



Project Peru

Registered Charity Number: 1049413

Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!

Magical experiences and brutal realities, these are intrinsic parts not only of Latin American literature but also of everyday existence. No less for the microcosm of life that is Project Peru where despite the struggle with exploitation, marginalisation and poverty, bureaucracy and funding, we are amazed and heartened by the children at our refuge as they discover the thrill of living, learning and playing together.

We have the magic of our secret garden in the shanty towns as the children pick and eat salads every day, as tiny sticks grow into fruit trees, and in our refuge the amazement as huge pumpkins emerge from the foliage, and roses and figs flourish, so lovingly cared for by dear Sr. Rodriguez, our gentle gardener, whose sudden death is a reality that saddened everyone. The land that he transformed into colour and beauty attracting children and humming birds alike will always remind us of his constant devotion to his garden.

The reality of the retirement of our legendary housemother, 'Hermana' Lucy, will be felt by children and staff alike. She arrived nearly 15 years ago and ensured that our refuge was a warm, welcoming and fun place to live, as long as there was mutual respect. Multi-talented, she gave multi-tasking a new dimension and her love of the children inspired all she did. We wish her well as she enjoys spending time with her family and organises her catering business. Her role in transforming our refuge had the magical qualities of a fairy tale, with Lucy waving a magic wand.

Quite simply thank you to everyone in our refuge in Peru for their hard work, devotion and enthusiasm; and to our amazing team in the UK a huge and heartfelt thank you. Without all of you, all our friends, and of course the children, life with Project Peru would not be such a magical experience.

Project Peru in Peru: our core work

With a commitment to minimize expenditure on administration and overheads we ensure that we invest our income directly in our work in Peru. Our aim is to generate sufficient funds not only to continue our core work but also to undertake initiatives in the wider shanty town community.

Here we focus on supporting those who live on the margins of a society already historically divided; in Peru's albeit improving economy we focus on those living in extreme poverty who are unaffected by economic change.

We are now caring for 50 children and young adults aged 3 to 20. We have created a stable and united staff team

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including both full-time, part-time and sessional employment for 22 individual staff members who, together with the children are 'the 'Project Peru family'.

We provide educational support, school uniforms and all the educational materials, books, and stationery that are required; we support our children and staff in health care. We ensure that everyone enjoys the facilities we are able to provide; this includes a music room, library, computer room, sewing room, playroom, sports area, garden and separate kitchen garden, and everyone can be part of the dance, football, theatre, singing, music, sewing, crafts, and cooking sessions, and much more.

We are committed to funding external further education courses for our older girls who choose to stay on as volunteers to be able to share their skills in helping to care for the younger children, supporting the house mothers with daily routines and offering encouragement with homework and learning to prepare them for an independent future. Two of our girls who are studying tourism have been doing a six month work experience placement with a major travel company in Lima, Chimu Adventures. We are still looking at the possibility of providing a separate hostel for the 14-18 year old boys while they are still in school so that they too can have the chance to take up further education.

We are trying to break the cycle of poverty in many other ways, and we continue our ongoing programme of counselling and material support for the children's relatives. They participate in meetings with our psychologist, and in

the parents' education sessions that we offer regularly, and attend meetings with the staff when needed. Relatives come to help in practical ways in our refuge once a month.

Activities and visits have included recreational visits to the zoo, to the beach, to the local swimming pool, and the annual, eagerly awaited, visit to the sea-side village of Las Tortugas near Casma, where we stay 10 days every February. Cultural outings have included visits to museums and the theatre in Lima and we have had visiting theatre groups at the refuge.

It has been a year of ongoing consolidation of our programme of refurbishment and we have replaced the fridge freezer in the kitchen and all bunk beds and mattresses and the dormitory floors and in January 2015 will be replacing the dining room roof, a major undertaking.

Our 'secret garden in the shanty towns'.

Our kitchen garden has been a focal point for the involvement of the children in planting, observation and growing, and in 2014 we started the second phase, our fruit tree project, thanks to a second grant from Lush Charity Pot. <http://projectperu.org.uk/news/2014/10/16/project-peru-is-growing-and-growing.htm>

We planted our first fruit trees under the professional supervision of our agronomist and our gardener. The children were involved from the start and will be involved over the years as the fruit trees grow. So far we have planted *palta* [avocado], *limon* [lemon], *mandarina* [mandarin], *durazno* [peach], *chirimoya* [custard apple] and *lucuma* [egg fruit]. To see where we started

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from in 2013 go to:

<http://projectperu.org.uk/our-work/the.htm>

Agua y libertad.

In 2014 we were able to build a drinking water fountain at the refuge. In the 'old days' we had to get deliveries of water from the local water lorry and for years we have had to boil water from the mains water supply. Now we can have cool fresh water at the press of a button. This is in part thanks to a grant we received from the Drinking Fountains Association and this has been a great success and has ensured that the children and staff drink much more water, which is essential for their well being.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/news/2014/07/10/agua-y-libertad.htm>

The library

We started this project in 2011 and this has continued to be a valuable resource for our children. We have added to our range of books and resources and have been able to further integrate the library with our programmes of educational support for the children. Everyone is enthusiastic, really enjoying the daily story telling and reading sessions organised by our librarian/teacher and our educational psychologist; at times queues form outside the library!

We welcome new approaches from librarians as potential volunteers seeking to work with us in the future, and donations of new or good quality Spanish language books suitable for a school library.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/our-work/library.htm>

Our work in the wider community

Apart from funding and running our own refuge Project Peru does as much as

possible to participate in the local community with practical and much needed initiatives.

Project Peru has enjoyed close collaboration with Las Laderas de Chillón, an extensive and still expanding shanty town. Las Laderas is one of the poorest zones in the Lima area, and many of the families we assisted are new arrivals there from central Lima, forced out by poverty. Many of our volunteers become involved in activities there, and many of the children at the refuge come from this area.

The Manchester-based company Amoria Bond has again funded the building of more houses here as they have done over the past four years. To give a roof to some of the most excluded and employment to local builders, helping to transform the lives for more desperate families is a constant theme for Project Peru. As in previous years, just before Christmas 2014, thanks to specific funds raised in the UK through our Christmas Appeal, the children from our refuge helped to share our hot chocolate and *panetones* with the children in a local shanty town, and also to a group of older people whom we entertained at the refuge and who also received walking frames and donations of food supplies. We were also able, thanks to another donation from Amoria Bond, to distribute Christmas 'baskets' of food to the families of our children and to large numbers of the most marginalised families in Las Laderas. We also distributed donated goods, blankets, warm clothes and shoes, part of our cargo from the UK, to an isolated community in the sierra.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/news/2014/12/15/project-peru-christmas-appeal-2014.htm>

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Football

On May 30th 2014 England played Peru at Wembley. This was only the third time they had met. The British Embassy in Lima invited Project Peru to watch the match live on a big screen in the Estadio Nacional in Lima on the day of the match. Our football teams who play in the 'Lima Kids' shanty town children's homed league were over the moon to be there.

A British Embassy representative said;

'They had a wonderful time and I took them into the VIP enclosure where they ate and drank and watched the game. We also got one of the boys to draw the tickets for the half time raffle which was donated to Project Peru'..'

Read more at

<http://projectperu.org.uk/news/2014/05/26/football-in-peru-and-england-2014.htm>

In November 2014 the Project Peru girls' team [age 13-15] again won the 'Lima Kids' knock out football league competition between children's homes in Lima.

Volunteers and visitors in Peru

Once again we have welcomed many volunteers and visitors from a wide range of ages and backgrounds to the refuge in the past 12 months including more Peruvian visitors. Each brings different skills and experience. They have helped out in the library, with educational support, construction, sport, cooking and health and have generally participated in the life of the refuge as part of the Project Peru family. Nearly all volunteers spend part of their time in our community projects in the shanty town of Las Laderas.

The following comments give a flavour of some of the impressions of some of our volunteers and visitors in Peru in 2014:

'They are a stellar organisation..... the volunteering was really great with Project Peru. and they are doing SO MUCH good for the area - I'm really impressed. .. It's a quality organization that is really helping the community. I would recommend them to anyone.'

'From the moment I first started talking with Project Peru I knew that this was a unique operation. The focus is fundraising rather than volunteering so I felt really lucky that we were able to volunteer with them. The process was very thorough as I think it was the first time I ever had references checked for volunteering and it left me wondering why more places didn't do that. My niece received great support from Project Peru for her fundraising and she appreciated the advice she received for setting up the online campaign.

The facilities for volunteers were very nice, clean, and it was good to have our own space. Project Peru in UK did a great job of setting up our time there and coordinating between all of the people on the ground to ensure that everything was as expected.

It was super to be taken around Las Laderas and introduced to various people and other Project Peru programmes. Working with the team to build the houses also went really well and was probably my favourite part of the week. All of the Project Peru employees were very helpful to us and they definitely ensured we had everything we needed. ...I loved going

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to the market to see what it was like to feed all of these kids on a weekly basis! They were well looked after and they seemed really happy - it seemed like what they wanted most from us hugs and tenderness - and occasionally a game of football!... It would have been really easier had I known more Spanish as I think I could have connected more with the kids.'

Also see

<http://www.ottsworld.com/blogs/volunteering-in-lima-peru/>

'I've been here almost 8 weeks now and having 49 new brothers and sisters is still just as exciting as ever!'... '[one evening] we went to Brisas de Titicaca . There were lots of traditional dances to watch which were really impressive and then a few dances which everyone went onto the dance floor to dance to! It was such a surreal and incredible day; the host introduced the Casa Hogar as being children from extreme poverty and they were all sitting there with polished shoes and their best coats and every girl with a princess plait! Project Peru were all dancing in a big circle together! It was so amazing to watch the enchanted faces of the public at how beautifully behaved they all were and how much like a big family the Casa Hogar clearly is.'

'I now feel part of the Project Peru family. I have recently returned from Project Peru where I had a fantastic time. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in Peru for all the love and support given to me during my stay. The children were so lovely that I wanted to bring them all home with me. They were all such fun to be with. I feel privileged to have met some really amazing people

.When I got home it all seemed so quiet! I was a bit apprehensive at first but this proved unfounded and I now feel part of the Project Peru family.'

'The work done really does change the lives of so many people...I fell in love with the people, the places and the work being undertaken all for a variety of reasons. First and foremost the work of the staff at Project Peru is exceptional; the dedication to the children is incredible; the long hours worked to ensure the best for the children is truly commendable and perhaps most importantly the staff have created an atmosphere, though it may sound clichéd, of a family which in many cases is an absolute life-line for some of the children who come from dysfunctional families. As with any young children they all have their moments but on the whole they are truly delightful, they bring such a sense of joy to the refuge which is constantly filled with the sounds of children playing and having fun which after all is what children are meant to do.'

Travellers to Peru

Many of our UK supporters and volunteers 'find' us as result of their travels in Peru, either at the planning stage or on their return. Do contact us about opportunities for volunteering with us or visiting our project, even if your initial interest is as a traveller.

Many of our own volunteers in Peru use the Inca Trail or the Salkantay Trail as a key part of their fundraising sponsorship, or visit the Peruvian rainforest, and we have excellent contacts in Peru who could facilitate such trips.

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UK update

Sponsored Events organised by Project Peru

We have again had our two regular annual sponsored events, in June in Alice Holt Forest, Farnham- our sponsored Bike ride and stroll for everyone including children and families, wheelchairs and dogs, as part of Bike Week, and in September- our Guildford-Paris Bike ride, cycling 200 miles in four days. In September 2014 once again this brought in an amazing amount of sponsorship, and we are as always grateful for all the support and hospitality from Project Peru's friends en route, both in UK and in France. We missed two of our regular hosts in Sussex and in Luneray but have found new ones. Even if you've done it before you are welcome to join us again! Many do!

We welcome enquiries from prospective riders for Paris 2015 and, of course, from potential sponsors for this coming September. Please contact us early in 2015 to book your place as numbers are limited.

This is what some of the riders said about the 2014 Paris ride:

'I just wanted to say a big thank you for all your help and support on the way to Paris. I was completely overwhelmed by the planning, organization, enthusiasm, kindness and of course the food...It would not have been such a pleasure or as smooth without you all...no looking at maps, getting lost or hungry. I really enjoyed the whole experience.'

'Thank you so much for letting me do the bike ride -I loved every minute of it and have bored everyone to death about it since I came back.'

'A great ride as always.'

And one of our new hosts said *'Very glad all went well and that you enjoyed your stay, I did too!'*

Food & Catering activities

These include our annual Lenten Lunch at St. Josephs, Guildford; our annual raffles of Christmas cakes made entirely with donated ingredients and 'donated' expertise in baking, icing and decorating; and our Christmas puddings.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/uk-activities/catering/catering.htm>

Here are some of our catering 'credits' in 2014; with comments from satisfied customers.

'Thank you so much for another amazing Lenten Lunch. My father, the children and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was wonderful food, so well organized, lovely to meet new friends and really special to hear of all the recent developments in Peru.'

'I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and to all the other volunteers- for organizing the Lenten Lunch today. We really enjoyed it and got to chat to some lovely and fascinating people. The food was delicious and the service delightful! We expect we'll see you again soon.'

Our Christmas cake raffles

Project Peru is again delighted to acknowledge the donation of all ingredients for our cakes, and to give a special thank you to the professionals who have given their time and skill in making, icing and decorating the cakes, which looked and tasted so delicious. These were raffled nationwide in December 2014. Apart from the

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Guildford area [Guildford, Dorking, Godalming, Dunsfold and Billingshurst] these were also held in, Edinburgh, Ipswich, Faversham, Gravesend, Littlehampton, London, Manchester, Shrewsbury, St. Albans / Hemel Hempstead. Congratulations to our persuasive rafflers.

We have also sold our Christmas puddings which received great acclaim again. Contact us early to order your puddings; we would welcome new outlets for our cake raffles for 2015.

Sales of Peruvian craft goods

We are very keen to spread our crafts stalls more widely and would welcome the chance to have more sales in different parts of the UK, so please contact us if you have any ideas or suggestions. We continue to specialise in sales of Peruvian crafts, particularly selling crafts made by women's and young people's workshops known to us in Villa El Salvador and Las Laderas. We pay fair prices and all proceeds go to support our work in Peru. We are involved in both communities and are in personal contact with many of those who make these beautiful hand made crafts. We also sell Christmas and greetings cards; we have a selection of beautiful designs made in these same craft workshops with whom we have collaborated for many years. Christmas cards may need to be ordered by early autumn so please don't forget that Christmas is coming!

Please see our website

<http://projectperu.org.uk/uk-activities/craft-sales/craft-sales.htm>

Project Peru has regular craft stalls in the Guildford Festival in June [High Street], in different venues around the

Christmas period, and frequently at other craft events, country fairs or in schools and through online sales. These are not only an important source of income but give us a chance to raise the public profile of Project Peru.

Schools

We have established particularly close collaboration with two schools during 2014, one in the UK, one in Peru. In the UK Ormskirk School has introduced a programme of fundraising including crafts sales and sponsored activities in support of Project Peru. They also collected a large amount of goods for our cargo to Peru including a special collection of donated and decorated boxes of goods including books, toys, games, stationery and much more given by some of the pupils at Ormskirk. We are delighted that a group of their students will be staying at the refuge as part of a school trip to Peru in March 2015.

<http://www.ormskirk.lancs.sch.uk/>

The other school is the Colegio F.D. Roosevelt, the American School in Lima, which has also begun a programme of fundraising and exchange visits with our refuge and has set up a support group, with a new programme planned for 2015, sharing friendship and practical initiatives.

We can arrange other activities in schools in the UK, and these have in the past included holding 'Peru' days, or specific workshops, or schools have in the past 'adopted' us for a term or a year? We encourage the children to help to give back to Project Peru through fundraising, sales of our craft items, and donating. See the website for what we could do with your school?

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<http://projectperu.org.uk/uk-activities/schools.htm>

Distribution of goods sent to Peru

We send a 5 ton container full of donated goods to Peru each year which enables us both to give direct help in the refuge and in the community and means we can dedicate our funds to more projects. Our recent delivery included materials for our kitchen, educational, art and stationery materials, books for our library, educational and recreational toys for our play room, toiletries, school furniture, clothes, shoes, and a wheel chair, together with many other items. This is only possible thanks to our many donors, both individuals, companies and schools, and to a loyal band of volunteer helpers who get involved in collecting, storing, packing, wrapping, loading and delivering the cargoes, and to generous support from a number of transport companies in the UK, not least our amazing shipping company, Hamburg Sud.

<http://projectperu.org.uk/our-work/distribution-of-goods-sent-to-peru-from-the-uk.htm>

Our website

Do keep an eye on our website, and especially the News pages, for updates on what we are currently doing both in Peru and in the UK, and to see more about what you might have read in our newsletter. There is also information, with photographs, about our ongoing work, about how we function, some of our 'history', and how you can help us to support all this in the future!

<http://www.projectperu.org.uk>

We also have a Project Peru Face-book page which you are encouraged to share with your friends, to encourage them to be involved and make a positive contribution and donations to our work
<http://www.facebook.com/projectperu.org.uk>

How can you help Project Peru

- make single donations -but regular monthly ones give us much more long term security
- organise a fundraising event for us or join in one of ours
- sell our Peruvian crafts
- invite us to give workshops in schools with which you are involved
- put us in touch with potential volunteers
- give us ongoing support after a trip to Peru, or before
- walk the Inca Trail or undertake other challenges
- contact us with your ideas and skills

How to make a donation

For various ways to donate please see <http://www.projectperu.org.uk/fundraising.htm>

For single or regular donations please use this Gift aid form [UK taxpayers]
<http://projectperu.org.uk/assets/cache/ProjectPeruGiftaidForm-1.pdf>

or you can donate online via either

<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/project-peru-5466> or

<http://www.justgiving.com/peru/donate>

Shopping online

Many suppliers will make a donation of a % of the amount you spend on your purchase. This comes straight to us, costing you nothing. Please look at either **Easy Fundraising** or **Give As You Live** and nominate Project Peru as the charity you want to support.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works>
OR

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/project-peru/56945/144214>

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Some dates for 2015

- Lenten Lunch 29th March; St Joseph's, Guildford
- The Alice Holt Forest sponsored bike ride and stroll; Sunday 7th June.
- Guildford Festival Crafts Market; June 12th -20th
- Guildford to Paris bike ride; Sept 12th -16th

<http://projectperu.org.uk/news/2015/01/22/2014-some-dates-for-your-diary.htm>

For further information about us:

<http://www.projectperu.org.uk>

01483 576093

information@projectperu.org.uk

**AS ALWAYS, A HUGE THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR WONDEFUL FRIENDS,
VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND
SUPPORTERS- GRACIAS**

*Edited and produced by Project Peru,
1, St. Catherine's Hill, Guildford, Surrey-
GU2 4EF- UK*

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mailing list please do let us know.**