



Friends of Chimbote

Transforming the lives of the poor through education.

# THE JOURNEY

A publication for the community of Friends of Chimbote supporters.

Volume 2 | Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2021

## Transforming Lives Through Our Mission Services and Resources...

Meet Florcita and her family  
(page 8-9)







# Executive Director's Corner



It has truly been a year of a lifetime. Just as the great depression forever changed the lives of our parents and grandparents, this pandemic will forever change us. Things that were taken for granted will now be cherished; gathering with family and friends, basic supplies (like canning lids), attending worship services with our congregations and so many more unique to each individual. The losses have been deeply felt in our economy, education systems, health and many lives resulting in fear, anger, depression and loneliness.

It is with great relief and gratitude that we are deep into recovery. There are millions more jobs & jabs than applicants. Trillions and trillions of dollars are being pumped into the economy. Over 50% of the adult population has been vaccinated at an ongoing rate of 2 million a day. Ultimately, even with the pain and losses, we have much to be grateful for in our medical systems and personnel, financial resources, vaccines and technology to stay connected, receiving government assistance and learning.

Conditions could not be more different in Peru. The deadlier Brazilian variant is spreading through the country. Medical systems have collapsed with no hospitals beds available and severe shortages of oxygen and treatments. The death rate in Peru from COVID is the highest in the world. The economy is in failure with no government funds reaching the poor we serve who do not have bank accounts to receive assistance. Education for the children of the poor cannot occur with no access to electronics or the internet.

Unfortunately, these failures of a developing country have been exasperated by four Peruvian Presidents and cabinets in less than 12 months. The road ahead is long with the new President taking office in July, less than 5% of the population fully vaccinated and logistics for vaccination very difficult. These factors contribute to much helplessness and fear embodied in a recent Peruvian's expression, "As a human, just can't do anything."

Amidst the tumult, you have been amazing! You have shared your resources, concern and prayers with our brothers and sisters in Peru. Churches, Rotary Clubs, Schools, individuals and families have been extra generous through raffles, penny wars, campaigns, collections, donations, IRA distributions and stock gifts.

Because of your efforts and support, we have been able to relieve suffering and save lives through 300,000 meals and essential water, oxygen tanks and treatments, medicine, microloans, new soup kitchens and homes in addition to all of our other support in counseling and mental health.



Our Chimbote team at ACAF have been exceptional and inspiring at great personal risk and loss through some of the darkest days in Peruvian history. Working with community leaders, they have identified those in greatest need and renewed faith and hope in the poor we serve who have nowhere else to turn. Your support provides the financial and emotional support so critical for our team to continue to serve and save lives in what looks to be a protracted effort.

You are a true blessing and the answer to the cries and prayers of the poor of our brothers and sisters in Chimbote. May God bless and keep you safe.

In Service & Gratitude,



Feeding the hungry has been a part of our Mission over the past four decades. The economic collapse in the cash economy due to COVID quarantines and minimal government support resulted in severe hunger for the poorest we serve. The elderly and handicapped were even more affected due to their lack of mobility and increased risk from COVID.

With additional funding from our donors and redirecting funds from other programs, humanitarian aid became our top priority. Working with community leaders and authorities helped us to identify those in greatest need and to receive permission to deliver aid during the quarantine.

Additional food supplies were provided to our existing soup kitchens but capacity to serve more people was essential. Assembling food and water packages at ACAF that could feed a family for a week and be delivered to those in quarantine became an ongoing program. We also identified Olla Comuns (Common Pots) in neighborhoods where meals were prepared and shared with those in need so we provided supplies.

*“It was a day of wonder, solidarity, faith and gratitude.”*

However, more was needed in the poorest barrios, especially in our new service areas of San Pedro and Cambio Puente. With funds from St. Michael’s of Prior Lake that had been raised to build homes on mission trips that couldn’t happen, new soup kitchens were built and outfitted in San Pedro and Cambio Puente. Community members now cook meals for hundreds of families with supplies we provide. With fish as a main staple of the Chimbotanos, ACAF reached out to a local partner and fishing company, Hayduk. We were able to negotiate for 4,000 pounds of fresh fish at deep

discount to be put on ice and delivered to the Bella Vista neighborhood in Cambio Puente.

The ACAF team set up at the new San Miguel soup kitchen with the fish and bags of bread from the ACAF bakery, Solidaripan. Without refrigeration in their homes, the fish would be salted and one of the favorite meals of Causa with fish, potatoes and onions would be prepared.

However, word soon spread into the neighborhoods surrounding Bella Vista. Hundreds of families lined up and patiently waited to receive bread and fish to feed their families. One by one for many hours, beneficiaries humbly presented plastic bags, tubs and buckets to receive and walk home with their precious fish and bags of bread. When the lines kept forming and getting longer, there was anxiety that some would be turned away. Over 350 families were served that day and no one went home empty handed.

It was a day of wonder, solidarity, faith and gratitude that we could feed thousands of people in a day and provide what many beneficiaries and ACAF staff believe was a miracle. During these COVID crises, we have provided over 300,000 meals when the previous year was 75,000. New humanitarian campaigns are sorely needed and will continue to be delivered as resources allow.







**Asociacion Civil Apoyo Familiar**  
(Civil Association Supporting Families)

The Peruvian faith-based, civil association was created in 2005 to administer Mission programs. Over 90 Peruvian employees of ACAF utilize the donor funding secured and managed by Friends of Chimbote to combat the daily affects of poverty while empowering the poor through education and transformation opportunities. Meeting the diverse needs of the poor are a dedicated staff of social workers, psychologists, teachers, attorneys, lenders, construction workers, carpenters, trainers, guards and maintenance personnel.

ACAF leaders are in the community each day to assess needs, manage employees and visitors working in the programs and collaborate with community leaders. The ACAF Board is a qualified group of community leaders and a Friends of Chimbote liaison. Friends of Chimbote and ACAF staff and leaders interact dynamically each week to effectively deliver Mission programs.



# Jorge Villar

## ACAF Exective Director



My heart is full of gratitude as I watch our staff, privileged to be able to continue tirelessly doing God’s work, alleviating suffering, and saving many peoples’ lives during this terrible pandemic. Their hard work fills us with pride, and we thank them profoundly.

In these difficult and painful times that we are living, the hope that we maintain in our daily work has been crucial for those families who are suffering, who cry out for food, medicine, oxygen and sadly in some cases even for a place to live with dignity – a result of a devastating fire where more than 100 families lost their homes and all of their possessions in one of the poorest invasions in the city.

Being able to grant hope in the face of suffering, and to meet the needs of some of the poorest families in Chimbote, and accompany them day after day, leaves us with no words sometimes. We are filled with emotion and motivated to continue working with all our efforts, giving the best of ourselves even in the midst of the pandemic and the risks it brings.

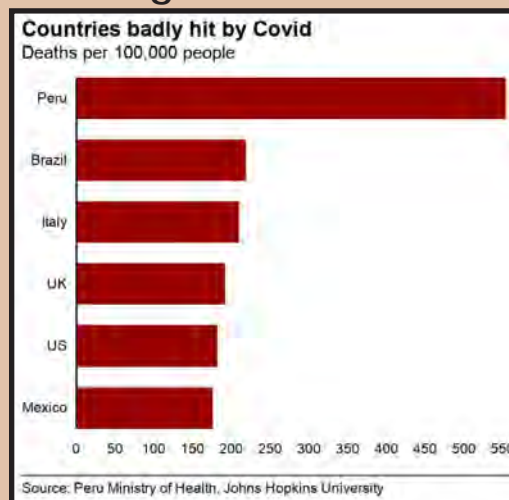
I cannot put into words the gratitude we receive, expressed amongst tears and emotional outpours from our beneficiaries each time we help them, but it is very important that on their behalf, and on behalf of all our staff, that I give you our sincerest thanks and recognition for trusting us and for the support that you constantly give to us.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your prayers and your support, especially at this very difficult time. I hope to see the day soon when I can welcome you again and we can work together in Chimbote.

Thank you so much for being there for us.

*Jorge*

### Highest COVID-19 Mortality Rate in the World



Peru has more than doubled its Covid death toll following a review on June 1st, 2021, making it the country with the world’s highest death rate per capita, according to Johns Hopkins University data. Factors include...

- Extreme Poverty
- Lack of Medical Supplies
- Lack of Hygiene and Prevention
- Pre-existing Health Issues
- Inadequate Social Distancing
- Low Vaccination Rates (less than 5%)



Peru recorded its first case of COVID-19 on March 6th, 2020. As it implemented one of the strictest lockdowns in Latin America, the Peruvian Government was initially successful in controlling the spread of the virus. However, the prevention measures proved too difficult to sustain particularly for Peruvians living in poverty who rely on daily wages and informal work to survive. By May/June of last year, 85 percent of ICU beds in Peru were occupied. By August, Peru had recorded over 500,000 COVID cases and over 25,000 deaths. As 2020 came to a close, the country saw an additional 500,000 cases causing an already weak and underfunded public healthcare system to collapse.

2021 started off with the promising news of soon-to-be available vaccines. However, as the Peruvian government started to prepare and roll-out its vaccination program a third wave of COVID-19 destabilized the country once more. The March surge of COVID cases hit close to home, as several ACAF team members tested positive and got seriously sick. Sadly, the team suffered a number of fatalities as well. Less than a month ago, the Peruvian Ministry of Health updated its COVID-19 mortality data, revealing that its initial death toll estimates had been off by more than 100,000 deaths. This makes Peru the country with the highest mortality rate in the world.

Throughout this crisis, your contributions have enabled our partners in Chimbote to do life-saving work, providing essentials like clean drinking water, food, and oxygen to our brothers and sisters in need. I can confidently state that because of you, people, who might have otherwise perished, are alive and well; I am humbled and inspired by your generosity and know that my fellow Chimbotanos are as well.



*Lucho*

## Vaccinations Slowly Roll Out in Peru

Vaccinations in Peru are slowly progressing with less than 5% of the population fully vaccinated. The projection is that up to 15% could be fully vaccinated by the end of August.

The low availability of the vaccine makes it critical for ACAF to be strong advocates for our Mission beneficiaries to get access to vaccinations. We are coordinating with DIRESA, the regional health department, to secure doses for the elderly in greatest need. This includes the handicapped, those with severe comorbidities and those living alone.

ACAF personnel schedule the vaccinations, provide transportation and assist the beneficiaries at the vaccination sites. At the end of April, sixty-eight people ages 80 and older received their first dose with their second dose on May 19th. Another sixty beneficiaries ages 70-79 received their first dose on May 17th. There had been deep anxieties among these elderly men and women that there would be no way for them to get vaccinated. While the rollout is slow and irregular, hope is building that they will have access to a vaccine through the advocacy and resources of ACAF and our Mission.



*A long-time missionary favorite "Jaime" receives his first covid vaccination.*





# BECAUSE OF YOU...Continued Hope

Despite all the tragedy that our brothers and sisters have endured, a strong sense of perseverance has swept through Chimbote and surrounding communities. With the help of so many generous FoC donors, your resources and prayers have empowered our brothers and sisters to stay in the fight and a sense of hope is being restored.

Because of you. ACAF staff are tirelessly working on the front-lines to make sure that your resources are making a difference. There are no words to express our gratitude but the faces of our brothers and sisters hopefully give you a sense of the thanks you so greatly deserve.

Muchas gracias!

## FARM TO POT

March 26th ACAF distributed baskets full of vegetables, fruits and grains to over 200 families in the neighborhoods of "Los Jazmines," "Villamari" and the "San Miguel" soup kitchen in the Cambio Puente area. Food was purchased directly from small farms in the Santa valley and harvested by our own front-line staff.



## SOUP KITCHENS

During the pandemic, due to generous donations from the St. Michael parish, two additional soup kitchens were built and have been fully operational serving the communities of San Pedro and Cambio Puente. Since the COVID outbreak over 400 families have been receiving daily meals. This is not including the 4 soup kitchens that ACAF operates and serves.



## WATER DISTRIBUTION

"Water for All," this campaign began with the devastating discovery of communities that had no access to water. With resources from FoC Donors, the ACAF staff immediately took action. Water trucks arrived and hundreds of people waited in line equipped with tanks, pots, buckets and bottles to receive and store a little water for survival.



## OXYGEN SUPPLY

January 2021 marked the beginning of a second wave of COVID-19 in Peru. Hospitals in Chimbote and Nuevo Chimbote alerted that there were no beds available for patients and a lack of oxygen had hit a critical state. Due to gracious FoC donors, 10 oxygen tanks were purchased and lives were saved. More developments regarding an oxygen campaign have developed. Please see page 11 for details.



# ... Despite Unwelcome Tragedies



## BLANKETS & COVID PACKETS

Unfortunately, on April 14, 2021 another fire engulfed part of the San Pedro community destroying over 50 homes (mainly esteras). ACAF staff quickly responded and with many of the resources that were received on the container from the states, they were able to hand out blankets and essentials supplies to provide some relief and comfort to the victims.



## SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Schools continue to remain closed and the difficult challenge of remote learning remains a high priority. To assist with this task, ACAF has been distributing white boards built by our carpentry shop, school bags and supplies that were received on the 2020 container have been delivered out into the communities.

## LOAVES AND FISHES

With fish as a main staple of the Chimbotanos, ACAF reached out to a local partner and fishing company, Hayduk and negotiated a discount on fish. Fish is a favorite in the area because without refrigeration the fish can be salted and preserved. Distribution of bread from the ACAF bakery and fish have been delivered out into the barrios.



## CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Because of generous funds received by many thoughtful Friends of Chimbote donors, on Christmas Eve day, ACAF staff quickly went into action and prepared and delivered Christmas baskets to over 200 homeless families in Chimbote. The cries and joy of thankfulness could be heard throughout the city.

## COVID RESCUE MEDICAL TEAM

January 2021 the ACAF Solidarity Rescue COVID-19 Team was put in place. With the resources so graciously given by our FoC Donors this team has been able to contract 3 doctors and 2 nurses that have been making home visits, seeing patients at the Hospice building and providing medicine, equipment and developing health care plans for our beneficiaries in need. Lives have been saved and families remain together!







# TRANSFORMATION...Liv



**“Tragically...Florcita’s husband died in a traffic accident ten months ago.”**

When we built and supplied the San Miguel Soup Kitchen last year to improve the nutrition in the Bella Vista neighborhood of our new community of Cambio Puente, we shared that we were eager to progress further in transforming these lives. Working with the soup kitchen, we met and learned the story of Florcita Valverde Martinez. Flor is a 20-year-old widow with 2 children ages 14 months and 3 years.

Flor walks the mile each day from her home to receive lunch at the soup kitchen. This meal supplements the \$2-4 per day that Flor earns doing various jobs of washing clothes, cleaning, working farms or tending animals, all while her children accompany her.



Flor’s determination and love of her children were very evident as she shared her challenges and dreams of a safer, healthier life for her family! After witnessing her home of estera and reeds with no beds, electricity or water, the ACAF social workers and managers were deeply moved. Flor was chosen for a new wooden home, furniture and supplies. Flor was excited but skeptical since many

people had told her they would help after her husband died in a traffic accident ten months ago.

The ACAF social and homebuilding teams went to work immediately. Generous mission supporters have funded wooden homes, concrete floors, beds, tables, chairs, stoves and household supplies including those shipped on the container. In

less than a week, Flor’s determination and commitment to her children were rewarded with a new home, furniture and supplies to provide a safer and healthier life.

This transformation was beyond anything that Flor could have imagined or afforded on her \$15 per week income, regardless of her hard work from sunrise to sundown.



# Living out our Mission's Purpose



**"Thank you, God,  
Thank you, Thank  
you, Thank you all  
so much. May God  
Bless each and  
every one of the  
people who have  
helped me."**

Florcita Martinez

Flor's journey on the road out of poverty will now continue with ACAF working with her on the next steps down the road of education or vocational training or a business through a microloan.

Through new tears of joy this time, Flor shared from her heart, "I left my house empty and today I have



found it full. I don't have the words to thank you for so much kindness. Thank you, God, thank you, thank you all so much. May God Bless each and every one of the people who have helped me."

She surely found the words that inspire us all to continue our work of transforming lives.





# Sister Peggy's Legacy Lives On...

Education has been a center piece of our Mission for many decades as a key to escaping multi-generational poverty with it being the primary focus of Sr. Peggy Byrne. Providing resources like pre-school, supplies, tutoring, libraries and counseling formed the foundation of increased attendance and graduation from secondary school.

**“Alex shares his gratitude to Sister Peggy, donors and our Mission for all the support!”**

The success of these programs fed the development of post-secondary options of vocational training and scholarships. Sr. Peggy was again instrumental in professional and vocational training and careers for scholarship recipients who would commit to their education and follow the tenets of our Mission to serve and take care of others.

A key to this ministry has been the Sr. Peggy Scholarship Program. In 2007 with the celebration in Ireland of Sr. Peggy's Golden Jubilee, she asked that any gifts be directed to scholarships to help the poor escape poverty. The Sr. Peggy Scholarship Program was created and grew with additional fundraising campaigns and donor support including those who give generously today.

Over the past 14 years, dozens of students have received scholarship support and personal guidance in completing post-secondary career paths, degrees and certifications in engineering, law, education, nursing, obstetrics, dentistry, medicine, architecture, psychology, management, electricians, mechanics and more. Scholarships continue today.

One of the students with the longest journey and commitment to the program is Alex Sanchez Caballero. Alex was involved with Sr. Peggy in the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help including through confirmation. Alex's family of his mother, father, sister and brother had few resources to continue his education upon graduation from secondary school in 2006. He worked to afford part-time classes for 4 years but never lost sight of his dream to become a physician and help others.



Alex's commitment to his studies, work ethic and service resulted in full inclusion in 2012 in the Sr. Peggy Scholarship Program for a medical degree. In May, Alex completed the 8-year program and is now preparing for his year of rural medical service. His goal after service is to complete a residency program, ideally in Pediatrics. While it would be challenging, Alex would like to complete his residency in a country with advanced medical training capabilities like the United States, France or Spain.

Alex shares his gratitude to Sr. Peggy, donors and our Mission for the financial, emotional and spiritual support essential to his training and success. He is very committed to helping others and engaging in our Mission, which he has already demonstrated, helping at our COVID clinic at the Hospice facility. In these challenging times, it is so heartwarming to witness the success and continuation of our Legacy of Education on the journey out of poverty!







Peru has one of the highest COVID mortality rates of any nation, including India. Many of the leading factors are inadequate medical infrastructure including hospital beds, intensive care capacity, ventilators and oxygen resources. The result is the poor we serve must battle the virus at home with minimal access to healthcare professionals.

In January, after the holidays, COVID cases in Peru surged by over 116% in one week and continued to rise. Our Mission responded with a COVID Rescue Project. We contracted with physicians and nurses with deep concern for the poor who worked with us outside of their existing jobs to provide medical diagnosis, treatments, medicine and oxygen for FoC Mission beneficiaries.

We purchased 10 oxygen tanks, regulators, masks and oximeters essential for treatment. Since February due to donor support, we have been treating over 100 patients per month; saving lives, reducing fear and suffering for the poor who have no other services available. The Hospice facility, out of service since 2017, has been essential in delivering this care.

**“We are collaborating with Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and Global Ministries at Bon Secours Mercy Health.”**

Unfortunately, oxygen generating shortages are limiting our refills to 5 tanks per week at a cost of \$30 per tank. Doctors Without Borders state, “Oxygen is the single most important medicine for severe and critical COVID-19 patients, yet oxygen supply is often insufficient.” Addressing this issue is essential to saving lives with the Peru vaccination rate at 5% at the end of May and expected to only reach 15% by the end of August. April was the deadliest month of the pandemic in the Chimbote area with over 875 deaths including staff, friends, family and beneficiaries of our Mission.

To increase oxygen availability, we are collaborating with Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and Global Ministries at Bon Secours Mercy Health who both operate

healthcare ministries in Peru. They are installing an oxygen generating plant in Huanchaco, north of Chimbote. Our Mission will be able to refill 35 tanks per week at no cost starting in July!

Maximizing this generous and life-saving opportunity, means we need to buy another 55 oxygen tanks so we can swap half of them each week and a truck to transport the trailer of tanks. Each tank with mask, regulator and oximeter costs \$810. The truck will cost \$35,000. The oxygen tanks will be in constant use for the foreseeable future and the truck will be used the remaining days of the week for Mission ministries including housebuilding, furniture and supply deliveries.



We are grateful and blessed to already have over \$27,000 in matches toward the purchase of the tanks and truck. Securing the remainder of the funding is important not only for the current need but for a life-changing future. The plan is to acquire another oxygen generating plant in 2022 for Chimbote capable of filling 50 cylinders per day. The location could be the Hospice facility and operated by our Mission. This first step now of procuring additional oxygen for the lifesaving treatment for the poor we serve could be multiplied twentyfold in the near future.

## Friends of Chimbote Board of Directors



Lucho Espejo, Fargo, ND  
Board Chairman

Eric Krueger, Fargo, ND  
Vice Chairman

Brian Berg, Fargo, ND  
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Kelli Kester, Mpls, MN

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Dan Kuzlik, Minneapolis, MN

Deb Lalley, St. Joseph, MN

Dan Mahli, Fargo, ND

Margaret (Pook) Grathwol, Mpls, MN

Scott Sanders, Oxbow, ND

Hubert Seiler, Rugby, ND

Bill Seiler, Fairfax, VA

*The Friends of Chimbote Board is deeply committed to the mission of transforming lives of the poor including an annual meeting in Chimbote engaging in our mission work. The broad and diverse nature of challenges facing our mission is met head on by the amazing skills, knowledge, advocacy, and passions of our Board Members.*

## Friends of Chimbote Staff

Todd Mickelson  
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Mission Visit Director  
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Cari Rauch  
Accountant  
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## FoC Board Activities Moving Forward...

March 14th, 2020 will be a date that will not be forgotten. This was the day that a few FoC staff, FoC Board Members and donors hugged our many friends in Chimbote and boarded a plane back to the states not knowing that all of our lives would be forever changed.

Fifteen months have passed, but just because we have been unable to travel to Peru, FOC Staff and Board Members have continued to be engaged through online zoom meetings and numerous conference calls to confront the challenges we all have been presented.

Board members have been instrumental in securing the use of the Hospice Facility again, authorizing humanitarian programs and securing additional resources through amazing advocacy and personal giving!

### THE BEST IS YET TO COME...

As the states are beginning to breathe a sigh of cautious relief, the hope that soon we will be united with our brothers and sisters in Chimbote is becoming slowly a more evident reality. With this in mind...the FoC Board is more committed than ever to begin the process of developing a plan on how to move forward.

- Several Sub Committees have been put in place to address specific issues. (Mission Visit Program, COVID-19 Safety plans, Hospice Building, Mission Development, Staff Development and etc...)
- More online meetings are taking place with a scheduled "In-person" meeting in Fargo, ND this Fall
- An advance group will travel to Peru in early Fall to assess conditions on the ground for future mission activities.
- Strategic planning for the next 3 to 5 years will begin at the Fall Board Meeting

Our dedicated and talented Board Members are counting the days when we can return to Chimbote! We desire to witness the life-changing activities of our Mission and move forward in our growth plans, transforming lives of beneficiaries and benefactors in our legacy community of La Victoria/OLPH and new communities including Cambio Puente and Bella Vista.





# Missing Our Mission Teams

## Eagerly Awaiting...

We have heard from so many of our Mission Teams and know how eager we all are to get back to Chimbote. Our teams have been greatly missed and hard to believe that it has been over 15 months since our last group left our brothers and sisters in Peru. Mission Teams are so much more to FoC and ACAF than just volunteers on the ground. They are friends and considered family to so many. They bring love, joy, hugs, laughs, and hope to all in Chimbote and surrounding communities.

Our number one priority remains the health and safety of everyone involved in the work we do, including our staff, our local volunteers, the families in Chimbote and surrounding communities and visiting mission teams.

With that in mind, the FoC staff and Board of Directors have made the difficult decision to not re-open the mission visit program until 2022. This decision was not made lightly and there were many variables that were considered. As of June 2021, Peru has been experiencing the highest COVID -19 mortality rate in the world. It is difficult to grasp that information at times as we in the States feel a cautious sense of relief and are watching the States' numbers decline. We understand the need is great in Chimbote, but we first need to put safety guidelines in place to protect the safety of our staff and incoming visitors. We are also considering our staff in Chimbote who have been tirelessly in the fight saving lives for over a year and a half.

Giving them the support and guidance they are needing to heal is a top priority. They have been our warriors on the front-lines and we want to make sure they have time to shift their attention once Peru experiences some relief from this ongoing pandemic. With that said...these next few months...the FoC staff and board will be developing a phase one safety plan to safely welcome back our mission visitors. A team of FoC Staff and Board of Directors will be forming a team which will venture to Chimbote later this fall to assess the conditions and give recommendations on how and when to move forward. By doing so...we are helping to ensure that we will be able to continue our work for many more years to come.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO??

As we are preparing for your arrivals in 2022, you can be preparing your perspective team members also.

- **Pick your date! Dates in 2022 will fill quickly!**
  - Contact Julie Dolbec for date availability!
- **Watch for information on the website, Facebook and Powermails.**
  - FoC's safety requirements will be posted within the next month.
  - FoC will be posting regularly on the conditions in Chimbote and any new developments regarding mission visits.
- **Begin your fundraising efforts!**
  - FoC has support material to assist you in your efforts!
- **Ask Questions!!**
  - We are all in uncharted waters so please contact Julie Dolbec at FOC with any questions or concerns.



## SEE YOU IN 2022!!!

# Many Thanks

What we do...Is Because of YOU!

The last fifteen months confirmed that the poor we serve are so fragile on their path out of poverty. In these pages, we have shared some of the stories of their journey which mirror thousands of others we serve through you.

What is different in this catastrophe for the poor, is that you, our Friends of Chimbote and benefactors of our Mission, were also hurting, stressed and anxious. There was grave concern that we would be unable to respond to the dire needs of our Mission. **Your response to this tragedy, has been a greater blessing than we ever thought possible.** The services we are providing are due to your loving support and generosity. We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers, donors and advocates and love sharing a few inspirations.



- **Mission monthly and regular donors increased with a significant increase in giving levels. St. Michael's in Prior Lake led the way with exemplary gifts for humanitarian aid, homes, furniture and soup kitchens.**
- **New donors grew by 50% including Father Phil Ackerman's new parish and school of Holy Cross and Trinity.**
- **Over 40% of our donors gave their largest gift ever and shared that they loved the Mission's impact.**
- **Special collections, campaigns, penny wars and raffles were organized even with the reduced attendance at churches, schools and clubs. Nativity School Penny Wars, Carrington Knights Raffle and Prior Lake Rotary grant were all assisted by Friends of Chimbote Board Members.**
- **Stimulus checks were donated**
- **IRA distributions became major gifts with portfolio gains and Chimbote's need**
- **Stock and mutual fund gifts increased with market gains**
- **The container was filled and sent with needed supplies even with severe disruptions in the normal supply chain**
- **Facebook fundraisers celebrated birthdays, special events and included matches**
- **Homes, furniture, school supplies, soup kitchen meals, chickens, garden boxes and microloans were donated through the last newsletter improving lives and relieving suffering**
- **Donors chose to cover credit card fees with their online gifts enabling more funds for the poor**

Our gratitude extends also to those individuals, businesses and congregations who had to reduce or delay gifts during this pandemic due to severe disruption, loss and pain. We have held all our benefactors and beneficiaries in our prayers during this unprecedented time. We will continue to work hard to earn your support and impact lives as we work through these dark times and toward the brighter days ahead.





SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# United Together Continuing to send HOPE

**\$810**

**Oxygen Tank**

Fund an oxygen tank with mask, regulator and oximeter to treat severe COVID patients

**\$36.75**

**Covid Rescue**

Fund a doctor visit and COVID treatment plan for a Mission beneficiary

**\$18**

**Essential Package**

Fund a package of food and water supplies to feed a family of four for a week

**\$324**

**Water Delivery**

Fund delivery of 15,000 liters of water for 175 families in a community without water

# 8

## Opportunities to Provide **HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT** *to our brothers and sisters in Peru*

**\$1,120**

**Loaves & Fishes**

Provide 350 families with loaves and fish in a community

**\$2100**

**Soup Kitchen**

Provide one month of meals for 200 people at a Mission Soup Kitchen

**\$500-20,000**

**Pickup Truck**

Provide funds for a pickup truck to transport oxygen, deliver food, furniture, home and school supplies

**\$4000**

**House Build**

Provide shelter to a family in need with a home, furniture, gas stove and food package



Donations can be sent via mail at PO Box 717, West Fargo, ND 58078  
or with the enclosed reply envelope.

You may also click on the donate button on the FoC website at [www.friendsofchimbote.org](http://www.friendsofchimbote.org).

Any questions regarding these designated gifts please contact Todd Mickelson at 701-364-0162.

## Our Circle of Friends

Carrying out mission programs requires the alliance of four fundamental entities working in harmony. While each has different responsibilities, challenges and opportunities, all are united in a common purpose to serve the poor with compassion, integrity and respect.

### Benefactors and Volunteers

Individuals, parishes, congregations and civic groups and mission volunteers that provide human, monetary and material resources.



### Friends of Chimbote

US-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization responsible for the governance, global advocacy, mission trips and fundraising needed to sustain the mission programs now and into the evolving future.

### Asociación Civil Apoyo Familiar (ACAF)

The Peruvian faith-based, civil association was created in 2005 to administer mission programs to empower the poor through education and transformation opportunities.

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Provides the spiritual support and guidance, unconditional love, inspiration and hope for the thousands of people living and working within the barrios surrounding the parish.

# COMING SOON

NEW FoC WEBSITE

We are happy to announce that we will be launching our NEW FoC Website the end of July! The official launch date will be announced on Facebook and via email.

[www.friendsofchimbote.org](http://www.friendsofchimbote.org)



## Stay Close • Stay Connected

Explore two ways to stay up to date on the latest happenings at the mission.

### "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

Visit our Facebook page; [www.facebook.com/friendsofchimbote/](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofchimbote/) and click the "like" button.

### JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Sign up to receive our monthly emails by visiting [www.friendsofchimbote.org](http://www.friendsofchimbote.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page. A quick click of the subscribe button will take you to the sign-up form.



The Success Is About The Journey