



## Your gift helps make them healthier and happier.

Each dollar you donate to Mano a Mano buys a lot of health in Bolivia, where we build a full clinic for just \$16,000. But your gift works even harder than you think. Your dollar, earmarked for our medical programs, releases another \$3 in matching funds from an anonymous donor. Your \$1 gift for community-based projects like schools and public baths releases another dollar.

### Here's what your donation (plus matching funds) buys:

- Your \$500 purchases all fixtures for a community bath house.
- Your \$250 pays a nurse's salary for one month in one of our community clinics.
- Your \$125 pays for a week of a doctor's salary.

### Send your tax-deductible gift to:

Mano a Mano, 774 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota Heights, MN 55118  
Or call us at 651-457-3141 to learn about additional giving opportunities.

**Donate on line at [www.manoamano.org](http://www.manoamano.org). Click on "Donate"**



**About Us:** Mano a Mano Medical Resources is a non-sectarian 501©(3) non-profit organization with over 12 years' experience bringing health care into impoverished Bolivian communities. Mano a Mano, Spanish for "Hand in Hand," operates on principles of volunteerism, frugality, competence, accountability, empowerment, flexibility, respect and partnership with communities. Find out more by calling 651-457-3141 or at [www.manoamano.org](http://www.manoamano.org).

**Give the Gift of Mano!**  
Need a gift for someone who's got everything? Consider an "alternative gift" from My Shopping List for the World, a catalog that includes a donation option to Mano a Mano! Visit the website at [www.alternativegifts.org](http://www.alternativegifts.org)

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# Boletín

SPRING 2007

OUR 12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!

## Ensuring Health, Patient by Patient

*A Mano a Mano plane delivers a Bolivian girl to life-saving surgery*

Mano a Mano treats lots of people — we counted 280,000 patient visits last year alone. In our annual reports, each patient is only a number, but in real life, each one has a story—stories would often turn out quite differently if Mano a Mano were not involved.

Take, for example, the story of Jhanet, the little girl pictured here. If not for Mano a Mano pilot Eugenio Arvidsson, Jhanet might have had her leg amputated after a simple cut became deeply infected in summer of 2006. Thanks to quick intervention by Mano a Mano and two volunteer surgeons, Jhanet's leg—and possibly her life—were both saved. The account comes from Steve Hawthorne, a US missionary surgeon living in Bolivia who helped with Jhanet's surgery.

"Jhanet's parents both come from Yawisla, a rural Quechua town in southern Potosi, (but) they moved to the city of Tarija, where she was born and raised. Her father was an alcoholic and abandoned the family early on. Two years ago...her mother had a nervous breakdown under the strain of caring for four children alone, and one day she simply disappeared and has not been heard from since. Somehow the kids made it back to Yawisla (Jhanet was 11 at the time and is the second oldest) and she has been living with an uncle and aunt here. She is now 13.



**Jhanet: infection threatened life.**

"On May 22 she fell at school and cut open her right knee. Another doctor sutured it, but a week later her knee swelled and became red and she couldn't bend it at all. That is when I first saw her. I started her on IV antibiotics but her condition worsened. I thought she had a septic arthritis that needed drainage, so I referred her to Potosi where she had exploratory surgery on May 31. The surgeon there found that the infection was not in the knee joint but in the layer of subcutaneous fat. He put in a drain, continued antibiotics and sent her back to Yawisla on June 2.

"The morning of June 3 the redness and swelling had advanced up to

Jhanet's hip. I feared a "flesh-eating" staph or strep infection that could put her entire limb and even her life at risk if not aggressively treated. That was when I called Eugenio.

"He cancelled his Saturday plans and flew out immediately. He also referred us to a surgeon friend of his in Cochabamba who saw Jhanet that night and operated on her, with my help, Sunday morning June 4. We slit open her right thigh from the knee to almost the hip and removed all the dead tissue underneath the skin. We scrubbed and rinsed the wound, then closed it with a drain inside. She is making a good recovery, but she still can't bend her knee all the way and is doing some physiotherapy."

By all accounts, Jhanet continues to do well. She is one of 44 patients who were airlifted to emergency treatment last year, thanks to Mano a Mano. Eugenio Arvidsson, the pilot, will retire from active service with Mano a Mano this summer, returning with his wife to their home in Sweden. "Eugenio has put in countless hours flying for us and working on our airplane and hangar," says Mano a Mano co-founder Segundo Velasquez. "Even though he plans to retire from active duty, we know that he and Margarit will remain involved in our aviation program for years to come."

## From Dan's Desk

Since I first wrote you in last fall's newsletter, I have had the privilege of traveling to Bolivia to visit our programs and see firsthand what we have done. It is one thing to look at brochures and hear stories about all of our accomplishments and quite



another to see it first hand! I hope all of you someday have a chance to travel to

to see what I have seen; seeing is truly believing.

But statistics provide another kind of evidence. Here's just one: More than half of the Bolivian population—over 5 million people—live in rural communities. Over 65% of these rural Bolivians have historically had *no access at all* to health care—they may have never even seen a nurse. Our rural clinics are changing all that. 73 clinics now make care accessible to over 600,000 people!

Statistics like this give good reason to celebrate all of the work we have done together to make a difference in people's lives. This is possible because of the dedication and commitment of you, our donors and volunteers. On behalf of the Bolivians we have reached, thank you.

There is still a lot of work to be done. But there are also exciting developments that I want to share with you in the coming months; watch this spot for more news!

- Dan Narr, US Executive Director

# 2006: Better Health, Brick by Brick

*Mano delivers clinics, schools, teacher housing, reservoirs, roads and more*

Talk about results! At Mano a Mano every year, we can count the results of our efforts in the number of new clinics and schools built, in units of new teacher housing, in miles of roadways and landing strips cleared, and in tens of thousands of bricks laid.

Of course, bricks and mortar are only the means to our ultimate goal, which is better health and community development in Bolivia, still one of the world's neediest places.

It's common sense, isn't it? When you build a decent clinic, better health for clinic patients is the result. And when you provide a sparkling new school building, better education for school children follows. Safer transportation on widened, level roads leads to fewer accidents, and provides a means to bring village goods to city markets. A newly reinforced reservoir provides irrigation for dozens of small family farms, increasing crop yields and prosperity.

Have no doubt—Mano a Mano is making a lifesaving difference in Bolivia, one brick at a time. Here are just a few of the facts and figures for last year's impressive progress. For a full

accounting, plus financial data, visit our website, [www.manoamano.org](http://www.manoamano.org).

### Delivering health care in 2006

- Since our clinic program began, Mano a Mano providers have treated almost a million patients! Clinic doctors and nurses had 282,205 patient encounters last year.
- Nearly 42,000 women and children were vaccinated against life threatening, preventable illnesses like measles, typhoid, diphtheria and tetanus.
- Nearly 1,500 babies were born in Mano a Mano clinics, bringing our total to 5,444. Our 73 clinics will continue to provide medical care for those babies as they grow.
- Deliveries in Mano a Mano clinics are far more likely to have good outcomes; to date, not one mother has died in childbirth in our clinics.

### Building community clinics

- 13 community clinics were completed in 2006—more than a clinic a month!
- At each of Mano a Mano's 73 completed clinics, up to 10 volunteers have been trained to serve as health promoters and emergency first responders.

### Distributing medical supplies

- 200,000 pounds—that's 100 tons—of medical supplies and equipment were collected, sorted, packed and shipped last year by dedicated volunteers in Minnesota.
- Equally committed Bolivian volunteers in Cochabamba unloaded, re-sorted and distributed those supplies to waiting clinics and hospitals.

### Improving infrastructure

- Public baths and laundry facilities were built in 7 communities.
- 62 kilometers of roads were leveled and improved, connecting isolated villages to main roads.
- A community reservoir was expanded and reinforced, doubling its storage capacity and increasing the number of families with access to water from 175 to 600 families.

### Creating sustainable health care

- 56 of the clinics built by Mano a Mano have reached complete financial independence. In self-sustaining clinics, Bolivian sources provide staff salaries, the clinics bill a national health care fund for services to pregnant women and young children;



and other patients pay 15 to 30 cents per clinic visit.

### Improving schools, teacher housing

- New school buildings and housing units for teachers in 8 communities were built in 2006.

### Providing emergency transport

- Mano a Mano pilots put in over 300 hours of flight time to rescue critically ill patients from areas with limited medical services, or to transport medical personnel. Forty-four patients were airlifted from remote villages for advanced care last year.



SAR members with new gear.

## Volunteer Searches eBay, Rescues Fire Equipment; Mano Ships to Bolivia

On a trip to Bolivia in April 2006, Mano a Mano volunteer Joel Lagerquist stopped by the SAR (Search and Rescue) headquarters in Cochabamba. SAR is an all-volunteer team of city residents who carry out search and rescue and firefighting missions in the city, along with teaching CPR and safety to local businesses. SAR's 100 or so volunteers supplement the work of Cochabamba's

poorly funded municipal firefighters, a wing of the city's police force. Volunteers range in age from 18 to their mid-40s. Nearly half of them are female. They are trained to carry out rescues in Bolivia's jungles, rivers, on slick mountain roads and city streets.

Joel's visit to SAR left him impressed with the dedicated people working there, but he was struck by their lack of basic equipment. Upon his return to the US, he began searching for and collecting firefighting equipment, contacting

local fire departments for donations and scouring eBay for useful items. He collected carloads of supplies, including self-contained breathing apparatuses and backpacks, backboards, boots and helmets, and even a parachute! Mano a Mano shipped the equipment to Bolivia and delivered it to SAR last month. The result "was like Christmas in February," reported SAR chief Mario Arranibar Zapata.

For more pictures, see the web page Joel created, [www.lagerquist.com/joel/SAR](http://www.lagerquist.com/joel/SAR)

## This Just In...

**Think Spring:** Crafts from Bolivia make wonderful graduation and wedding presents! Stock up at the semi-annual Jubilee sale, Saturday, April 14, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Highland and Snelling Ave. in St. Paul. All proceeds from craft sales go directly to support Mano a Mano. Info: 612-378-7021.

**Bolivia Travelers:** On the heels of a visit by Mano a Mano volunteers to Minnesota in October 2006, Bolivian staff and volunteers played host to several delegations from the Midwest this winter. First to arrive, in November, was a group from Hills, Minnesota, the childhood home of Mano a Mano co-founder Joan Velasquez. Members of that group included nursing home staff and administrators who were particularly interested in the way Bolivian elders are cared for.

A second group sponsored by Unity Church in St. Paul visited in January, 2007. The Unitarian church's "Mano a Mano Outreach Team" has raised an average of \$14,000 each year for the past five years, contributing over \$70,000 to the creation of new clinics and schools. In mid-March, another group of Unity folks will visit a clinic endowed by church members.



Bolivia visitor Colleen Cooper.