

Annual Report 2002



Help for the Andes Foundation
Michimalongo 107 P #2
Maipú, Santiago
Chile

Help for the Andes
FOUNDATION

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals and communities, through focusing on programs that strengthen organizations, reinforce networks of communication and increase knowledge.

Our primary objective is to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and the suffering by improving health, education, living conditions, communication skills, social behavior and social adjustment. We are committed to giving as many underprivileged people as possible an opportunity for a fuller life.

Our Foundation does not make distinctions based upon race, creed, religion, political beliefs or social class.

Our Efforts

In January we initiated a tour of the south of Chile, including the cities of Concepción, Temuco, various districts of the Villarrica area and other nearby towns, with the object of meeting and entertaining people of all ages through lively shows performed by a program called “Despertando Sonrisas” (Awakening Smiles), by which we promoted values and showed them our love and joy. As an illustration, amongst other places, we visited the Casa de Acogida Padre Hurtado, run by the Hogar de Cristo Institution, which lodges a number of youngsters from high social risk segments between 12 and 18 years old; the Antunehuen Old Folks Home; and the Alsacia Daycare Center for orphans from 3 to 15 years old.

In the South of Chile

In Santiago

With the help of 8 monitors, psychologists, therapists, art, drama and music teachers, we undertook a program in the month of February in the District of Lo Barnechea, City of Santiago, with the purpose of providing assistance to 50 children of the slums of Las Lomas in the areas of education and moral values. This social program included recreation, art and culture, and also served the purpose of providing them with a vacation of sorts, since these children had never had any. The recreational activities enabled us to help them gain awareness of the differences between good and bad behavioral patterns.

We provided all the children breakfast, lunch and snacks, and in the afternoons they were able to go to an amusement park.

In Santiago

Later on in the year, in a joint effort with the Red Cross from the District of Independencia, our Foundation was able to assist 30 children with Down Syndrome through workshops conducted by its volunteers and aimed not only at the children themselves, but also at their mothers.

The workshops were conducted by psychologist Roxana Muñoz, Irene Vera de la Puente and speech therapist Rosa Luz Alba; short conferences and support seminars were also conducted in order to help the mothers heal from their emotional wounds. They were also attended by the members of “Despertando Sonrisas,” who provided entertainment, choreography and clown shows.

In Santiago

Within the context of our social assistance program, a series of Social Assistance Workshops were created and conducted during three months in Villa San Luis, District of Maipú.

These workshops majored on the area of hairstyling, with the goal of providing women vocational training that would enable them to generate income for their families through their work. Since then we have been able to establish that the results of the workshops were very positive for the people who attended them.

Humanitarian Aid

Additionally, during the severe winter rainstorms and with the help of personnel from the Red Cross from the District of Independencia, we delivered food products of various kinds in the districts of Batuco, Maipú.

In the south as Temuco, through the “Pasos Sureños” program, we collected clothes that were delivered to the Pueblo de Dios Church Therapeutic Community for distribution in Mapuche tribe areas suffering from extreme poverty.

In Santiago

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Niña y Patria

In passing, we should also mention that our Foundation arranged the reconstruction of a multi-sports court belonging to the “Niño y Patria” Home run by Carabineros de Chile in the District of Ñuñoa. This court was out of commission due the heavy rains. We also obtained a sports scholarship for a youngster from the above-mentioned Home at the La Reina branch of the Universidad de Chile Sports Club.

Humanitarian Aid

In the area of “Humanitarian Aid” we made efforts towards securing a donation of containers from a Swedish foundation by the name of “Helping Hands”, which included medical equipment and supplies to be donated to a number of hospitals and healthcare centers that serve the poorer segments of society. Wheelchairs, eye clinic equipment, x-ray machines, lab equipment, scanners and other supplies were provided.

In Santiago

In the month of September we organized a three-day seminar at the Santiago Sheraton Hotel on the interesting subject of “Body and Soul Healing” with an attendance of nearly 30 people. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Jorge Veas, Universidad de Chile gynecologist and obstetrician, and majored on an analysis of the effects on volunteers of the loving interaction they provide in the course of visitation services at hospitals.

Among these effects, the most noteworthy ones mentioned were the strength that is acquired by giving to others-that in turn enables us to love them more-and how we can learn to persevere in our efforts without letting ourselves be negatively affected by the sight of so much pain.

In Santiago

Our Foundation provided constant assistance at the Down Syndrome Rehabilitation Center, District of Independencia, with the help of Dr. Rosi Sanfilipo, Mr. Hainz Jurgan, speech therapist Rosa Luz Alba and teacher María Izquierdo.

Some of the help provided included medical assistance, food, cleaning supplies, school supplies, and even an outing to the countryside, where we played games, conducted activities and had a picnic with the children and their mothers.

In Santiago

With the help of a large number of volunteers, we organized the delivery and free distribution of toys for almost 1,000 children from poor families. These toys were donated to our Foundation by the “Helping Hands Foundation” and were shipped in a container. Sorting out and delivering these items entailed a huge effort due to the enormous amount. Additionally, we arranged a donation of batteries for many of the toys, which was made by “Rayovac Chile”.

The toys were distributed among the various centers that our Foundation helps on a regular basis, such as the Centro de Desarrollo Integral El Trampolín, in Villa San Luis; Boys Homes from the “Niño y Patria Institution”, sponsored by Carabineros; Down Syndrome children attended by the Red Cross from the District of Independencia; children from the District of San Bernardo, children from the Pediatric Surgery Ward of the Felix Bulnes Hospital; and children from Christian missionary families. A group of volunteers even made a trip to the north to deliver a donation of toys to a home for female victims of child abuse run by the “Laura Rodríguez Foundation”, in the town of Los Vilos.

Meaningful Christmas

Christmas celebrations were also held at several of the above-mentioned centers and were organized by the volunteers of the “Despertando Sonrisas” program.

We had clown shows, children’s choirs and also the attendance of Mrs. Lara Clown, a Foundation volunteer who lives in Boston, U.S.A. She happened to be visiting Chile and decided to join the shows in order to spread happiness and smiles not just among the children, but also at old folks homes, such as “Mi Hogar” in the District of Recoleta, which is run by Hogar de Cristo.

Special Thanks

It is worthy of mention to state that our Foundation has received a number of donations of frozen fish that were distributed to the District of Independencia Red Cross and the Down Syndrome Daycare Center run by it; the Santa Clara and Santa Verónica Homes; Missionary Communities; Niño y Patria Foundation, sponsored by Carabineros de Chile; the Association of HIV/AIDS Patients; members of Comedores Libres (Free Dining Halls) and many others.

In closing

Dear contributors, the summary of activities described in this report serves the purpose of increasing our hopes and the scope of the work we will undertake as of 2003, at which time we will have laid a firmer groundwork that will enable us to carry out all the initiatives that are in line with the statement of purpose of Help For The Andes Foundation.

In the hopes of bearing the fruit we all expect to bear, we welcome your contribution to a task that will fill the members of our Foundation and the volunteers that help us accomplish the goals laid out in our Charter with pride.