

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

The Help for the Andes Foundation has made it its mission to improve the quality of life of communities and individuals by focusing on programs which strengthen organizations and that empower individuals by increasing their knowledge and strengthen communication networks.

The 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. Our commitment is to give an opportunity for a fuller life to as many underprivileged people as possible.

The Foundation does not make distinction of race, creed, religion, political beliefs or social class.

The Annual Report for the year 2001, details the activities of the Foundation and the work it carried out attempting to improve the quality of life of other human beings. It also wishes to state that since the decree was issued in September 2001 by which the Foundation was granted legal status as a non-profit private law organization, it pursues its unwavering purpose of managing and carrying out philanthropic activities in direct contact with both, those who suffer and those who are able to give those suffering the needed care.

In accordance with its objectives and goals, the foundation acts as liaison between those who are in a position to give and those who, due to their needy situations, are the recipients of that help.

It is noteworthy to mention that at the time the Foundation was just taking shape, it facilitated Dr. Patch Adams's visit to Chile by arranging and securing the contribution of the Marriot Hotel for his stay in the country.

This in turn made it possible to promote his new method of using humor to help the sick, establishing that love, joy, smiles and acts of kindness are useful for alleviating the suffering of the sick and their families.

In time, the Foundation joined efforts with a group of volunteers comprised mainly of university students, who amongst other beneficial activities, participated in various successful events in different districts of Santiago de Chile within the framework of a project created by our Foundation called "Make Them Smile."

Judging by the in 2001 accomplished activities, we can see the very usefulness to the communities and districts of Santiago. Among them, Estación Central, where we offered together with the "Sisters of Charity" entertainment, games and Christmas carols for more than 300 children and their families. The foundation also put on a clown show, a Christmas Choir and distributed gifts at the Educational and Development Community Center "El Trampolín", which is located in the town of Villa San Luis, in the District of Maipú.

One of the events, similar in nature, took place at the "Santa Clara Home," which gives room and care to more than 80 elderly ladies in the District of Independencia.

Patch Adams and the young people of the Foundation—the colorful clowns of the "Make Them Smile" project—were in charge of greeting the attendees to the conference which took place at the Extension Center of the Catholic University, a hall that filled up with more than 1,200 students.

On August 3rd, the "Make Them Smile" project organized and conducted a joyful and entertaining event for Children's Day for young cancer patients at the Clínica Alemana.

The Foundation also cooperated with a "Spaghetti" meal in benefit of the "Santa Verónica" Home of the District of Independencia, which was sponsored by Carozzi, a local pasta manufacturing company.

Several singers and artists participated in the event, among them, some of the more renowned local singers, such as Douglas and the folklore group “Grillitos,” and it was hosted by local celebs Denise Campos and José Luis Briceno.

On Independence Day, at the Ciudad del Niño, another event was programmed for more than 300 children, in which the volunteers of the Foundation participated with their skits, games and entertainment. The contribution of the child folklore group “Grillitos de Granero” was secured by the Foundation.

Special mention should also be made to an event that was organized at the “Borde de Río” facilities in the District of Vitacura, in benefit of a three-year-old boy by the name of Nicolás Castro, who suffers from a severe heart disease.

This event was called “Bread, Champagne and Chocolate” and it brought joy and relief to the little boy and the attendees. It ended with a musical show by the clowns of our Project.

However, the Foundation also carried out other activities of helping these and other needy communities, which we know would not have been possible at without the generous help of the local business community.

It is noteworthy to mention the generous support of a local businessman and his wife, who throughout 2001, donated us 6,000 kilos of fish brought from the south of Chile, which we then distributed among the following centers: El Trampolín; Hogar Santa Verónica; Hogar Santa Clara; Fundación Niño y Patria, from Carabineros; Hogar Sagrado Corazón; the Chilean Red Cross; Group of People infected with HIV-AIDS; Centro Abierto Doctora Eloísta Díaz; Metodista y Pentecostés Church; the Catholic Church and other communities of Christian missionaries. All of these institutions received this support as contribution towards the nutritional needs for the children, the sick and the elderly they attend.

It should also be mentioned in this Annual Report that while the Foundation was submitting its application for legal status, it was already initiating the important project of requesting help for acquiring the specialized and costly equipment needed for the Intensive Care Unit of the Cardiology Ward of Roberto del Río Hospital, a local public medical facility.

Towards the end of 2001, contacts established with Hospital authorities and discussions held with the object of securing the mentioned help have brought us closer to the crystallization of this project in benefit of the Hospital and the community it attends.

The Foundation’s accomplishments regarding the creation and development of Workshop Programs, such as the one conducted at the “Niño y Patria” Foundation, pertaining to “Carabineros de Chile”, where we carried out psychodrama workshops majoring in the areas of self-esteem, self-awareness and interpersonal relationships, as well as laughter-therapy are also expedient to mention in this report.

These workshops promoted the discovery and development of laughter and good humor as a source of love and hope.

We also participated in an interactive teenager workshop called “I can,” with the attendance of 12 youngsters ages 13 to 16, which was conducted by María del Carmen Formoso Zaballa, psychologist graduated at the Uruguayan Catholic University, and Carlos Tapia, Drama Teacher.

The workshop took place between August 29th and December 17th, with a total of 15 weekly sessions held on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The general goal was to promote behavioral risk- prevention among teenagers.

The content and methodology of these workshop was geared toward promoting self-awareness, increasing self-esteem, developing social skills and looking for alternative ways to resolve conflict without violence. The workshops utilized drama techniques and a psychoanalytical reference scheme.

Upon finalization of the workshop, the following conclusions were drawn: The group of teenagers in question did not exhibit any severe personality disorders; self-esteem, assertiveness and relationships amongst the members of the group improved; the atmosphere within the “Carabineros” boarding school provided positive influence, as the youngsters there have their needs for affection, a sense of belonging and security met, which is crucial at this stage of their growth.

It is also worthy of mention that in the case of the Uruguay Home of Ciudad del Niño and in the workshops with the mothers of the children lodged at Centro de la Corporación de Educación y Desarrollo Popular El Trampolín, a group of volunteers of the Foundation comprised by students of Central University and Los Andes University fostered good communication, affectionate interrelationships, dialogue and problem-solving skills.

These people were encouraged to adopt a more positive approach facing their personal situations, marked by extreme poverty, drug-addiction and crime. Values were promoted encouraging people to abide by the law. Wrong attitudes were detected and ways were sought to overcome them. The same type of tasks were undertaken by the Foundation at the Mother’s Day celebration at the same Center ‘El Trampolín’, with two international artists as hosts. Additionally, food and flowers were donated to the mothers.

Also, a donation of a printing job for 300 books and 2,500 Christmas cards was requested and secured.

Thanks to the contributions by private citizens in December 2001, printing was requested and secured for 2,500 greeting cards for Ciudad del Niño, Hogar de Uruguay, which were created and designed by the children themselves with the help of Mirian Vargas, one of the volunteers that offered her services for that particular workshop.

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 in 2002, at which time we will have laid a firmer groundwork enabling us to carry out initiatives in line with our purpose.