



Hand in Hand Trust

Helping children on to the road out of poverty

NEWSLETTER 2010 no.1

A Time of Change for Hand in Hand



For 13 years Hand in Hand has been providing quality nursery care for babies and young children in some very poor communities in Peru. In this time more than 1,500 children have had a real foundation of health, wellbeing, care, play, creativity and learning to take them on to fulltime education and the chance of a future.

Hand in Hand, through the knowledge, expertise and dedication of Jose Masters, the founder and director, has taught more than 80 women from local communities to work together to provide high quality care for all children in the nurseries, to support parents with advice on hygiene, health, nutrition and child development. All aspects of nursery care have been written in the Manual by Jose and ensure high standards and attention to all practical details. This year Hand in Hand has seen its income diminishing. Some project grants have now come to an end at the same time that economic crisis and recession in the UK and in Peru has meant that our fundraising has only half the spending power compared with a couple of years ago. This year Trustees have been intent on enabling the work in Peru to become sustainable.

AND NOW.... Hand in Hand can see that the staff in Peru are fully confident and able to run their nurseries. Talking to parents on her last visit to Peru, Jose found that they were keen to learn more in order to support the running of the nurseries that they value so much. Talking with trusted community leaders, such as Fr Giovanni in Arequipa, Pastor Archimedes and the Mayor, Sr Domingo in Yurimaguas, Jose found that they were keen to support the nurseries to become fully embedded and owned within its community.

AND SO.... on 15th May the Trustees took the big decision to support the current nurseries in Yurimaguas, Arequipa and Lima to become community based and to develop their own independence.

In Arequipa the nurseries will continue as before but through direct arrangements with local parish, who supported the nursery development from the very beginning.

In Lima the team of nursery coordinators, including Miriam, Sylvia, Sandra, are taking up the challenge of taking collective ownership for the running of the nursery.

In Yurimaguas they are still going to need a lot of help.

Meanwhile Hand in Hand continues to fundraise and send out funds each month to cover wages and running costs and to provide ongoing support through this time of transition through Carlos Silva, the administrator in Peru. Throughout this time young children are continuing to receive the full daily care they need so badly.

Hand in Hand Trust is launching a new sponsorship initiative of "KIDS AWAKE". Details will be published on the website.

Many of our supporters have welcomed this change as it enables all those elements that make Hand in Hand nurseries so special (the love, the music, the laughter, the play, the care, the learning and the mealtimes) to properly belong to communities in Peru. We know that the nurseries are real hubs of life and hope for young families and are more confident that they will be able to continue long into the future.



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A SPONSORED CHALLENGE FOR HAND IN HAND TRUST Arctic Challenge 2010

On February 11th. 2010 Martin Beardall, Hazel Campbell and Jessica Beardall flew to Alta in northern Norway, 200 miles inside the Arctic Circle. Our mission was to cross the high Arctic Finnmark Plateau, a 7 day and 6 night camping trip led by explorer Fiona Thorniwell. Fiona was the first woman to reach the Antarctic South Pole solo, we were in safe hands. Departing Alta via the hamlet of Stilla, we travelled on ski, each towing a 35 kg sledge. Gradually ascending to the high Arctic Finnmark Plateau, our route would follow a marked but disused summer postal route leading to the small "Sami" town of Karasjok. The 120km journey would require 6 hours of active travel per day, stopping every hour to "re-fuel" on high calorific foods such as nuts and chocolate. At night we would work together as a team to create a safe and comfortable camp. The tent floor was the ice was sat on, that was where we slept. You would wake in the same outside temperature with ice in your hair and up your nose. It was not pleasant. The journey began with temperatures between -8 to -12, these are comfortable at night but windy by day. Along the way we crossed numerous frozen lakes including "lesjav`ri" which is over 7 miles across! The frozen lakes would lead us to the approach of the Plateau and then it got really cold! On day 4 we began the climb up the Plateau at sunlight, the protracted sunrise and sunsets has an effect of pink light and the scenery was truly stunning. Daylight was at a premium and some travel required torchlight. Now the temperatures hit -25 and the wind had stopped, we had to reach the next camp before dark and time was beginning to run out and we were becoming exhausted. We made camp, it was colder, it was -35 and we were beginning to feel it. We had to constantly "wing" our arms to get blood to our extremities. We knew that we had to cross the Plateau and tomorrow we would descend through the tree line of the Boreal Forest to a frozen river valley. It was now -38, if you didn't keep moving you just got cold and exhaustion seemed a better alternative. We had one more camp, only 4 miles from where we would finish in Karasjok. We had made camp on the frozen river bed, there was a herd of reindeer and a magnificent display of Northern Lights, and it didn't seem real. Inside the small tent we had 3 stoves on, two on a small table and one on the floor. Suddenly the flame from one stove flashed to another and within seconds both stoves violently flared up. We panicked fearing the fuel cylinder would explode and evacuated through the small opening in record time. Now, without heat and exhausted we decided to call for help. Our rescue could not reach us on the riverbed, we had to disassemble the camp and walk a further 3 miles to an agreed point .It was over. We came through it and all we wanted was the warm lodge and a shower.

We raised over £6000 for the Hand in Hand Trust. I don't know what our next challenge will be, but it will be warmer!

Martin Beardall.

The trustees of Hand in Hand Trust give a big thank you and "warm congratulation".

