which we can send you, or you can access it on our website QBL.org
- In October international Bolivian movie star Carla Ortiz visited some of our projects with a film crew. Her film will soon be available – again on our website.
- 2009 Tour to Bolivia: A Quaker Study Tour of British and American supporters visited our project sites in June. They met the people and saw how their donations to QBL are being used.
- QBL presentations: Displays and talks were presented to Quaker meetings and conferences during the year, as well as community organizations.
- Fundraising: We are still in a worldwide recession, and although we may be slowly climbing out of it the public has reduced its charitable giving. While many non profits have been in crisis, we held our own with a similar income to 2008. This is largely due to our core of regular and generous supporters who continued to write their checks. QBL is hugely grateful for their loyalty throughout 2009. The people in the Bolivian villages who got their drinking water systems or greenhouses in 2009 are also hugely grateful.

As we continue our work to help the indigenous poor in Bolivia, we ask you to help us invent new ways to spread the news about QBL. Colorful, informative posters and leaflets are available and our outreach director and other dedicated volunteers are available to give presentations. You, our loyal supporters, have made it possible for QBL to help thousands of Bolivians in the past dozen years.

## QBL-US Staff

**Robert Vincent** – Coordinator of Operations for QBL-US since 2002. Speaks fluent Spanish. Worked for three years in Lima, Peru with an international relief and development agency. Has attended Quaker Meetings since 2001. Currently lives in Peru.

**Ken Barratt** - Director of Outreach for QBL-US since 1998. Joint founder of QBL in Britain in 1995. Moved to San Diego in 1998 and set up QBL-US. Has led eight groups to Bolivia to visit QBL project sites.

## QBL-US Board of Directors

**Patricia Close** (2008-present) Obstetrician/Gynecologist. Volunteer for Doctors of the Human Rights Clinics, and Amacari (Bolivia) Medical Clinic, a QBL Project. Attends Purchase NY Friends Meeting.

**Roger Conant** (2006-present) Retired electrical engineering professor. Webmaster for QBL. Member of Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Leverett, MA.

**Lois Hackney** (2004-present) Adjunct Education Professor, Wilmington College, OH. Presiding Clerk of Wilmington OH Yearly Meeting. General Board of Friends United Meeting and Chester Friends Meeting, Wilmington, OH.

**Tom Harvey** (2006-present) Retired owner of manufacturing business. Member of Sandy Spring MD Friends Meeting.

**Graham Johnson**, (2004 -present) Retired Federal Government financial manager and CPA. Former Board Member and Executive Committee of Friends Committee on National Legislation. Member of Sandy Spring MD Friends Meeting.

**Dawn Kennedy** (2008-present) Business owner, providing lactation support and counseling. Attends Mount Toby (MA) Friends Meeting and teaches First Day School.

**Daniel Watson** (2004-present) Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia 1995-1997, working in Chuquisaca and Potosi on agricultural projects. Tax accountant for City of Cincinnati OH.

**Gretchen Woelfle, Recording Clerk** (2003-present) Award-winning children's author. Attends Santa Monica, CA Friends Meeting.