

Help for the Andes Foundation

Uplifting humanity

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Help for the Andes is a non-profit organization established September 24th, 2001, with registration number 899 of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Chile.

The *Help for the Andes Foundation* seeks to improve the quality of life for the Chilean community, Latin America, and other needy parts of the world. As a civil society under ECOSOC, the Foundation contributes to the United Nations Millennium Goals, such as: eradicating extreme poverty, promoting gender equality, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health, and developing global partnerships.

Our mission:

Our philanthropic action is in the realm of health and diet, education, housing, and the distribution of clothing and other basic needs. We also work in the areas of social adaptation and communication.

The *Help for the Andes Foundation* serves as a direct link between those in need and those with the desire and means to give.

Institutional Development in 2014:

Humanitarian Aid and Medical Development:

1. Renovation of the Coronary Care Unit of the University of Chile Clinical Hospital

A feasibility study allowed us evaluate the problems that stemmed from the lack of proper medical equipment for the patients' urgent needs. This project will help to renovate the coronary care unit by providing the latest technological equipment.

Donations were made with the support of Bob Pagett, President of *Assist International* in San Jose, California, USA. The installation of the equipment was carried out and completed between the 8th and 12th of December with the help of Ralph & Matt Sufeld, Directors of *Assist International*, and Valencia Watson, Biomedical Engineer of *General Electric, Corp.* USA.

The donation of cardiological equipment made to the *Hospital Clinico de la Universidad de Chile* is valued at approximately \$400,000.00 USD worth in medical equipment, itemized below:

- 2 Vital Signs Monitor, GE Solar 8000i (ECG, NIBP, SP02)
- 2 Central Station Monitoring systems
- 12 Accessories (ECG cables, lead-wires, Sp02 probes, blood pressure cuffs, IBP supplies)
- 12 GCX Monitor Wall Mount
- 12 Monitoring Electrodes
- 1 Installation accessories, tools, supplies, CAT5 supplies

2. Local, Regional, and International Emergencies

In this expansive project, our team locates humanitarian aid and secures ongoing donations from foreign hospitals and organizations. We organize the redistribution of goods in aid to the defenseless as an important part of our foundation's mission.

At a regional level we coordinate free academic and professional support for underprivileged people in communities throughout Peru, such as: Lima, Oxapampa, Canta, and Cuzco. Through sustained efforts carried out in conjunction with *Crear Ser* and the *Ministerio de la Mujer* we are able to support the most vulnerable.

At an international level we have extended our support to those territories devastated by war in the Middle East by means of sending aid and medical supplies. In accordance with global international humanitarian law and with the collaboration of the *Help for the Andes* team, its affiliates, and others: *Medshare*, *Project Cure*, *Foundation Bethlehem 2000*, and the *World Health Organization*, we have been able to get the support and the partnerships to send donations of medical supplies and equipment for hospital and health facilities. Because of the hard work and sacrifices made across the globe, we were able to send two containers of medical supplies and equipment estimated at approximately \$500,000.00 USD.

3. Disaster Response –Valparaiso fire

Through the sponsorship of the *Falabella Retail Company*, donations of clothing, blankets, food, and other goods were delivered to the shelters of Viña del Mar and Valparaiso for the families who had lost their homes in the devastating fire of April 12th. Together with the organization *Vamos que se Puede*, led by Don Ramon Mazuela Barros and Senator Chahuan, families affected by the fire were able to receive relief aid. In order to support the families in the direst situations, deliveries were made based on a census conducted with the help of community leaders.

Social Wellness and Education

1. The Human Touch program:

The *Help for the Andes Foundation* creates synergy between organizations with common goals to promote health.

With the support of *Laboratorios Bagó*, *Caja La Araucana*, and *Vamos que se Puede*; *Help for the Andes* once again saw Dr. Patch Adams's return to Chile and was able to organize two events: one at the *University of Chile's Clinical Hospital and Faculty of Medicine*, and the other--geared towards students and professionals--at the *University of Santo Tomás*.

Dr. Patch Adams shared his humanistic concepts at the conference for the *University of Chile's Clinical Hospital and Faculty of Medicine* on August 14th. His projects and holistic medical practices can be understood as an approach to medicine based on a systemic view of human beings with exceptional focus on happiness, vocation, and love. Those invited were mainly professionals in the field of medicine, academics, students, and those associated with patient care. More than 2,000 people attended the event.

Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams is world-renowned for his unique aim and vision of the practice of medicine. His success is such that in 1998 the story of this extraordinary person was made into a film starring the acclaimed actor Robin Williams. Similarly, his creation of humor therapy began by recalling extensive anecdotal passages from his life, especially those regarding the practice of holistic medicine. "No school teaches that love is the most important part of life, and no university teaches that compassion is fundamental, so I aspire to develop a medicine that features the teaching of compassion as a priority," explained Dr. Adams. Furthermore, the founder of the *Gesundheit! Institute* confided that, "the worst experience that I have seen as a doctor is solitude; we need friendship just as we need water and assistance," He also underlined that, "if there is something that the elderly or any person wants, it is simply to be embraced." It was through messages like these that Patch Adams shared with over 4,000 attendees his expertise in finding joy and the ability to deliver care which would not only affect the lives of patients, but even more the lives of caregivers, thus preventing the fatigue that ultimately comes with caring for the sick.

2. Volunteering

Volunteers for *Help for the Andes* with affiliates *Crear Ser* and *Vida Digna*, collaborate in an initiative begun by the *Ministerio de la Mujer* to aid homeless elderly people in vulnerable Peruvian communities on the outskirts of Lima. *Help for the Andes* is a partner of the *Ministerio*, along with *Crear Ser*, which is overseen by Janet Muñoz.

We would like to highlight volunteer Jessica Zuo of Harvard University who has completed her practice in geriatric nursing for the elderly; this work was a collaborative effort with the *Ministerio de la Mujer*. Medical student, Jessica Zuo, has shown a remarkable passion for helping the elderly. As she says, “People need the human touch of someone who cares.”

3. Chilean and Peruvian Integration: Fighting poverty

The *Help for the Andes foundation* has made, and continues to make, significant and enduring contributions in terms of health, education, shelter, nutrition, and clothing provisions. Likewise, it promotes the process of social adaptation and improves channels of communication.

We continue to conduct workshops for the benefit of the rural communities of Lima, Oxpampa, and Cuzco. These are collaborative efforts with *Crear Ser* and are presided over by the clinical psychologist Janet Muñoz. These workshops provide incentive for integration, enhance education, art, and cultural identity; as well as promote understanding of communities in extreme poverty. We hope that the youth and the 35 families in attendance will benefit and be strengthened from this training.

New website:

The Foundation’s new web page was created under the supervision of Juan Manuel Rosas and Anim Paquette. The site has been designed, renovated and updated in English and Spanish to give visitor access to the most information possible.

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Courses/Training in 2015 with internationally renowned speakers

The Human Touch: A Sense of Life and Leadership:

In 2015, the *Help for the Andes Foundation*, together with various public and private institutions, will host a series of lectures and meetings held by internationally acclaimed individuals who will elaborate on our collaborative program “The Human Touch”. The main focus will be to motivate professionals and workers to find active solutions allowing them to give special attention to the needs of those in dire social circumstances. The conference series will be intended for professionals from different fields, academics, students, and others working in the related areas.

General objectives of the lectures:

- To present and promote reflection on the individual’s capacity to contribute in specific areas. To seek for more effective ways to contribute to the most vulnerable age groups, including the elderly.
- To motivate those attending to develop the abilities necessary to achieve constructive change within their own lives, in their relationships with others around them, and within their communities.

Speakers:

Gustavo Zerbino

Survivor of the Andes: A Sense of Life and Leadership

Over forty years have passed since what came to be known as the *Andes flight disaster* took place, where a Uruguayan Air Force plane carrying members of the Old Christians rugby team crashed into the Andes Mountains in 1972. The survivor’s testimonies still shock and move the entire world. Through the perspective of one of the survivors of this tragic accident we will learn of personal perceptions towards the illusions, strengths and limitations of what a human being can be confronted with. He will lead us to reflect on how to gain personal strength, reinforce teamwork, overcome adversity, and pursue common goals.

Hunter “Patch” Adams

Dr. Patch Adams’s message of love and compassion will again be passed on during conferences taking place in Santiago and in Valparaiso in 2015. We are convinced

that this will, as always, cause an impact among students, professionals, the authorities, and the general public.

The American physician will also attend to institutionalized patients in medical care units and/or long-term care users from the Valparaiso region who find themselves in social vulnerability.

Dr. Frank Cirisano
Specialist in gynecologic cancer

We have invited Dr. Cirisano to Chile and Peru to support and collaborate on outreach efforts encouraging women to get cancer testing and, subsequently, the needed support. We seek to educate women to understand the difference between cervical cancer and a precancerous condition so they can comprehend their test results. Dr. Cirisano specializes in biology and pathology of gynecologic cancers, as well as the most up to date forms of treatment for these diseases.

Empowering patients through efforts that focus on education and the implementation of a strong support system are essential. Conversations will be about areas of specialization that include: comprehensive care of gynecological cancer, minimally invasive cancer and pelvic surgery (laparoscopic and robotic), radical cancer and advanced pelvic surgery, uterine/vaginal prolapse / rectal and bladder repair.

The lack of effective preventative programs and treatments is one of the leading reasons for the high rates of cervical cancer in developing countries. Without access to viable programs, women from poorer communities generally seek out medical assistance only when symptoms worsen and the cancer is already advanced and thus difficult to treat.

Meetings for 2015:

In April, May and/or August 2015, we will visit several American organizations and foundations. Juan Manuel Rosas Raffo and Rosa M. Raffo will present the foundation's work in order to strengthen efforts and alliances for the furtherance of our mission's goals.

Final words:

Dear members and collaborators, reviewing the activities outlined in this report strengthens our resolve for our 2015 projects. More than ever we are motivated to achieve the goals set out in our statutes in compliance with the laws that govern us.

Our most sincere and enormous gratitude goes out to all of the valuable people and the companies that have selflessly contributed and collaborated to this cause.