

## JOEY'S FIRST LETTER TO SCHOOLS:

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Niño a Niño began in 2012 when then, 11 year old Joey Temali reflected on his trip to Bolivia with his family during a Mano a Mano trip to see projects in rural communities. Joey was so impacted by the injustice of rural poverty in Bolivia and that children did not have schools to attend or materials to learn with that upon return, Joey met with Executive Director, Dan Narr, and Cofounder of Mano a Mano, Segundo Velasquez, to tell them that by the time he graduated high school, he would raise enough money to build a school in rural Bolivia. He's been saving his weekly allowance ever since. But, also, he has been reaching out to schools, teachers, & administrators, giving presentations, and engaging people in his endeavor. Mano a Mano created the Niño a Niño project to help Joey meet his goal!

To:

My name is Joey Temali and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Highland Park Middle School in the Immersion Program. In December of 2009 my family and I went on a trip to Bolivia for 1 month. My dad was volunteering for an NGO called Mano a Mano.

Mano a Mano, founded by Segundo & Joan Velazquez, is an organization that builds clinics, schools, roads and water reservoirs in the poorest rural areas of Bolivia. The indigenous people in rural Bolivia are amongst the poorest people in the western hemisphere. Ninety-four percent of that population survive on less than \$2 a day. Mano a Mano has built 44 schools and 131 clinics that have completely changed the lives of thousands of Bolivians.

While I was there we to some rural communities and saw some schools that Mano a Mano had built. In some towns the school was

the only brick building in the whole town. I saw what an impact it had on the community. I talked to Segundo's brother Jose and I promised him that someday I would raise enough money to build a school.

So that is why I am writing to you today. Maybe if all the Spanish Immersion schools in the Twin Cities metro area work together we could raise enough money to build one school. One school costs \$30,000 and \$40,000 with teacher housing. Teacher housing allows good teachers from other cities and towns to come and teach and have a place to stay. Your students could learn all about Bolivia and participate in a service learning project.

I hope that your school would be willing and able to participate in this project. I could come to a PTO meeting, a student council meeting, a staff meeting (or whatever group would be

the most appropriate and helpful) to explain about this project and show photos and videos from rural Bolivia. It is possible that Segundo Velasquez or Dan Narr (executive director of Mano a Mano) could also come to your school.

Please let me know if your school is interested in exploring this type of project. I really hope we can accomplish this together.

Sincerely,  
Joey Temali

### Contact us

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Learn more about Mano a Mano at: [manoamano.org](http://manoamano.org)