



Friends of Chimbote

Transforming the lives of the poor through education.

THE JOURNEY

A publication for the community of Friends of Chimbote supporters.

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Summer 2023



*Love,
Perseverance,
Tradition,
&
Family*

Transformation
(pages 10-11)



Todd Mickelson FoC Executive Director



While I still get public speaking butterflies, I relish the opportunity to share the stories of our Mission; lives transformed of beneficiaries and benefactors and examples of living our faith in serving and lifting up the least of our brothers and sisters in Peru. The past few months have included speaking and presenting to churches, schools, mission visit groups, Zoom and individual meetings and service groups including Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimists Club and Knights of Columbus.

Recently, I experienced the most meaningful story telling of the impact of our Mission while having lunch with Sr. Peggy and FoC Board Member, Tammy Campbell. It has been 8 years since Sr. Peggy returned to the United States and her Congregation of Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fargo, after 32 years in Chimbote.

We shared the current status of the Sr. Peggy Scholarship Program including names of specific students she had accepted into the program many years ago. We recounted the graduates' professional success and honoring the program's criteria to support family members and giving back to the community, transforming more lives by paying it forward. We reinforced our commitment to her before her departure that the students in the program would continue through their graduation including degrees, diplomas and titles necessary to acquire meaningful employment.

Our conversation continued with updates on our work on the outskirts of the city with special emphasis on Cambio Puente and the extremely poor living in shanty communities outside the city. The creation of a learning center and plans for a childcare center both located next to the San Miguel soup kitchen. The stories of single mothers, children and the elderly participating in our programs; restoring hope and providing opportunities like a water system, sewing programs, health training, catechism and tutoring. We talked about how this was in many ways similar to the programs created by Sr. Peggy and Fr. Jack forty years ago when the people around their parish were in dire poverty.

As our visit, lunch and joyful reflections continued, we recounted very recent events like the political unrest and the tragedy of the cyclone and lives destroyed, a familiar story of the tenuous lives of the very poor in the developing world. The severity of the conditions punctuated by the story that I was unable to travel to Chimbote from Lima in March with a team of FOCUS Missionaries because bridges on the Pan American highway were washed out. The progression of our emergency response with food, water, clothing and support far outside the city was strong evidence of the advancement of our Mission following the legacy of our founders. The duality of humanitarian aid to relieve immediate suffering while continuing transformation programs like scholarships, vocational training and water systems was wonderful news.

As Tammy and I thanked her for leading us on this journey, tears formed in her eyes as she thanked us for sharing with her and continuing to bring hope and opportunity to the Peruvians she continues to love with all her heart. It is so gratifying to feel Sr. Peggy's impact continue through her affirmation; providing inspiration for our ongoing journey of transforming lives.

You have made this possible! Thank you for your continued support that fulfills dreams, changes lives and brings smiles and tears to Irish eyes.

In Service & Gratitude,

Todd





Permanent Endowment Fund

Friends of Chimbote



PLANT A SEED CREATE A LEGACY



Friends of Chimbote has created a qualified, permanent endowment fund! This fund protects the donor's gift in perpetuity while the earnings from the funds are used to impact the lives of the poor, in perpetuity. Five percent of the donation, the earnings, will be used each year for Mission services. The Gospel of Matthew 25 to serve the least of our brothers and sisters will be met in your name in perpetuity.

This permanent endowment fund, as it grows, will be essential for the sustainability of our Mission, now in our fifth decade and growing in impact. Donations to this fund also meet the requirements for the North Dakota Tax Credit (up to 40% of taxes owed with a minimum combined gift of \$5,000) for gifts to a qualified, permanent endowment fund.

The fund received its first gift after formation in 2022. Numerous donors have shared that this fund also fits perfectly in their estate plans through a lasting impact and it does qualify for tax credits for planned gifts in North Dakota. The proceeds from the endowment will be used for core Mission services and programs or for a designated purpose, approved by the Friends of Chimbote Board, like the Sister Peggy Scholarship Fund. There are many opportunities for funds within this endowment.

**For more information
or if you have questions
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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.

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Asociacion Civil Apoyo Familiar
(Civil Association Supporting Families)

The Peruvian faith-based, civil association was created in 2005 to administer Mission programs. Over 80 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

Greetings from Chimbote!

I hope this message finds you well. Over the past months our country had the most difficult challenges going through political unrest, marked by strikes and protests that have had a significant impact in our operations. The blockades and disruptions in transportation generated disrupted daily life and hindered the delivery of essential services specially for those more in need. This situation has made it increasingly difficult to receive visitor mission groups to Chimbote and worse to reach remote areas where our assistance was most needed. Moreover, the recent nature-related challenges, such as flooding and heavy rains, have added another layer of complexity to our efforts. These events have resulted in the displacement of families, destruction of houses, and further exacerbation of the vulnerabilities faced by impoverished communities. In response, we have been actively involved in emergency relief efforts, providing immediate assistance, and collaborating with local parishes to support the affected populations.



Our team has had to find alternative routes and explore innovative means of transportation to continue delivering vital aid, including food, water, medical supplies, and other essential items. In the face of these challenges, I am incredibly proud of our team's dedication, resilience, and determination. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and positively impacted the lives of many families and communities such as Cambio Puente, San Jacinto, Moro, Casma, Rinconada, the most affected communities with the floods and heavy rains where families lost part or in some cases their entire house.

As we move forward, the limited resources, infrastructure constraints, and social barriers often impede our progress. We rely on the support and collaboration of individuals and organizations like you to overcome these obstacles and make a difference in the lives of those in need. Your continued support allows us to expand our programs, reach more communities, and provide sustainable solutions to the issues faced by the poor in Chimbote and the surrounding communities.

As we navigate these challenges together, I invite you to join us in our mission, to come to Chimbote to work with us. No matter the challenges we faced there is no doubt that God is giving us more blessings. Currently our country is peaceful again and we are receiving passionate visitor groups to keep building houses and providing opportunities, making the difference in the life of the most vulnerable families. Together, we can empower the poor, create a sustainable future, and contribute to the overall well-being of the families in our Country.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our work. Together, with your help, we can continue to bring hope and transformative change to those who need it most.

With Gratitude,
Jorge Villar



After a long pandemic...ACAF is pleased to announce the reopening of two vocational programs which were deeply missed.

TEXTILE SEWING

The textile sewing workshop began classes with 10 enrolled, including mothers from Cambio Puente living in extreme poverty. The program was moved to the Virgin of Mercy Church in Cambio Puente and students attend 3 classes per week. The workshop seeks to train these women in new skills, to give them purpose and worth, promote entrepreneurship and generate income to improve their quality of life and that of their families. It is expected that the workshop will be the beginning of a path full of opportunities for these mothers.



CULINARY SCHOOL

The CETPRO ACAF Culinary School opened its doors in a new location in the Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chimbote. 10 students began instructional classes with the guidance of the CETPRO expert Chef. At this time, much of their training has been preparing a meal each week for an FoC Mission Team. The school seeks to train these individuals in the field of cooking, learn the value of nutrition and help students to be the best in their culinary techniques. This skill will in turn provide them an opportunity to generate income and improve their quality of life.



“whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.”



to Chimbote. From her observations, she realized there was much needed work to do in the area of education. She truly believed the way to get out of poverty was through education. She started at the preschool level, understanding the significance of early childhood education. She also understood that some of the parents didn't have the skills to help their children with homework, so she created an after-school learning center. She had the vision to create a scholarship program to help students further their education after high school (Sr. Peggy Scholarship). Through the

In 2007, an announcement was made in church of an upcoming mission trip to Chimbote, Peru. My heart stirred, I answered the call and my life has been changed forever! In 1974, Fr. Jack Davis answered a call to serve the poorest of the poor. Sr. Peggy Byrne would soon join him in his mission work in Chimbote. Part of their mission was to bring visitors to Chimbote, hoping a spark would ignite a spirit of “whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.”

My time spent in the kindergarten classroom left me speechless! Children with tattered clothes, dirty hands and hair ran toward me with hugs and kisses. During snack time, they rushed to give me a part of their snack—half a cracker, a section of orange or banana. To think their parents struggled to give them something to eat and they were willing to share it with a stranger! They had so little but gave so much! I did not know any Spanish, but the universal language of a smile and a hug was all that was needed.

My first experience with poverty was overwhelming. I saw things I could never have imagined - homes made out of estera (woven reeds); dirt floors; a single mattress (shredded in the middle) that slept 5 people; bathroom consisting of a hole in the dirt covered by plywood; an open fire for a stove; chickens, ducks, and guinea pigs living in the same quarters. BUT in the midst of the chaos and despair, hanging on the wall was a picture of Jesus!

I have been to Chimbote 13+ times and counting. The last 8 years, I have been a member of the FoC board of directors. I am extremely proud to be a part of this group that cares so deeply about wanting to help alleviate poverty. There are SO many crucial areas in which FoC serves the poor, but as a former kindergarten teacher/preschool owner I am going to focus on education. Sr. Peggy Byrne answered the call to come



years, I have seen first-hand the impact the scholarship program has had on helping the family unit. Education was and still is the fundamental base for the success of any program FoC has to offer.



“I have seen first-hand the impact the scholarship program has had on helping the family unit.”

Back in 2007, I had no idea how important Sr. Peggy would become in my life. She is my mentor and most importantly, as Chimbotanos would say, “Mi Madre”! By divine intervention, Sr. Peggy moved back to Fargo the same year I moved to Fargo. Sr. Peggy was transitioning out of the missionary life she so loved and was lonesome. I was adjusting to a new town after 35 years living in Grafton. I was lonesome. Through our visits and conversations, Sr. Peggy keeps her memories of Peru alive. I visit her weekly and consider it an honor to serve the woman who served SO many!

For a moment, picture this: the child in kindergarten—lack of food and clothing, living in an estera hut and sleeping on a shredded single mattress with family members—now having an opportunity to finish his/her education and even going on to a college or trade school! The same child applies for a microloan to



start a new business. Isn't it awesome to break the cycle of poverty?! In return, the same child helps support family members to repeat this new cycle of hope! And in the middle of it all stands a picture of Jesus!

Sr. Peggy was the hands and feet of Jesus, and we continue her legacy. As you know, FoC is expanding our borders to reach the poorest of the poor in the community of Cambio Puente. There is a great need for education programs

there and there is a great need to continue the scholarship program. Listen for God's call.

Consider a mission trip. Maybe a spark will ignite in you a spirit of “whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.”

THANK you so much to all the donors and volunteers for supporting this mission!





FoC Scholarship Program

Decades of Sr. Peggy's legacy of education

The critical role of education to empower the poor and transform lives has been a primary goal of our Mission from our founding almost 50 years ago. Our education programs really accelerated with Sr. Peggy Byrnes' arrival in Chimbote 40 years ago. Early childhood education, kindergarten, tutoring, libraries, learning centers, uniforms, school supplies and backpacks were all offered to the children of the poor so they could have access to and succeed in their education.

A significant piece of our Mission education focus was added a little over 20 years ago with post-secondary scholarships. We began to identify students with the aptitude, desire and family statuses where a post-secondary degree could lift the family out of poverty. A degree would make it possible to participate in the formal economy where only 30 percent of Peruvians are employed and receive not only a living wage salary but the benefits of health care coverage, retirement funds, sick leave, consistent employment and other benefits necessary to escape poverty.

The results of the scholarship program have been exceptional! In addition to the thousands of children from pre-school through secondary who have received funds, supplies and support to stay in school, 113 students have graduated from universities and technical institutes due to Mission funding and support. The graduates are now employed as engineers, teachers, nurses, obstetricians, physicians, attorneys, mechanics, administrators, biologists and chemists among many others. In addition to escaping dire poverty, they are fulfilling the expectations of our scholarship program to pay it forward and help others receive an education, take care of their families and provide service to their communities.

Our support does not end with completion of their studies. In Peru, post-secondary education is back end loaded. Once they complete their study program, they must pay for their degrees, certificates and titles which cost up to 50% of their



tuition and fees over 3-5 years. We provide the funds for their official paperwork which is required before they can be employed in their field of study.

The financial benefits for a degreed individual are significant. On average, our graduates earn five times the earnings of someone in the informal economy and three times more than minimum wage workers, enabling them to help support parents, grandparents and siblings.

The wonderful results of our transformational scholarship program which fulfills distant dreams of the very poor we serve are due to the vision of Sr. Peggy and Fr. Jack and the dedicated ACAF staff and FoC donors who have made this possible. Our current scholarship team includes the head of our Education Programs, Ildania Arias Olivera; Scholarship Manager, Deysi Fernández Pimentel and Education Secretary, Rocío Tapia Farfán who team with our teachers, tutors, social workers, Jorge Villar and Roxana Lopez to make our scholarship and education programs successful.

Rotary Clubs helped fund the Dollars for Scholars Program and friends and supporters of Sr. Peggy built the Sr. Peggy Scholarship Fund that will be able to pay for the 17 students remaining in our programs to complete their studies. ACAF staff believe the Sr. Peggy Scholarship Program is the most successful program we operate to provide a sustainable path out of poverty. We are planning a life-cycle scholarship program from pre-school through post-secondary education not only to transform lives but to honor the decades of Sr. Peggy's legacy of education.



2023 Cyclone YAKU

Emergency Funds Approved



SUMMER 2023

The past 3 years have been an unprecedented and severe test of our Mission to respond to the needs of the poor we serve. First, we managed, adapted and were an essential provider through the worst pandemic in one-hundred years in communities with some of the worst comorbidities in the world. This March we faced the torrential rains, floods and mudslides of Cyclone Yaku in central and northern Peru including Chimbote and surrounding areas.

While the pandemic was a marathon and put our staff through years of high-risk humanitarian aid, the cyclone destruction was a sprint! Over a few days, the worst rains that Father Jack had witnessed in 48 years left homes buried in mud and floodwaters, with roads, bridges and infrastructure washed away. Thousands of families lost their homes and all belongings from heavy rain for hours through porous roofs and floodwaters and mud that inundated homes and cars.

The lessons of the pandemic for adapting and immediate response kicked into high gear. Preventive actions of acquiring tarps and plastic for the most vulnerable families without waterproof roofs was the highest priority identified by our social workers and community leaders. Emergency funds were approved and wired from Fargo. Hundreds of families were protected as ACAF staff worked through the weekend.

As the rains continued and the once in a generation flooding began, cries for help came from faith and community leaders throughout the region. Their people were without food, water, clothing and shelter. The calls came from our home parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and as far as 90 miles away in Huarmey. In this catastrophe, our Mission became the local Red Cross, Salvation Army and FEMA where few emergency response agencies are available.

Once again, the needs were assessed and the request for emergency funds was made for clean water and food. Funds were wired. Food and water bottles were purchased and our bakery ramped up production. Emergency packages were assembled including 850 packages of clothing from supplies from our container. The investments we made over the past few years in pickup trucks, a van and 3 wheel cargo vehicles to serve the poorest on the periphery of the communities were essential. Our battle tested staff and experience in logistics during the pandemic made it possible for our teams to deliver essential supplies and comfort to 1260 families in 9 communities in desperate need. Seven of these communities were new to us but word spread quickly between community and faith leaders that there was hope through our Mission.

We were only able to prevent and relieve the suffering of many thousands of our brothers and sisters on short notice because of the generous and compassionate support of you, our friends of Chimbote. Long-standing donors make it possible for our staff to serve each day, including for unexpected catastrophes. Our Sister Parish in Prior Lake, St. Michael's, had just completed their Spring fundraising campaign including for humanitarian aid. Lenten funds were arriving from parishes and schools near and far. Once again, we are deeply, deeply grateful for your support and trust as United Together, we relieve suffering and improve the lives of the poorest of our brothers and sisters in Peru.



TRANSFORMATION.....

Catalina Tiburcio Benites

The Special Recipe is “Love”



Sometimes you come across a story that completely fulfills our FoC Mission, Vision and Values. The story of Catalina Tiburcio Benites gives your mission heart a huge tug knowing that YOU are making a difference in people’s lives. This is a story of Love, Perseverance, Tradition and Family!

Catalina (41) has 3 children, William (15), Fernanda (8), Susan (5 months). Catalina met Santos, her first love, when she was 16 years old. He was a young man who was responsible and loving, and they wanted to get married. But her family would not allow their union and they decided to send her to Lima to study and work, so that she would have a better future. Catalina worked very hard to make a life for herself and after some time she met a man and they had two children together, unfortunately their union was unhealthy and he was a very violent man and she had to file a restraining order against him.

Catalina continued to work hard for the sake of her two young children. 6 years passed and by chance Catalina ran into Santos (her first love) once again in Lima after all of those years. Catalina and Santos rekindled their romance and have been together ever since. They opened a restaurant together in Lima, but it was not sufficient to support them financially.

Santos decided to travel to Argentina to work in civil construction. He traveled just before the pandemic began and ended up getting stuck there for over 8 months, without work and with barely enough to eat. Catalina did everything she possibly could to make money including selling some of the items from the restaurant and sent what she could to him so that he could buy food and eventually return to his family. Catalina and her children had to stay with her parents to survive. A year later, Santos was able to return to Peru. So with just the clothes on their backs they traveled to Cambio Puente and settled on a plot of land and began a life. There have been many ups-n-downs in their lives, injuries, illnesses, a new baby but their love for each other and their family stays strong.

This February 2023 Catalina and her family received the blessing of a new home with the help of the Be the Light, Get Lit Mission Team. Catalina was overjoyed and shared with the Be the

Light, Get Lit mission team that her distant dream was to have a bakery and bake bread for the community. From a very young age, Catalina learned to prepare artisan bread, watching her mother daily when she lived in Santiago de Chuco, a skill that she had to put into practice again six months ago at home. Santos got injured again and was out of work and Catalina generated income with the bread she was making. She knew she could make more bread if she had a larger, wood-burning, brick oven.

Thanks to ACAF’s commitment to her family and the additional support from the mission team, Catalina’s dream became a reality.

Now in the back of her home there is a brick, wood-burning stove (a special thanks to Steve on the team). Steve only asked that when he comes back to visit that he gets a piece of bread and she shares her secret recipe. Which she replies the special recipe is “Love”.

Making bread is an inheritance that

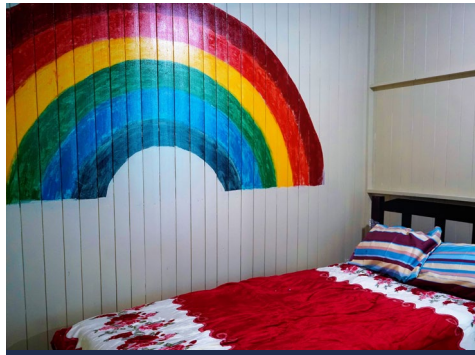
...Living out our Mission's Purpose



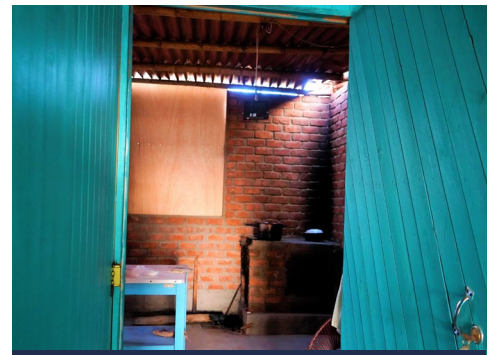
SUMMER 2023



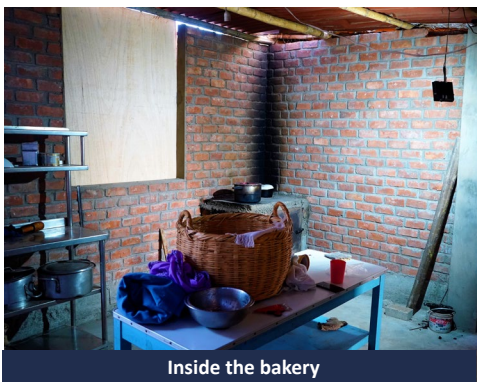
Receiving a new home!



Rainbow in Fernanda's Room symbolizing Promise



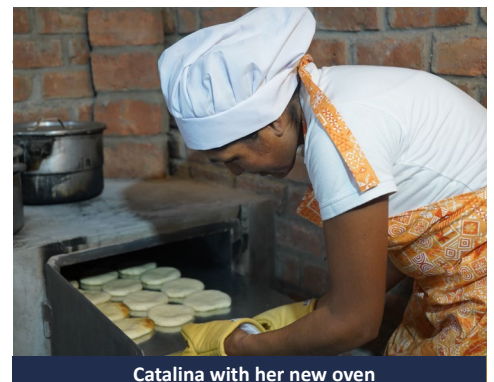
Brick oven built in back of home



Inside the bakery



Mom and Daughter keeping tradition



Catalina with her new oven



Fernanda helping Mom with deliveries



Special deliveries to the neighbor



Catalina on the streets of Cambio Puente

Catalina today shares with her children. Fernanda helps her mother bake and deliver bread, when she is not at school which she loves. Special thanks to Mary Kay, for the school uniform and shoes!!

Catalina is immensely grateful because little by little she is equipping her own bakery. A heartfelt thanks from Catalina and her family for the help from generous people, who believed in them and their transformation through the construction of a new house and implementation of their own business that will allow them to leave poverty.

It is the only bakery in the area and Catalina is going full speed ahead delivering bread throughout the community. She gets daily orders and smiles when she says she is in high demand!

This story is proof of the transformative power of social assistance, support, dedication and a person with a positive attitude towards life can achieve great things.



Container Program

A heartfelt transition



THANK YOU

TOMY & DOROTHY



Tony & Dorothy Brama

The Mission’s container program has been an essential service in transforming lives in Peru for 23 years through hundreds of volunteers annually securing and packaging new and gently used items needed in Peru. There have been many people and organizations who have contributed greatly to keep this program alive and vibrant with special thanks to the Chanhassen Rotary, St. Michael’s Catholic Church, Earl Milbrath, Sue Leahy and an army of volunteers and donors. Forty containers with items valued over \$9 million dollars have been shipped to Chimbote. For the last 17 years, Tony and Dorothy Brama have been leading this effort. We are so grateful for their amazing energy and commitment of time, talent and treasure!

Welcome
Connie

For every successful program to continue, transitions to new leadership are critical. Tony and Dorothy and Friends of Chimbote have been working on a transition plan for their step back. We are extremely pleased to introduce Connie Altringer, currently in Fargo, as the co-leader of the container program with Tony and Dorothy handing off and sharing their decades of experience and contacts.

Connie is recently retired from her decades of work and management with Great Plains Software/Microsoft in Fargo. Her love of our Mission and work in Chimbote have been evident since her Mission Trip with her son Brayden and the Shanley High School group in 2018. She looks forward to working with the network of volunteers and donors who have kept this program so successful while attracting new participants from across the region.



Connie Altringer

Container 2023 Needs from ACAF/Container ships in early October

Home in a Box
Baby Bundles
Baby Diapers
Geriatric Diapers
School Backback
School Supplies
Winter & Summer Clothes

Sheets and Blankets
Emergency Tent
Electrical Generator Diesel 16 Kw
Electric Wheelchair
Manual Wheelchair
Handicap portable toilets
Wheelchair Batteries

Office Desk Chairs
Air Compressor
Skid Steer
Computers
Playground Equipment
Kindergarten Games

Friends of Chimbote and the poor we serve are very grateful for the infectious disease of **Mission Heart**. This long-lasting, highly contagious condition is at the core and heart of our Mission and our continued impact as we approach our fifth decade of transforming lives.

In addition to our origins across the Diocese of Fargo, numerous communities across the United States have had prolonged, infectious outbreaks including Gulf Breeze, FL, Charlotte, NC, Fairfax, VA, Chesterton, IN, Delphos, OH and Prior Lake, MN among many others.

Our focus on Mission Heart in this issue is Carrington, ND, population 2,006, and the Knights of Columbus and parish of Sacred Heart. The outbreak in Carrington can be traced back to Henry Simons, who upon return from Chimbote over a dozen years ago, started the annual Friends of Chimbote Spaghetti dinner and fundraiser with his wife Jackie, the Carrington Knights Council 4951 and Sacred Heart parish.

The event is way more than a Knights' Spaghetti Dinner. It is an entire community event. The preparations begin months ahead of time with prizes, permits and printing for the raffle tickets. Henry leads the way in sales but the entire community is engaged. The Knights and their families assemble lists, make the asks and pick up donations for the silent auction. The many dozen auction items are a plethora of local services, tools, food and entertainment, and tables filled with fresh baked goods, jars of granola and specialties of the community! When a pandemic isn't curtailing us, Friends of Chimbote provides Alpaca blankets, scarves and other Peruvian items for the short but successful live Auction.

The Spaghetti dinner leads off after days of planning and cooking. A warm meal and companionship are a welcome respite from the cold and storms of February. Rounds of Bingo occur following the meal with many cards spread in front of each person with half of each round going to the Mission.

Between the Bingo and the auctions, Friends of Chimbote Executive Director Todd Mickelson takes the attendees to Chimbote with Mission updates, videos, photos, beneficiary stories and a question and answer session. The evening is one of the highlights of Todd's work year as it was for Susan Trnka before him. Many families have 3 generations involved in the evening and the spirit of Mission is pervasive with all involved.

The impact for the poor of Chimbote, from an entire community, where one person has traveled to the Mission, is astounding! Over the past 15 years, including a raffle only during the pandemic, over \$117,000 have been raised and donated to Friends of Chimbote. The funds are dedicated to the Mission soup kitchens resulting in over 200,000 meals being provided to the elderly, handicapped and jobless who utilize our kitchens, often for their only meal of the day.

Henry and Jackie received the Friends of Chimbote Starfish Award in 2015 for engaging others in the work of our Mission. Attending this dinner each year and witnessing an entire community with a severe case of Mission Heart, fills our heart and fuels our passion to continue our Mission work. Thank you so much Carrington friends of Chimbote and all of our other communities with Mission Hearts whose stories we will share in future issues.





The FoC Chimbote Mission Visit program is in high gear! We started the 2023 year with a few bumps due to the political unrest and the unannounced cyclone “YAKU” which resulted in a few cancellations and adjustments to schedules. But with patience, solid communication and attention to details, teams arrived home safely.

Beginning in June we will have back-to-back mission teams that will be on the ground through the month of August. We are so blessed with all of these mission service teams. Friends of Chimbote and ACAF, are tirelessly working to create life-changing experiences to empower mission teams to meet the physical and spiritual needs of under-served communities in Chimbote and surrounding communities.

We have ventured into surrounding communities around Chimbote and

currently most of our Mission Teams have been working in the Cambio Puente community. Teams are greeted with grateful hearts and sincere appreciation. Teams are building homes, participating in distributions of school backpacks, home essentials packages, Fish-n-Loaves, water, clothing and vegetables. Some attention has been paid to the local parish, Virgin of Mercy Church in Cambio Puente and it is a delight to receive warm greetings from Father Erasmo.

The 2024 Mission Visit Schedule is already filling up! Please contact Julie Dolbec for more information on dates that are available.

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Mission Visits Summer 2023

June

St Michael Church

Prior Lake, MN

Ryan Sondrol

Reynolds, ND

July

St Mary Cathedral

Fargo, ND

F3 Nation

Houston, TX

August

Holy Spirit

Fargo, ND

Keith Guercio

Charolette, NC

The Missing Cross



Popular Mission Visitor's Site Damaged

It all began on March 4th when a cyclone called “YAKU” settled on the coast of Peru. The storm and rain continued, and on March 10th the first sign of significant trouble was on the horizon when one of Chimbote’s main symbols “THE CROSS OF PEACE” fell to the ground. The new road and the Cerro de la Paz Chapel is still open to the public, but climbing to the cross area is not allowed.



One of the last photos of the Cross



Mission Visit Program

The Legendary “Fish Soup”



Tim, along with a group of Providence team members, ventured out to the local market to get the freshest ingredients to create his masterpiece. Unfortunately, fish is scarce this year so chicken was the best substitute. In the afternoon, Tim joined enthusiastic students from CETPRO ACAF to commence the meticulous preparation of the exquisite “chicken soup”. The passion and dedication with which each ingredient was treated were truly touching. The students, excited for the opportunity to share new and exquisite recipes from other countries, wholeheartedly dedicated themselves to the task. Hours passed, and three enormous pots were gradually filled, meticulously prepared to feed over 250 people eagerly awaiting the dinner.



This night of unforgettable flavor, music and dancing was a testament to the power of food to bring people together, to create moments of joy and connection. The efforts of Tim, the students, and the entire Presbyterian group had culminated in a feast that would be remembered for years to come. It was a celebration of culinary artistry, friendship, and the simple pleasure of a shared meal.

After three long years of the pandemic, Tim Good from the Providence Presbyterian Mission Team led by Dan Kunkleman (FoC board member), was able to return to Chimbote this May and prepare his famous “Fish Soup”. Tim has been coming down on mission trips with Providence for years and it has become a tradition that he prepares a meal for the Chimbote community.



Now Available...FoC Apparel & Accessories



We offer a large variety of items to choose from including women’s apparel, men’s apparel and accessories.

Go to the New FoC Website
www.friendsofchimbote.org

Support our ministry!
A portion of each item ordered goes back to the FoC Mission!



Muchas Gracias **CI APPAREL**



Cambio Puente

Developments & Progress

The community transformation of Cambio Puente is continuing at an increased pace with the resumption of Mission Visits. Through the first six months of the year, 15 wooden homes will have been completed for our brothers and sisters in the worst living conditions imaginable. These homes include concrete floors to replace the dirt and a full complement of furniture, stoves and home supplies to completely change hundreds of lives and move entire families on the journey out of poverty with opportunities for home businesses and increased health and welfare.

Perhaps more transformational, the community-wide impacts are progressing to lift-up thousands of lives. Through our intervention and collaboration with community and faith leaders, the informal communities we serve on the outskirts of the community will now exist and be recognized by the city. They are no longer unseen and unheard! The other top priorities of the communities for water, learning, daycare, social services and worship are moving forward rapidly, all in less than three years.

Adjacent to the San Miguel Soup Kitchen, our initial investment in the community, the temporary, dirt floored, learning center made of estera will be replaced with an expanded, concrete floor, quality lighting, wooden construction, learning center in July through our mission visitors from F3. This expanding community center already includes the design for the state operated daycare and ACAF social worker offices that will transform hundreds of lives when funding enables their completion.



The faith center of the community, the parish of Virgin of Mercy and the charismatic, dedicated and energetic pastor, Father Erasmo, is now pulsing with life. Through our friends from Waypoint Church in Charlotte and our long-time, passionate friend Keith Guercio and co-leader Keith Crusan, Virgin of Mercy is now home to a rebuilt space hosting an ACAF vocational training center for sewing. The parish refurbishment continues through our friends at St. Michael's in Prior Lake with the replacement of the roof of the gathering space that was destroyed by the Cyclone Yaku. Worship, catechism and the faith community are all alive.

The highest priority and impact project, a water supply system for the annexed communities continues to progress. While the engineering study and design we commissioned continues, donors have responded to this "Water is Life" project that is making it possible for a first phase of the project to progress bringing some water to the communities. This will enable us to reduce our expenditures for monthly water distribution while the design for a community wide, phased system is completed. We are so enthused that a donor has expressed interest in providing a purification system so that the water being supplied to the poorest of homes is actually drinkable. This would be a very rare water system, drinkable, in all of Peru.

Thank you for believing in our Mission to transform entire communities. It's working and we'll keep the amazing news coming your way.

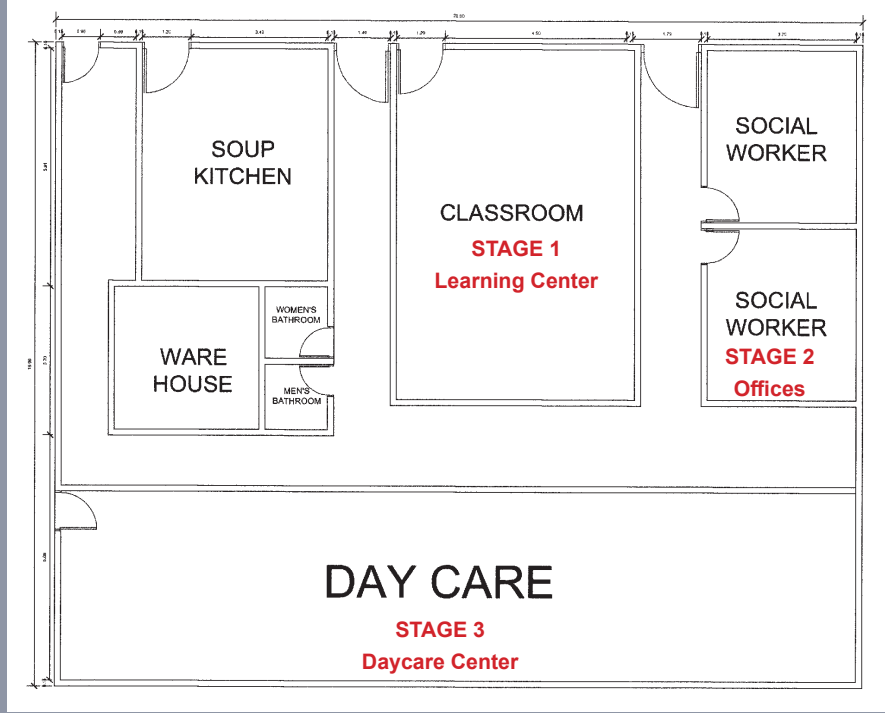
Check out projects and progress in Cambio Puente





SUMMER 2023

Cambio Puente Community Center



Soup Kitchen & Learning Center



Back of Learning & Soup Kitchen
Future Daycare Site

Virgin of Mercy Church Transformation



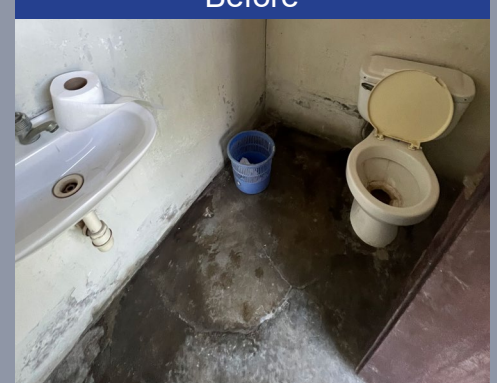
After
ENTRANCE
Before



After
FRONT OFFICE (Sewing School)
Before



After
BATHROOM (added shower)
Before





The Joy of Transformation

Florcita Valverde Martinez



We introduced you to Florcita Valverde Martinez in the 2021 Spring/Summer FoC Newsletter. Florcita (a recent, 20 year old widow) was discovered with her two young children at the soup kitchen in Cambio Puente. ACAF social workers discovered her unimaginable unsafe living conditions and began working with Florcita and her transformation is soaring.

Florcita received a safe, new home to begin the transformation. Florcita was determined to pay back her fortune to others and began watching neighbor's children while the mother went to

work. Florcita also walks to the Learning Center weekly and attends all the education seminars that the ACAF Social Workers put on to educate women/mothers. She recently enrolled in the sewing class at the Parish in Cambio Puente and is thrilled to learn a skill set that could help her generate income for her family.

Florcita was a young woman that hung her head down and would not look you in the eye. One year later, Florcita is walking confidently with a smile and her personality has blossomed. Giving this young woman a chance at a better life, a new hope for her future and confidence to learn a skill to provide for her family has been life-changing. Because of You...Women just like Florcita are empowered to take a step out of poverty.



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Over the past few years, we have received so many compliments on this newsletter, The Journey. Supporters tell us they read it cover to cover, especially enjoying the articles of transformation of lives. They tell us it is full of hope, opportunity, impact, transformation and faith in action. Thank you!!

We are very mindful of our expenses including printing, postage and also reducing our waste. We strive to maximize the funds impacting the lives of the poor in Chimbote. However, we also want to touch more lives of beneficiaries and benefactors alike. We believe you share these goals! Will you help us reach these common goals? Will you pass this issue on to a friend, family member, co-worker or really extend our reach by sharing with your Pastor, Service Club, School or Fraternal Organization? Will you proudly share The Journey since you are the ones who make this amazing work possible? We would love to hear your stories of doubling our impact.

Please share them with us at support@friendsofchimbote.org



SUMMER 2023

United Together Continuing to send HOPE

\$10-\$1,000 **Bibles**

Purchase a Bible for a child or family!
\$10 - 1 Bible
\$100 - 10 Bibles
\$1000 - 100 Bibles

\$50 **School Supplies**

Support a child's education and give them a great start with school supplies and a school bag.

\$18 **Essential Package**

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

\$400 **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*

\$1,568 **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

\$100-\$1000 **Water Project**

Contribute to the pilot water project in the Cambio Puente community.

\$6000 **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.

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

The Success Is About The Journey



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