

## **A Quaker Response to Poverty**

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*By John Scardina, Clerk of the Board, QBL-US*

**This spring I visited the Chullunkani Water Project along with Eduardo Mamani (Staff Coordinator for QBL Bolivia), Grisela Huayhua (Technico for QBL Bolivia), and Joan Neary (Board member for QBL-United Kingdom). On a beautiful March day on the *altiplano* – the equivalent of late September for us *norteamericanos* – we were greeted warmly by the villagers as we celebrated their water project.**

**The Chullunkani Water Project is roughly 135 kilometers from La Paz and about ten kilometers from Janko Marko Sipra, which is the nearest town. Janko Marko Sipra has a school for children between the ages of four and eighteen and a health clinic, both of which are used by the residents of Chullunkani.**

**Community members were busy harvesting their quinoa and barley crops. Sheep and llama are also raised. Women produce textiles, and there is a building in the community where they gather to weave their various products.**

**A couple of Chullunkani men we spoke to expressed optimism for the future of the community: some families have returned from the city with renewed energy, and the recent arrival of electricity and the prospect of running water make returning to Chullunkani more possible for some who have left.**

**The water project was inaugurated in January and plans are to complete the project by the end of August. Since families in the community are geographically dispersed, there will be 20 wells and 20 pumps - one for each family.**

**The project has been extended to include toilets and water troughs for the sheep and llamas. A drainage system is also being developed so that gray water can be used for irrigation purposes.**



**This was my third trip to Bolivia to visit QBL projects and meet with people living in the project communities. As always, I was taken with the warmth of the people, the challenges of their lifestyle in the *altiplano*, and the important difference we can make with projects such as this one. Please consider these factors as you prepare to make a donation to QBL.**

*Continued on the back...*

## Keep Up with QBL

QBL seeks to reduce printing costs by using black and white materials. To see the wonderful colors of Bolivia and its culture, please visit our website.

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



For mobile users

## Thank you, Robert Vincent!

**Robert Vincent, who has served Quaker Bolivia Link since 2002 and most recently acted as our Executive Director, has stepped down from his post as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Robert has been an invaluable resource for our work in Bolivia and will be sorely missed. We wish Robert and his wife Funeha the best of luck as they move on to new adventures.**

## Quaker Bolivia Link Turns 20 Years Old – 20 Years Responding to Poverty!

**Just over 20 years ago, a group of British Quakers decided to visit visited Bolivia to meet and build links with the Quakers there. They most certainly did not realize it at the time, but they were making the initial steps of what has turned into in a 20 year journey of responding to poverty.**

**In the last 20 years, Quaker Bolivia Link has:**

- \* Built over 365 family greenhouses, bringing a secure food supply to all those families.**
- \* Provided over 1870 families with access to clean water.**
- \* Helped over 260 families with a variety of breeding projects, including trout, chickens, cattle, pigs, llamas and other native species.**
- \* Helped over 50 families with projects specifically designed to generate income, such as weaving, cheese production and flower cultivation.**
- \* Helped over 750 families with improved crops or irrigation systems.**
- \* Helped over 3280 students and adults with educational needs.**
- \* Worked with handicapped people and their families to provide training and awareness of the potential of disabled children.**

**Help us to keep this work going with your donation!**

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**Please note our new address and telephone number:**

Quaker Bolivia Link  
P.O. Box 2372  
West Chester, PA 19380

Tel: 610-864-9505  
contactus@qbl.org

**Quaker Bolivia Link is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. Donations are fully tax-deductible.**