



# COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

## Newsbits

- Coding the Dream offers **free coding classes** to 15-21 year new immigrants regardless of status starting in **Deadline: December 31, 2017.**
- President Morales continues the fight for gaining **coastal** land from Chile.
- National **car-free days in Bolivia** make a significant impact in pollution.
- There are actual witch doctors' markets in **La Paz.**
- **NewGen Peacebuilders 2017** is training a new generation to achieve a peaceful world.
- Former NC POA president, Kitty Stalberg has become the president of a music Event performance company: **Save the Date Music**
- **Wrestling in traditional Bolivian dress!**
- **Rain catchment systems** are necessary for some parts of Bolivia.

### Raleigh, NC

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There is still time to attend the 2017 NC Partners of the Americas annual meeting. It will be held January 13, 2018, during the long Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday weekend. The schedule will be as follows:

**10:00 AM:** Board of Directors meeting

**12:30 PM:** Luncheon (Please pay & make lunch selection in advance)

**1:15 PM:** Business meeting, election of new board members, & financial report

**1:45 PM:** Special guest speaker: John McPhail, POA President

**2:00 PM:** Reports on projects including: Medical Project at Videma Hospital; Teacher-in-Residence; Delmar Foundation funded burn prevention project; Bolivian Autism Project, etc.

**4:00 PM:** Meeting close

John McPhail, who has only been in the position as CEO of Partners for half a year, will be our guest speaker. There will be plenty of opportunities to socialize and talk with him during lunch. In order to register for lunch, You need to RSVP Hank Graden at [hgraden@gmail.com](mailto:hgraden@gmail.com) by January 9, 2018.

## NC Partners of the Americas Annual Meeting Luncheon and General Meeting Open to All



New Partners of the Americas CEO, John McPhail, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting.

Lunch selections are:

- Vegetarian: Pasta with roasted vegetables
- Beef plate: Roast round of Angus beef
- Chicken plate: Herb and lemon roasted chicken

Payment for the \$25 meal and room fee can be made to PO Box 28221, Raleigh, NC 27611. You can also pay by "PayPal" on the Partner's Web Site at <http://ncboliviapartners.org/> (see the "Donate" button on the left side of the webpage).

### PartnersCounts Hours

Partners of the Americas wants to be able to show grantees and Donors that this organization really does make a difference in North and South America. Please log in your volunteer hours

<http://www.partners.net/partnerscounts>



# SAVE THE DATE!

## ¡GUARDA LA FECHA!

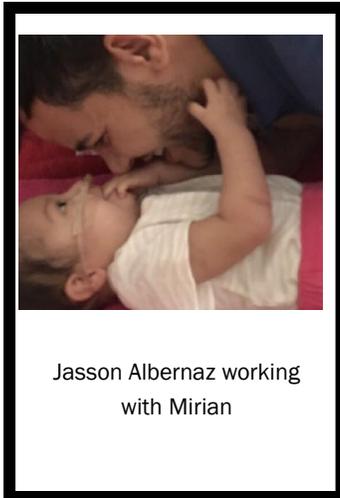


**HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**  
INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS

### CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA | SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2018

## Jasson Albernaz : A Pioneer for Change

By Susie Meyer, Membership and Development Intern for Partners of the Americas, reprinted from Partners blog



Jasson Albernaz working with Mirian

A little bit goes a long way with Jasson Albernaz. Despite having minimal resources, Jasson Albernaz has changed the lives of hundreds of children in his community in Cochabamba, Bolivia with just “love, time, and the will to go out and do good.”

After moving from Brazil to study medicine at the Universidad Privada Abierta Latinoamericana in Cochabamba, he began to get involved as a volunteer in his community. He spent a lot of time at Casa de los Niños, a

center for abandoned, abused, and orphaned children, and even became the full-time caregiver to Mirian, a one-year-old girl with pulmonary fibrosis.

Jasson wanted to make an even greater impact, and for that he needed support. He stumbled across a flyer for [PartnersCampus](#), and leapt at the opportunity to start a student chapter. Two years later, Jasson is the president of the chapter and has helped them grow to over 230 volunteer members. With the support of his volunteers and the Partners Network, Jasson has organized events, workshops, and various projects to help those in need in Cochabamba.

September, PartnersCampus UPAL collaborated with a local volunteer youth organization to teach children in Bolivia the importance of oral hygiene. Children with physical and neurological disabilities at the center, San Juan De Dios, learned about oral health through an educational theatre performance that the kids themselves could perform.

In October, Jasson and his team of volunteers collaborated with Institucion Avebol in a fund-raising campaign for breast cancer research and support. They organized a month of fund-raising and free mammograms for women in Cochabamba—11% of whom are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. Additionally, Jasson organized free training for the student volunteers in breast cancer examinations, providing even more skills and support to his volunteer network.

Jasson has accomplished all of this with very limited resources. ...Imagine what he could do with more!



Hank Graden meeting in Bolivia



Jasson at Casa de Niños

Jasson and the PartnersCampus student leaders consistently support the children at Casa de los Niños, providing free meals every Saturday, holding events to raise money for new treatments and medicine, and visiting the children to learn their stories and give them love.



Hank Graden meeting with caregivers



### Silent Auction Items Needed for January 13 Meeting

Please donate any items for the silent auction. You will get a receipt for the item and your donation may be tax deductible. (Check with your accountant for sure!) If possible, send an image of your item to Janis Toruno's email address- [janisht@gmail.com](mailto:janisht@gmail.com). Pictures of the items will be emailed about a week prior to the board meeting.



## BURN PREVENTION PROJECT FROM THE BOLIVIAN EMERGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE

This past year, the Burn Prevention Project in Bolivia was chosen to receive Delmar Funds. The funds were used for fire safety and burn prevention workshops for children in surrounding Bolivian schools. Many children suffer from burns caused by accidents, punishment by parents, or lightning. Almost all accidents occur in rural areas, and the home is the most common setting. Unlike urban home designs, some rural houses have only one room. There is no distance between the kitchen and the beds, so if a fire starts, it easily spreads and burns ... Many children do not know what to do if they suffer burns.

Volunteers leading the workshop gave out pictorial manuals on burn prevention as well as coloring books and what to do if there is a fire. Following are pictures from the workshops in rural schools around Cochabamba.



### Goals for the Autism Project in 2018

After Hank Graden visited Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD/TEA) programs in Santa Cruz, Tarija, Cochabamba and La Paz from September 17 and October 6, 2017, and conferred with others involved in the project, we want to offer the following suggested goals for the U.S. and Bolivian ASD/TEA initiative.

- Provide support and training to Bolivia autism leaders in diagnosis of autism.
- Arrange for TEACCH seminars to be held in several locations throughout Bolivia to help up-grade and increase training for professionals about the TEACCH concepts and strategies;
- Facilitate sending an Occupational Therapist or Vocational Services professional to begin developing vocational services for the older (late teens through employment ages) person with TEA/ASD
- Assist Universities in Bolivia to develop Master's (and above) level Allied Health and Medical School curriculum in Speech and Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Pediatric Medicine, Neurology and other courses.
- We encourage ASHA members in Bolivia (particularly La Paz) to apply for the ASHA-PAHO collaboration designation. If accepted, this project could receive funding from ASHA and PAHO for professional visits and consultations. Honduras, El Salvador and Guyana were self-identified in 2013. Paraguay, Cuba and Ecuador were chosen in 2016 and Belize was added in 2017. **The request needs to come from Bolivia through the PAHO representative.**
- Parent groups and professionals working with persons having the diagnosis of ASD/TEA mentioned numerous times during my visit the need for teachers to have a better understanding of how to deal with behaviors in the classroom. We are ready to help with this issue if the invitation comes from Bolivians active in this project.
- Collaborate with Terence Bethea, MD. who gave seminars throughout Bolivia in August, 2017. He has plans to provide more seminars in 2018
- Contact Barbara Culatta, Rosario Roman and others who are involved in the Bolivia Autism Project to determine in what activities they anticipate being involved in 2018.
- Linda Watson and others will continue to create videos and other media modes to be used in telemedicine locations throughout Bolivia.

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website [www.ncboliviapartners.org](http://www.ncboliviapartners.org), go to the DONATE page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!**

Cochabamba Partners

**President:** Lic. Lupe Benida

**Vice-President:** Danny Balderamma

**General Secretary:** Celia Calani

**Treasurer:** Silvia Quiroga

**Environmental**

**Subcommittee:** Mike Valdivia

**Education/Arts/Culture:**

Silvia Quiroga

**Mujer and Familia:**

Lic. Claudia Jimenez and

Univ. Alejandra Fuentes

Dra. Marlene Mercado

**Sports, Rehabilitation:**

Phoebe Johnson

**Science and Technology:**

Dr. Saul Escalera

**Health:** Vacant

**NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS**

Janis Holden Toruno: Current President

Vice-President : George Wilson

Secretary : Jessica Kinard

Interim Treasurer : Karen Brown

Past President: Carlos Vargas

Board Members: Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Judy Gibson, Steve Gibson, Katushka Olave, Virginia Freedman Carlos Vargas, Ivo A. Pestana, Benson Timmons, Lori Snyder, Keyla Duin, Jaclyn Coats,

Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**

Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, Kitty Stalberg,

Health and Clinical Practices - Carlos Vargas, Ben Timmons

Agriculture -Steve Gibson, Don Hopkins

Environment and Natural Resources – Vacant

Education –Karen Brown, Laura Cernikova, Deborah Wilkes

Sports—Vacant

Membership – **Katushka Olave**

(The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)

Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

**TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

**SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING A PROJECT-BASED GRANT BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED?**

This year's program activities will focus on three themes that work to:

- increase English language learning;
  - increase and strengthen university partnerships; and
  - engage youth, and promote economic empowerment and social inclusion.
- (1) If you have an idea for a project, write to the corresponding subcommittee chair. The chair will be the person that has the contacts, and helps plan the itinerary. For help with visas and the necessary paperwork, please email the president and vice-president of the Executive Board.
- (2) **Travel Grants** for volunteers and community leaders to visit partner chapter to participate in skills training, give presentations and workshops, build program action plans, and participate in community projects. Travel grants are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (3)**Teacher-in-Residence Grants** are travel grants for English teachers and administrators to share methodologies and pedagogy for teaching English as a second language, including methodologies for reaching out to marginalized communities. Travel requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (4) **Public-Private Partnership Events** to bring together volunteers and community leaders from throughout the region to share effective practices and build multi-national networks that include the US. Information on upcoming events will be sent out soon. If you are interested in hosting an event on one of the priority areas, please contact Melissa Golladay.

Contacts:

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Melissa Golladay, Director, mgolladay@partners.net

Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net