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# COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)

Summer 2013

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## Autism Specialist Now Visiting NC

Elida Hildago, Autism School Administrator from La Paz-arrived June 18 to visit facilities that offer services to children with Autism Spectrum disorder. July 14. Her first week took place in Raleigh, visiting many centers and schools that serve autistic children. The other two weeks were in Chapel Hill, primarily at Frank Porter Graham. Her schedule, with collaboration from UNC faculty, included Wake County schools, Carolina Institute for Development Disabilities program, Autism Society, Meredith college, F.P. Graham School in Chapel Hill, UNC-G. Several families provided homestays, along with activities outside of her project theme.

**On Friday, July 12,-all Partners members and others involved with her visit were invited to a social at the home of Kitty Stalberg.**



*Elida Hidalgo and Mariela Maldona*



*Guests at the social event at Kitty Stalberg's home*

## NCPOA Member Traveled to Bolivia to Speak on Green Building

One of the newest members of NC-Bolivia Partners, **Darren Legge**, traveled to Bolivia in May and June to deliver



a series of conferences on green building. Speaking at five universities and the Cochabamba Institute of Architects, Darren reached over 750 people with his training titled "Residential Green Building Science, Programs, and Tools." He also spoke with government officials, environmental NGOs, and local media to discuss opportunities for promoting sustainable development on a large scale.

Darren has performed more than 1,500 home performance inspections and overseen energy auditors in over 30 states. He is a certified International Green Rater and Quality Assurance Designee for the U.S.

Green Building Council's LEED for Homes certification program, which is currently expanding to over 120 countries. Darren was able to meet with GBC representatives in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz to exchange ideas about the development of a green homes rating system for use in Bolivia. His goal was to not only share his knowledge of green buildings in the U.S., but also empower Bolivians to create a locally appropriate system and connect them with resources and opportunities for further training.

**The MidYear Meeting of the NC Partners of the Americas June 15** took place at the FedEx Global Education Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill The Board met from 9:30 to noon and the general meeting followed lunch)

Agriculture: Steve Gibson gave an update on the stoves project, reporting that he went to nine schools and presented sessions on how to use the stoves. He also proposed sending seeds to Cbba with extra funds .

Medical Mission Report: Carlos reported that the largest team ever (12 professionals) participated in surgical team visit this past March. With over 100 procedures performed, a grand total of 820 surgeries have been performed through the project valued at more than \$500,000 in services and equipment. Carlos went early to Bolivia to make arrangements with customs and help plan for the autism project with a German group in La Paz. He also met with WHO and PAHO representations related to the autism project. Marlene will provide follow-up. The medical team is still interested in bringing a laproscopic surgeon to Bolivia. Hank suggested we keep Dr. Calvo involved. He was Jimmy Montano's mentor and is head of oncology surgery at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sports: The board discussed picking up the Sports in the Barrios project from Travis Feezel who was unable to carry it through. March agreed to catch up on where the project stands to set up sports programs in the barrios and train sports trainers from the university.

### **What Works Conference in Colorado May 22-24**

#### **Partners' Chapters Explore What Works in Voluntary Service**



Read about it at <http://www.partnersoftheamericas.net/2013/05/partners-chapters-explore-what-works-in.html>

Full slide show of the event at

<https://plus.google.com/photos/105094794929731082104/albums/5884174348511556561?authkey=CNDj59-vhdLHHg>*In the interest of letting members get acquainted with some of the Cochabamba Partners as well, we are presented brief descriptions of them, along with their photo. This was begun last issue of the newsletter, with Rosario Claros, Marlene Mercado, and Silvia Quiroga. In this issue we continue with Monica Niño de Guzman, general Secretary, and Lupe Buendia, Vice President.*

### **American Youth Leadership Program to Paraguay**

In mid-July, 18 youths (ages 15-17) and 3 mentors who had been selected from various states in the U.S. traveled to Washington, DC for orientation and training in the first leg of their month-long involvement in this program funded by the Department of State. Then they traveled to Paraguay for three weeks of gaining firsthand knowledge of foreign cultures and examining globally significant issues, such as the environment and climate change, food security and nutrition, the role of the media, and science and technology.

The American Youth Leadership Program is a leadership training exchange program for U.S. high school students and adult mentors. Participants travel abroad to Programs involve homestays with local families, language lessons, leadership training, and community service opportunities. Participants implement a follow-on



project in their communities once they return home. [See more at: [exchanges.state.gov/us/program/american-youth-leadership-program](http://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/american-youth-leadership-program)] Other such programs have placed young people in international experiences in Samoa, Cambodia, Singapore, Peru, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uganda.

The young people and mentors were selected through an application process. Each had experience in volunteering in their communities, and were able to speak some Spanish. The mentors were interviewed partly in Spanish, and needed to demonstrate good proficiency in the language. The youths had not, for the most part, traveled outside the U.S.A., but mentors had experience with travel to or living in another country. The youth represented North Carolina, Colorado, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, Kansas, Minnesota, and Washington DC. Three of the four from NC are students of Rick Whitmore! Thanks Rick, for helping to prepare such good candidates!

As an example of the strength of volunteering that these young people offer, here's what Jake Federowski of Minnesota said "[A] favorite thing to do is volunteer! I am the President of my school's National Honors Society, and when I am not working, doing homework, acting, taking pictures, eating, or sleeping, I am volunteering! I have organized/helped with multiple blood drives, coordinated food drives, helped elementary kids, spent hours in our theatre helping with everything, and done many other smaller projects within my school and community."



*The four AYL P-ers from NC: McKenzie Maddox, Maggie Cardaropoli, Lindsay Carey, Nathaniel Vang, and the 3 mentors*

We all started off in Washington DC for 5 days of orientation and training dealing with issues relating to the logistics of being in Paraguay, means and resources for developing volunteer projects, and a time to get to know one another a bit. There was opportunity to visit with State Department representatives, hear presentations by several of the POA staff, and have participatory workshop sessions. We also visited the American History Museum of the Smithsonian, Viet Nam memorial, and memorials of MLK, Jr., Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR. We played Frisbee on the South Lawn of the White House, and had supper one night at the legendary Ben's Chili Bowl.



*Abraham Cisne of POA leads an orientation session*



*The group visits the White House and notable DC monuments*



*Paraguayan Ambassador Pfannl addresses the group*



*tour of the Capitol*



*MLK monument*

The group arrived in Asunción, Paraguay on July 21, and were warmly welcomed at the airport by their host

families. We knew it was technically winter, but the Weather.com reports leading up to our arrival there showed daytime temperatures in the upper 70's and low 80's. What a surprise to us all that Paraguay has one or two week of winter, and that's exactly when we were there, and the temperatures dipped to levels where a sweater plus a jacket, plus scarf, and even gloves felt comfortable! Some of the young people borrowed a sweater or sweatshirt from their host family "brothers" or "sisters". The coordinators of our host families and activities were members of the Partners of the Americas Comité Paraguay-Kansas.

In Asunción, we spent time with our host families, we learned of Centro de Información y Recursos para Desarrollo (CIRD) a self-sustaining organization --outgrowth of the Comité Paraguay-Kansas (chapter of Partners of the Americas—whose purpose is "to promote the building of social capital to increase the impact and sustainability of development programs, through the construction of skills and competences, and the articulation of civil society organizations, the private sector and the government sector."; visited Saraki, a center for training and skill building for mentally handicapped individuals; toured the Escuela Agricola San Francisco (agricultural school, where we enjoyed a lunch of locally produced foods, and were treated to a performance of traditional dance. We learned of the "A Quienes Elegimos" project, started by young people to improve transparency of government and to inform voters on candidates and officials; and of the uplifting project called Land-Fill-Harmonic, in which musical instruments are made from recycled materials from the trash heaps.



*A Quienes Elegimos project*



*Land-Fill-Harmonic*



*impressively modern Congress building*



*our group visiting the legislature building and learning about Paraguay's gov't*



*joining in a learning game at Saraki*



*trying out (and sharing) some Paraguayan foods*



*Watching the girls practice a traditional folkdance*

*Some bowling recreation for the AYL group*

After about a week in Asunción, we traveled to Encarnación, where we were hosted by other families, and escorted frequently by Jorge Martín, also a member of Partners of the Americas, and who had been a Youth Ambassador to the U.S. Activities there included: visiting las Colonias Unidas, a cooperative factory which produces among its products yogurt and Yerba Mate, touring the Jesuit ruins of Jesús y Trinidad, the hydroelectric plant of Yacyreta. We had also seen a presentation of the damaging effect of the flooding caused by the dam built for this hydroelectric plant.

Then it was on to Ciudad del Este, where we were warmly welcomed by the volunteers of Familia USA, and we learned of the impressive volunteer program of Reacción Juvenil, which like A Quienes Elegimos aims to better inform the voting public, combat corruption, and promote a more transparent government in Paraguay. They are allied with Partners of the Americas (Washington, DC), International Network of Youth Ambassadors of the Americas (and national affiliated network), Agents of Change of Britain, World Network of Anti-corruption youth (Brussels, Belgium). World Bank (Washington, DC).

The organizing head of Familia USA is Krish Vásquez, who started it as her project after participating at age 17 in the Youth Ambassadors program of Partners of the Americas. It is a volunteer organization that provides at no cost learning opportunities such as learning English, learning chess, playing music to anyone in the community.

Outside of Ciudad del Este, we visited the world's largest hydroelectric plant Itapúa, shared by Paraguay and Brazil.

We finished up our stay in Paraguay returning to Asunción. The youths interacted with young people at the Centro Cultural Paraguayo Americano (bi-national center) who are learning English. They all participated in a discussion of the problems in youth unemployment and what solutions there might be.

On our last day before returning to Washington DC, we had an exciting outing to Eco-Reserve Mbatoví, where we



crossed suspended bridges (narrow plank or cable), did zip-lining (a first for most in the group!), and rappelling.



*The hydroelectric plant Itapúa*



*Edie Statham in for a zipline landing*



*2 from the group rappelling*

This AYLP program will take place again next summer. If you know of anyone interested, please let them know, and information on applications will be distributed from the Partners of the Americas office, probably around December 2013.

## **FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS**

### **Webinars**

PartnersConnect is offering a [2013 PartnersConnect Peer-Learning Webinar Series](#).

Some upcoming Webinars topics are

- ◆ **Introduction to PartnersConnect: Individuals, Chapters and Partners Campuses**
- ◆ **Lessons Learned: Developing an Effective Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence in a Cross-Cultural Context**
- ◆ **Ambassadors for Prosperity—Intern or Volunteer in Colombia!**
- ◆ **Friend -Raising: Learning to Mobilize Resources and Expand Your Social Network**
- ◆ **Advancing Bilingualism: Teaching English**
- ◆ **PartnersCampus –Engaging Youth at Your Local Institution of Higher Education**

To see the full list and descriptions and access registration, click here: [Webinar Calendar](#)

**Lesly Zerna**, from Cochabamba and a Youth Ambassador in NC in 2010, (photo at right) just presented a Webinar on developing a community volunteer project.



### **Partners Calendar**

From Matt Clausen:

We are pleased to announce that by widespread request across the Partners of the Americas network, we are launching the PartnersConnect Calendar, a one-stop reference calendar for you to see key events and deadlines across the Partners network, including those convened by our key collaborators. You can view the calendar [here](#) or on the Partners' homepage at [www.partners.net](http://www.partners.net).

Partners Chapters, Partners Campuses, Country Affiliates, Programs, and those organizations and individuals registered in PartnersConnect at the Partner level are encouraged to [submit entries](#) for the calendar for review. As we populate the PartnersConnect Calendar with all that is going on, we will certainly reveal that the depth of our collective activities to Connect, Serve and Change Lives is far greater than anyone imagines.

### **Partners Connect Community**

Learn about this new way for Partners to connect and expand their horizons - <http://pconnectcommunity.net/> PartnersConnect now is divided into two levels: "friend" part is free, but "Partners Pass" level is a more profound connection that charges a modest fee for registration, of which 50% goes to the partnership and 50% to POA. Seek institutions to join, such as universities, businesses

## POA Foundation Grants

The Partners of the Americas Foundation 2013 grant cycle is now open! Click on any of the PDF grant descriptions below, or go to the 2013 [Foundation Grants Webpage](#) to download Word documents and learn more!

- [Drs. Homer and Maurine Venters Health Endowment Fund](#)
- [Jerry Perpich Endowment for Youth Leadership](#)
- [Madelyn L. Laschober Endowment for Youth, Education, & Microenterprise Development](#)
- [Organizational Development Grant](#)
- [Pixote Literacy Fund](#)

## A Responsible Organization

--A letter from Steve Vetter, President, Partners of the Americas

One of the principles that guides Partners' work at the international level is to always maintain a well-governed, transparent, and accountable organization. I am pleased to let you know that Partners has now been recognized for our commitment to these principles and that the Better Business Bureau (BBB) has awarded Partners their "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval".

Becoming a BBB Accredited Charity is not an easy process. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance is the United States' most experienced charity evaluator. The evaluation process involves rigorous scrutiny of a charity's governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations and informational materials. *The standards go beyond what government regulators require.*

### How does Partners' receipt of this honor affect you?

- Your chapter is part of an organization that meets the highest standards of accountability. When local donors are considering a contribution to your chapter, remind them of this fact and encourage them to [read our audit report](#). Proof of sound management often helps convince donors that their investment is worth it.
- When you participate in PartnersConnect, in our other online services, or register for events online, you can have every confidence that we will manage your transactions privately and responsibly.
- When you receive a request for support from Partners of the Americas, you can count on the fact that we are using your contributions prudently and in the way indicated.
- Many chapters don't currently have bank accounts and therefore have difficulty receiving or sending funds, especially internationally. The Partners Foundation can be used as a BBB-approved vehicle for financial pass-throughs from the United States to Latin and South America and vice versa. In exchange for this service, the Foundation charges a small fee—less than you'd typically pay for conducting such a transaction elsewhere. If you're interested in learning more about this service, please contact [financeandadministration@partners.net](mailto:financeandadministration@partners.net)

At Partners of the Americas, we know that transparency builds trust. Thanks for placing your trust in us as we continue to build a stronger Partners.



## Llama meat turns haute cuisine in Bolivia

— from Google news of Bolivia

In one of La Paz's most exclusive French restaurants, carpaccio, sprinkled with Parmesan and topped with baby Swiss lettuce is a popular menu item.

But it may surprise the diner to learn the tender, thin slices of raw meat are not beef or fish -- but llama. Llama meat, a traditional part of Andean indigenous cuisine, has recently made the leap into the most prestigious kitchens in Bolivia, and its high protein, low-fat content could soon make it into a prominent dish on menus of Bolivia around the world.

In many of Bolivia's five-star hotels llama meat has been going down a treat with tourists who praise both the flavor and the health benefits.

For a perfect meal, experts say, pair it with quinoa, the grain of the Andes, another Bolivian staple that has made a splash in international cuisine.



**Mid-Year Meeting** continued from page 1

Autism Project: In 2014 there is a possibility for a team (TEACH) from UNC to conduct a week-long seminar in Bolivia. The project is a great example of cross boundary collaboration with Santa Cruz and Bolivia.

Teacher-in-Residence: This year's candidate Rosmery Zeballos from Cochabamba. Karen Brown will be coordinating her visit this autumn.

POA will celebrate its **50th Anniversary** in 2014! There will be a Convention and other activities. The board discussed how NC partners can celebrate "virtually" with Cbba (e.g. a virtual "toast" via Skype). Anyone with ideas or suggestions please make them known!

Recruitment: International scholarships have doubled. The board discussed sponsoring Bolivian students for in-state tuition as other states are able to do. We should contact Arkansas to find out how they are working through this issue as well as contact private colleges and get Andrew Santos involved.



← Program: Lolita Brockington, long-time member of NCPOA gave a very interesting discussion of her book *Blacks, Indians & Spaniards in the Eastern Andes*, based on her extensive research in Cochabamba and Misque..

**On the Calendar (2013):**

Executive Committee meeting	Jan 14, February 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 16, 9am-12	A&T Univ. Greensboro
Executive Committee meeting	April 15, May 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year mtg	June 15	FedEx Global Education Center at UNC Chapel Hill
Executive Committee meeting	July 8, August 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 21	Chapel Hill Public Library
Executive Committee meeting	October 14 November 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	December 14	TBD

\*Quarterly Board Meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30-12:00. Members may attend these meetings.

**North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:**

- Christian Stalberg, President** chris@stalberg.net
- Karen Brown, Vice-President** ; 919-539-6211, 919-715-7410, kareneslbrown@aol.com
- Sallie Abbas, Past President/ Advisor and Newsletter Editor** h919-467-0382; swabbas@nc.rr.com
- Kitty Stalberg, Secretary**, 919-942-7882; kit@mindspring.com
- Judy Gibson, Treasurer**; h704-487-4228 hbgibson@hotmail.com

**Board Members:**

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Stephen Gibson, Judy Gibson, Don Hopkins, March Krotee, Larry Nelson, Robert Pyle, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson, Robert Pyle, Laura Cernikova

**2013-2015 Cbba POA Officers**

- Rosario Claros Rosales** **Presidenta** Responsable de Sub-comité de medio ambiente y habitat
- Lupe Buendia** **Vicepresidenta electa** Responsable de Sub-comité de Rescate y Sobrevivencia.
- Marlene Mercado Vargas** **pas Presidenta** inmediata; Responsable de Sub-comité de Salud y Deportes
- Monica Niño De Guzman** **Secretaria**
- Silvia Quiroga** **Secretaria De Hacienda** Responsable de Arte y cultura
- Carla Andrea Leigue** Responsable de YAS y grupo jóvenes
- Elena Jimenez Daza** Responsable de Escuela de Voluntariado y Warmi; Pas presidente
- Mauricio Ramirez Parra** Pas Presidente; Responsable de Programa Agricultores (Farmer to farmer); Sub.Comite de Etica
- Claudia Jimenez Daza** Responsable de Sub.comité Mujer y familia
- Jhebe Jhonson** Responsable de Sub. Comité de Rehabilitación
- Jhony Villazón** Pas presidente; Responsable interino de Sub. Comité de Educación Superior ; Sub.Comite de Etica