

# Help for the Andes Foundation

Uplifting humanity

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

*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 the United Nations Economic and Social Council, *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 2016

### Humanitarian Aid and Medical Development

#### Distribution of medical supplies and equipment:

This year we were able to donate and distribute several containers of equipment in alliance with the Swiss association of the Order of Malta and the U.S. association of International Aid.

- One 40 foot container of disposable gloves was donated for the caretakers of the elderly of Fundación Las Rosas. Another 40 foot

container with beds and bedside cabinets for the living quarters of the elderly was also donated.

Fundación Rosas has 30 homes throughout Chile providing lodging, food and care for 2200 senior citizens, the majority being over 80 years old. As the number of elderly residents grows they are in greater need of support and assistance.

- With the help of the Swiss Order of Malta we were able to donate a 40 foot container of equipment, supplies, medical beds, wheel chairs and walkers to Pequeño Cottolengo in Cerrillos. This center gives complete care to almost 500 children, young people, and adults with severe intellectual challenges and coming from precarious situations.
- Thanks to the initiative of the Chilean Ambassador to Switzerland, Ambassador José Luis Balmaceda, and Doctor Luis Berr, *The Help for the Andes Foundation* and the Swiss Order of Malta donated a generator to the education center of the community of Juan Fernandez (Robinson Crusoe Island), as well as medical supplies for the emergency service of the health center. This gesture of friendship and solidarity was coordinated by volunteers and the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Relations as part of the of the Chilean Bicentennial activities and was delivered in October during a visit to the island.
- In partnership with *Help for the Andes*, The U.S. International Aid organization donated two surgery beds for the Health Center of the municipality of Villa Alemana.
- *Help for the Andes* distributed another donation from U.S International Aid to the community of Santa Maria of a 20 foot container of medical supplies, medical equipment, wheel chairs, and walkers.

### Universal Health Coverage Day:

Again this year *Help for the Andes* contributed with Global Health Strategies and the Rockefeller foundation to commemorate the Universal Health Coverage Day, December 12<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with 700 leading health organizations who unite to urge governments to provide universal health care—aiming to make quality health coverage available to all without creating financial burdens on individuals and families.

Though government health spending has increased throughout the world, availability to quality health services has not—especially in developing countries. The provision of fair, equal access to quality health care throughout the world will depend on the performance of the health care systems,

networking organizations, individuals, and government entities working together towards this common aspiration. Universal Health Coverage Day has become the annual rallying point for this growing health movement.

## Social Health and Education

### Training with volunteers

In December we held two educational workshops for low income young people and adults in the La Pradera Encampment in Viña del Mar. The workshop themes were on: How to Start your own Business, and Basic English, and were given by volunteers directed by Laura Silva, a master's student of CEMS International Management of the University Adolfo Ibañez, under the coordination of the Sustainability Department of CEM-UAI—which has the objective to teach its students about sustainability in the context of the Chilean reality.

### Consultive Status

*The Help for the Andes Foundation* has special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, *ECOSOC*, giving it access to the majority of their subsidiaries, human rights organizations, etc. The *ECOSOC* registry of Civil Society organizations has an online description, pertinent information, and history of the activities and participation in UN meetings of each registered civil society organization.

*ECOSOC* provides a meeting point between people and issues to promote united policies that move toward a sustainable world. In constant communication with NGOs, such as *Help for the Andes*, we receive correspondence and attend meetings and conferences on the pertinent social issues that we are involved in.

Through ongoing communication, our team has proven to have useful knowledge and experience to support the United Nations in its 17 Goals for Sustainable Development—our shared vision and commitment towards humanity and the eradication of poverty.

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# OUR PROJECTS

For 2017

## The Human Touch Courses/Training

In coordination with both public and private institutions, our program “El Toque Humano” will celebrate workshops and activities in Chile and Peru on the following topics: women’s mental health, personal growth, and forming values.

“The Human Touch” program promotes development of self esteem and communication skills to give the participants the personal tools necessary to take control of their own lives with self assurance—to determine their future and to have a positive impact on their families and communities.

## Sustainable Modern Housing Project

This is an initiative of the *Help for the Andes Foundation*. Its objective will be to provide worthy, new and permanent social housing for the most vulnerable people and their families of the Valparaíso Region. At this moment we are waiting for the municipal installation of running water and the sewage system in order to begin this project.

The region of Valparaíso has 1,759,167 inhabitants, with a 19.2% poverty rate; that is to say, there are 337,760 people who live in conditions of hardship. The 2002 Housing Census established that there is a housing deficit of 34%, which mainly affects the lower income brackets. In other words, of the 440,704 households in the region, 149,839 do not own their own homes. Although the government, businesses, and individuals are working on participative building initiatives, there is much to do.

This is where civil societies step in to support the vulnerable and assist the existing institutions in their efforts. Our project is aimed at vulnerable groups and homeless people. The ultimate goal is to help families integrate into society by giving them a sense of belonging—fundamental to later discover personal potential and talents, develop skill competence, and acquire self sufficiency.

The project has two principle components:

- The construction of worthy, good quality, sustainable social housing units
- The creation of a supportive surrounding that gives emphasis to the common areas.

The structures include:

- Houses with between 58 and 60 square meters of floor space.
- Thermal insulation and equipment for installing solar panels for optimal energy efficiency.

The first home will be financed by the *Help for the Andes Foundation*, and the rest will depend significantly on international, regional, and national donors to cover the construction costs.

The project will provide a model for those lacking adequate housing to improve their quality of life, health, and security, as special attention will be given to the architectonic design, construction plans, and building materials.

### International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

As always, we will continue in our mission to obtain and coordinate donations from European and North American organizations to send containers of humanitarian aid by ship and air.

### Closing words

To our Board of Directors, this brief review encourages us to look with expectation towards the tasks ahead in 2017. It motivates us to continue to fulfill our mission statement with the valuable support of the individuals and associations that selflessly collaborate with us. To you all, we give our heartfelt thanks.

Rosita Raffo  
President  
Help for the Andes Foundation