

Adopt-a-Village International

Providing a hand up, not a handout, to
break the cycle of poverty

Spring 2010 Newsletter

In this Issue:

Letter from Chairman
Ecuador Dental Trip
AaVI on LinkedIn
Doherty Stories

Board of Directors:

Darrell Fleck Chairman
Scott Perry Secretary
Sam Erickson Treasurer
David Campbell
Linda Johansen
Joe Mitchell
Karen Mitchell
Dave Ruckman
Karen Yuan
Maggie Adams-Holway

Our Mission:

The mission of Adopt-a-Village International (AaVI) is to partner with strategic leaders in developing countries to provide sustainable improvements in the basic human needs of impoverished villages. We accomplish this by providing a hand up, not a hand out, to break the cycle of poverty.

Letter from the Chairman

Consider the number 20. If you are ten, 20 appears to be the perfect age. When you reach 55, you wish you had the body you had when you were 20. 20 years ago Reagan was staring down communism. 20 months ago we elected our first black president.

Please consider the number 20 while I review with you what Adopt-a-Village International has accomplished in its first 7 years:

- Over 840 wheelchairs have been delivered, not only providing mobility to those in need, but of equal importance freedom to the entire family. We estimate that more than 7,500 recipients and family members' lives have been improved through this effort.
- Seven fresh clean water wells have been installed providing clean water to more than 300 families and 1,400 individuals. Clean water dramatically reduces the death rate of the children, while allowing the adults to lead healthier, more productive lives.
- Four directly- and two indirectly-supported and led dental trips have been completed, resulting in over 1,000 individuals enjoying healthier, pain-free (oral) lives.
- Six medical trips have been completed with well over 1,000 patients being treated, mostly for parasites and worms...directly tying back to the need for fresh water and our efforts to install wells.
- Fourteen in-country AaVI-led trips have occurred, resulting in 175 lives transformed, after seeing and experiencing third-world poverty.

In seven short years, AaVI has improved the lives of more than 10,000 individuals in Ecuador and Peru. One can consider our efforts a drop in a bucket or insignificant. Having had the privilege to meet hundreds of those who have been "given a hand up, not a handout," I can personally assure you, AaVI is making a difference. I ask you again to consider the number 20.

The number 20. Twenty means something very different and hugely more important to me. With just 20 dedicated volunteers, AaVI has accomplished all of this. Imagine what we could accomplish with your involvement! Please visit www.adoptavillageinternational.org to see how YOU can make a difference, whether it includes going on a trip, donating your skills or helping us financially.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 26599,
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Phone: 719-492-8736

www.adoptavillageinternational.org

Darrell Fleck

Ecuador Dental Expedition August 18-29th

Consider joining Adopt-a-Village International in Ecuador in late August. Participants will focus on providing four to five days of dental services to rural villages in Ecuador. Additionally, we plan to spend three to four days sightseeing or perhaps visiting the jungle. Previous medical or dental experience is not necessary to add value to the clinic. Team members need only a great attitude, a sense of adventure and a love of people to participate. Cost of the trip will be determined soon but is estimated to be \$2,500 to \$3,200 pp and will include all travel and tour expenses. Currently there are four spots remaining. Please contact Scott Perry for more information at (719) 548-1618 or scottperry@q.com.



AaVI is now on LinkedIn



Okay how many people just thought "what is this about linking?" LinkedIn is an interconnected network of experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries and 200 countries. Our organization is on LinkedIn not only to spread the word about AaVI but also allow supporters/volunteers of AaVI to create an online network.

If you have a LinkedIn account you can simply search for AaVI and then join our group. If you don't have an account find out more about LinkedIn and create an account at www.linkedin.com

Doherty High School Peru Trip 2009



I've never experienced the kind of communication obstacles that I found in Peru. My limited Spanish could only help me so much when the village children came running, rattling off questions faster than I could think. How do you build relationships and show love to them when you truly cannot talk to them? You overcome it. I found different ways of communication. They loved to play games so we taught them games. They have never heard of games like "duck, duck, goose" or "red light, green light," simple games that we had grown up with. We didn't know how to say duck or goose so we improvised and played "cat, cat, dog!" They didn't know why they touched their nose when I said, "Simon dice, toque tunariz" but they laughed anyway, whether at me or the game, I'll never know. The game they loved the most was soccer, and they absolutely beat us every time. But it wasn't about the games. We built friendships with the kids, relationships that will last longer than any grammatically correct conversation we could have.

Bailey Skiba – Doherty High School



Our trip to Peru was split into two halves – the first was spent off of the Amazon River where we traveled to small villages teaching them about health and hygiene. The second part was spent touring Cusco and visiting Machu Picchu. In between however, we spent a memorable night in Iquitos.

Some of our team was privileged to stay the night with sponsor families from the Iquitos Rotary Club. I was honored to be one of them. Two other girls and I met up with the family and went to a college soccer game. It was amazing to be part of that culture – we were doing what the locals were doing. On the way back to their house, we got to know the family better. The father barely knew English but his daughter was practically bilingual. I was overjoyed when the father announced that we were all going to speak only Spanish the rest of the night.

After a delicious home cooked meal, we were able to go swimming in their pool and then get some dance lessons to various styles of Spanish music.

My friend and I, who are nowhere near fluent, knew enough to get our points across in our conversations that night. It was then I realized how much I love the Spanish language. Being able to take part in another culture and immerse oneself in it, actually understanding what was going on, was an amazing feeling. It was great to see how well I could communicate already, and I didn't know much at the time. It is exciting to imagine visiting a Spanish speaking country again when I am fluent someday.

The next morning, I woke up to the most beautiful and breathtaking sunrise I have ever seen. The family lived on a lake and the way the sun hit the water and pier were amazing. I had a difficult time believing it was real.

Luckily I captured it on my camera and I look at that picture almost every day. That overnight stay was by far the most extraordinary night of the entire trip because of the cultural experience we were able to be part of. This was so much fun!

Joelle Amoroso - Doherty High School



Adopt a Village International
P.O. Box 26599
Colorado Springs, CO 80936



Your Donations can provide:

- **\$50 – Provides daily multi-vitamins for 1 year for 5 children**
- **\$100 - Provides new prescription eyeglasses for 10 people**
- **\$250 - Provides antibiotics & de-worming meds for 100 people**
- **\$500 - Provides oral hygiene kits for 100 children**
- **\$750 - Provides the capital to start 10 small businesses**
- **\$1,000 - Provides dental care for 150 people**
- **\$2,500 – Provides half of the shipping cost of a 40 ft. container of desperately needed medical supplies and equipment.**
- **\$5,000 - Purchases a well to provide clean water for 500 people**
- **\$10,000 - Outfits a small hospital near Iquitos**