



Transforming the lives of the poor through education.

# THE JOURNEY

A publication for the community of Friends of Chimbote supporters.

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2022

## WELCOME BACK!!!

FoC Members travel to Peru  
(page 8-9)





# Executive Director's Corner

Perhaps absence does make the heart grow fonder but our recent trip to Chimbote after a two-year pandemic hiatus, certainly confirmed family reunions can swell the heart to near bursting. Our small group made up of board members, staff and donors traveled to Chimbote at the end of April to assess conditions including for mission visitors. The mutual joy and gratitude after years of privation, unknowns, dedication, collaborations and resolve was beautiful to experience. It was just the beginning of many, many blessings that week including witnessing the impact this Mission is having on the lives of all involved – beneficiaries, benefactors, staffs and boards.



Prior to the pandemic and then magnified by it, we increased time and resources on the periphery of Chimbote and Nuevo Chimbote in the newest communities of severe poverty. One of these communities is Cambio Puente outside of Chimbote, near the prison. On our trip, we immersed ourselves in this community with the residents of 6 of the barrios in greatest need. Together with ACAF leadership, staff and community leaders, we participated in food and water distributions, witnessed the work of the new soup kitchens and spent time with the residents of the community including in their homes and church. What we witnessed was incredible.

The people of this community and others on the periphery are determined and resilient. As tough as their living conditions are, they moved there to improve their lives. They are agents of change for their lives and those of their children. With our involvement where none existed before, we have instilled hope. They are ready for opportunities.

The staff, leadership and board of ACAF are committed to transforming lives with all of their hearts. Their needs assessment in collaboration with community leaders is dynamic and their care for their fellow Peruvians is genuine and empowering. This is the best team we have had at ACAF and it is growing in capabilities and confidence. They relieved the suffering of thousand of our brothers and sisters during the pandemic while under great risk and now they want to continue with transformations. Gratitude is overflowing and reciprocal. We are accomplishing amazing things together! Our brothers and sisters in Chimbote have opportunities and support where none existed. Single parents in horrid conditions are receiving food, water, homes, income opportunities. They thank God for helping them. ACAF is receiving the resources, support, and collaborations to greatly impact lives. Friends of Chimbote donors, board members and staff are not only impacting lives of those who may not have had hope, but impacting whole communities.

Perhaps most importantly as a faith Mission, we are following Christ's teachings in Matthew 25 and the path of our founders to serve the least of our brothers and sisters. Now in my tenth year being involved in this Mission, my confidence is greater than ever before on our path and our impact. This belief is shared by our entire organization as we reviewed and planned for our future in our first face to face Board Meeting post pandemic in Fargo in May. We are so enthused to return to Chimbote in October and continue our determination of how to not only empower and transform lives but entire communities.



Thank you for making this possible through your inspiring support as friends of Chimbote and part of our family of Christ. We invite you to continue to help us with this fulfilling work and receive the blessing of your own full heart.

*Todd*



# “FoC Welcomes New Board Members”

## REV. THOMAS M. GRANER



Reverend Thomas M. Graner grew up in Garrison, ND and graduated in electrical engineering from UND in 1988 before attending seminary. He has been a priest of the Diocese of Fargo for over 27 years and was ordained in 1994. Fr. Tom pastored in many rural communities including Rolette, Rugby, Anamoose and Grand Forks. He was very involved in the development of the rural communities from

pastoral as well as economic and social perspectives. He served on the Boards of Directors for Catholic Charities North Dakota (formerly Catholic Family Service), National Catholic Rural Life Conference (now Catholic Rural Life), Trinity Youth Camp, and Rugby Job Development Authority. Fr. Tom learned about Chimbote as an undergraduate at UND while participating at St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. He heard many presentations by Fr. Jack Davis during his time in seminary and since ordination, regularly with the invitation to visit Chimbote. Fr. Al Bitz invited Fr. Tom to accompany the group traveling with the Board of Directors on their trip in December 2015 which was timed to include the beatification. He decided that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity and took it and his passion for the mission has continued.

## MATHIAS (MATT) SAMUEL



Matt Samuel lives with his family in Edina, MN. He grew up in Fargo and attended Nativity Catholic School. Father Davis used to come back for visits and his mother grew a passion for the mission and even traveled to Chimbote. Over the last fifteen years, Matt and his wife have been donors. He is now at a point in his life where he has the time to get more involved.

In his professional career, Matt was a technology trial lawyer.

Mostly working with patents. In that role he led large teams and tried many large patent cases to juries. Matt has also served on the boards of several non-profits, including the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and ULLU (Matt and his wife founded). He has also served on a corporate board. Matt has been an angel investor in various tech start-ups for the last 10 years. All of these experiences gives him the knowledge and perspective that will be useful to our Mission.

## Friends of Chimbote Board of Directors



Lucho Espejo, Fargo, ND  
*Board Chairman*

Eric Krueger, Fargo, ND  
*Vice Chairman*

Brian Berg, Fargo, ND  
*Treasurer*

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Kelli Kester, Minneapolis, MN  
Dan Kunkleman, Charlotte, NC  
Dan Kuzlik, Minneapolis, MN

Dan Mahli, Fargo, ND  
Joe Mikrut, Clifton, VA  
Mathias (Matt) Samuel, Edina, MN  
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  
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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!

Dear friends,

As I write this message, I am proud to be able to say that “all of the work and efforts continue to respond to the cries of the poorest.” Without a doubt the difficulties we face globally and, in our country, especially the political instability we are living through and the alarming inflation of food prices, have made our work even more necessary, but sadly this also makes the cries of the poor even more difficult.

**“all of the work and efforts continue to respond to the cries of the poorest”**

We know that these new challenges are constant and as they continue to appear throughout the world and the situation worsens in countries like Peru, our commitment also grows and we know that we are stronger together. We have learned to grow and demonstrate that there are always opportunities available and something to give and offer to our beneficiaries even in the middle of the crises we are facing. We do not doubt that we will continue to receive blessings from God, as we know that you, our benefactors, along with us on the ground in Chimbote, “together” we have become an instrument to bring hope and create opportunities for thousands of families who hope to improve their quality of life, who dream of having a safe home, food for their children and slowly leaving their poverty-stricken living conditions.

I must also say that this first trimester of 2022 has been very rewarding, especially to see how our employees go above and beyond to participate in the varied campaigns, with acts of generosity and support for the most vulnerable communities. Without a shadow of a doubt, we have a great team!

I also want to thank you for always being there alongside us; for your prayers and generosity which makes a huge difference in the lives of so many families. Thank you so much for your constant support, which encourages us to remain steadfast and committed to our purpose. I am sure that God will shower His blessings upon you, and I wish you all success, good health and prosperity.

Hope to see you very soon!  
May God bless you and protect you!!

*Jorge*





Stretching 5,500 miles, along the entire Western Coast of South America, from Venezuela in the North to Chile in the South, the Andes Mountains are the longest continental mountain range in the world. In the center of it all is Peru, a country synonymous with mountains because, like a giant rock-and-snow backbone, the Andes extend along Peru’s entire 1,500 mile length. Because of the Andes, Peru boasts 29 mountains with summits over 6,000 meters – a magnet to mountaineers who embrace the vast, demanding and ever-changing challenges of summiting those peaks.



Friends of Chimbote also understands embracing challenges and climbing higher. It is working hard to develop and implement a new and expanded mission in 2022 and beyond. Historically, Friends of Chimbote focused on meeting the day-to-day needs of Chimbote’s poor. While those needs remain – and FoC will continue to help meet those needs – at the same time it seeks to find ways to help the poor become agents of their own destiny. And in doing so, to transform not just lives, but communities.



In April, I had the privilege of spending a week in Chimbote, with FoC’s Executive Director, Todd Mickelson and several board members and longtime donors. In May, I spent a weekend in Fargo participating in my first Board meeting. In Chimbote, we listened and learned from ACAF, FoC’s partner organization in Chimbote. Hearing testimonials of students in the scholarship program. Listening to entrepreneurs who used an ACAF microloan to start a business. Learning from the ACAF social workers and employees who work daily on the front lines in the barrios of Chimbote. We also spent time in the barrios, with the poor. Hearing their stories. Getting to know them. In Cambio Puente (one of the barrios), we visited a pumping station that will be an essential part of a community-wide water distribution project that will bring water to 300 homes.

Not only did we get out and see things and meet people, we also took time as a group to think and talk and develop concrete plans for how FoC and ACAF can broaden their focus and services in ways that support life-changing and long-term transformations in people’s lives. Throughout the week in Chimbote, I kept seeing the wisdom, talent and commitment of the leadership teams and employees at FoC and ACAF. It was impressive. It was humbling. And it gave me confidence FoC/ACAF are organizations that will make an even greater difference in people’s lives.

In Fargo, we continued talking, thinking and planning about ways to tackle the immense challenges created by the poverty in Chimbote. How to raise the resources to fund our ambitious goals. We listened to a superb presentation on the best thinking and practices for lifting people out of poverty and giving them the tools and structures to keep themselves and their families out of poverty (thank you Lucho!). Spoiler alert – this stuff is incredibly challenging.

While FoC and ACAF may not actually be climbing any 6,000 meter Peruvian mountains, in their mission to transform lives and change communities, they are embracing challenges that are just as vast, demanding and ever-changing. What I’ve seen in the past few months gives me confidence we will reach the summit. And in doing so, will make a real and lasting difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor. **That inspires me!**





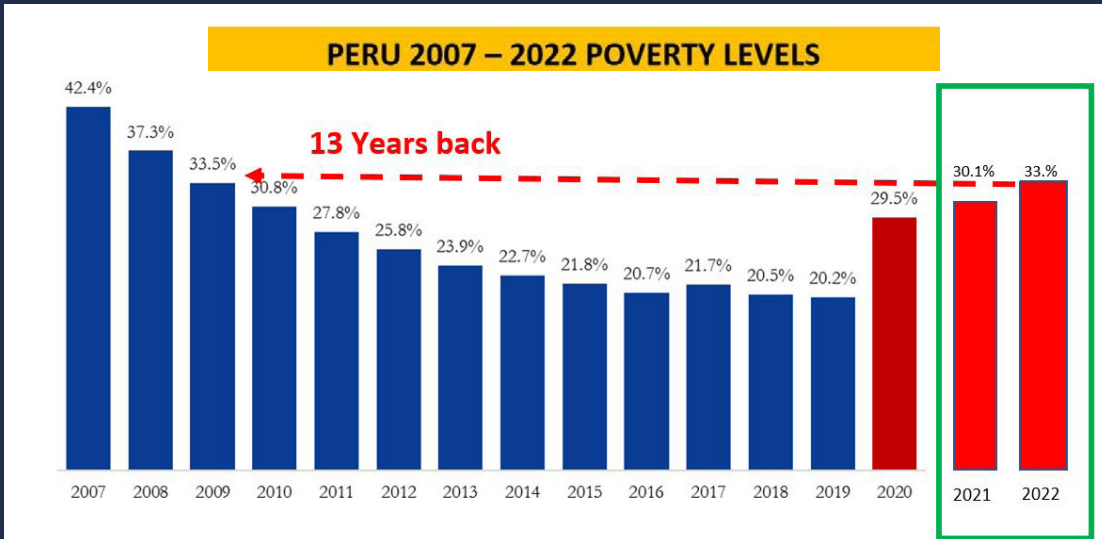
# A Reality..

The reality of the pandemic impacted us all around the world. Unfortunately some of the poorest communities in many third world countries were hit the hardest. There have been many challenges but through those challenges amazing opportunities have risen during these dire times.

ACAF working with FoC built a strong awareness of the needs in Chimbote and surrounding communities and took action.

Through the generous donations and prayers of our FoC Donors the humanitarian aid that was able to be provided saved lives and gave hope back to our brothers and sisters in Peru.

We accept the challenges ahead of us with a renewed awareness of the need and know we can make a difference  
**UNITED TOGETHER!**



## Humanitarian Aid Highlights During COVID

**1,320,000 Liters of Water**

**175,000 Soup Kitchen & Common Pot Meals**

**2,500 Medical services**

**140,000 Food & Water Packages for a week for a family**

**1,000 family packages of fresh fruits & vegetables**

**10,000 lbs of fresh fish = 30,000 meals**



## Executive Director Transition & Growth

Friends of Chimbote is beginning the transition period for my likely retirement in 2025 when I will turn 65. The work of this Mission is so important that the necessary twelve to eighteen months to fully transition a new Executive Director is the goal. During and after the transition, I will be able to focus my efforts on growth and sustainability for the long-term success of this Mission in transforming lives of beneficiaries and benefactors alike. Perhaps I will be blessed to continue my service as a board member in retirement.

Over the past ten years of my work with this Mission, this has been like a capstone project for my career. I have had the life-changing opportunity to utilize and hone my interests and experience in finance, marketing, sales, travel, mentoring, geography, writing, presenting, geopolitics and multi-cultural factors to survive and thrive through the transition of our

founders and the pandemic. Beyond all of the day to day blending of these job requirements, the opportunity to expand a servant heart, live my faith and work with this Mission’s amazing donors, staff, board members, volunteers and our partners and beneficiaries in Chimbote has been a blessing beyond expectations.

The Governance Committee of the Friends of Chimbote Board has begun the process of defining this transition including work requirements, experience, location, timeframes, etc. I look forward to assisting in locating and partnering with someone who is ready for the experience and opportunity of a lifetime.



## Overwhelming Gratitude

Our small group of Friends of Chimbote board members and guests arrived in the Villa Mery community, one of the Cambio Puente barrios, a 25 minute drive from our home parish in La Victoria, Chimbote, Peru. Most of the ACAF staff and hundreds of preselected residents greeted us holding up signs of all types penned in Spanish or English with statements like " Thank you ACAF for the help you give us " or " Gracias por el alimento que nos brindan trayendonos el ' rico pescadito ' ". The great need and the greeting were both overwhelming, though the mood was joyous and uplifting. The people were so appreciative of even the smallest effort of providing aid and easing their burden.

This day we gave away the entire contents of a small refrigerator truck loaded with 1,700 pounds of fish, along with bread rolls and a truck bed full of mangos. Each of the couple hundred attending were given 3 large fish. This type of fish is used in making ceviche and was expected to provide a couple thousand meals. The distribution process went smoothly, with a light feeling of serving a large group of good friends.



Campaigns like this one serve to concrete our friendship and commitment to the community by providing some basic needs and bringing hope to the neglected while building trust. Neighborhood leaders are the point of contact to organize and facilitate these events through the ACAF social services staff. We are not simply handing out food, but building friendships that will last and be remembered by future generations. They are forever grateful that we have come from a distant foreign country to recognize and assist them when they feel unseen and neglected by their own government. These are also times we get to bond tightly with the ACAF staff for a mutual goal, forming or furthering lifelong friendships. Each new friend creates a connection that enhances the joy of being in mission in Peru, making us ever more eager to return soon and often.





# FEET ON THE GROUND...

## FoC Staff, Board Members and Donors Travel to Chimbote

After two long years of navigating through uncharted waters and guiding each other from a distance...we were able to get feet back on the ground in Chimbote the end of April. A FoC group of staff, board members and donors forged the path into uncertainty but were welcomed with unimaginable gratitude and joy. It was a week packed full of conversations, observations, decisions and discovery.



### MONDAY

Despite a few delays due to fog in Trujillo...the FoC Discovery Team arrived in Chimbote on Monday, April 25th. They were welcomed with open arms by the ACAF staff and community neighbors.



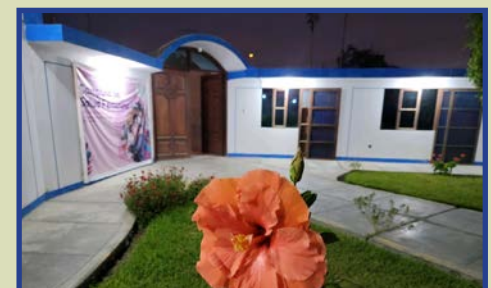
### TUESDAY

Father Erasmo blessed the arrival of the FoC team into the Cambio Puente Community with a welcome Mass. The day continued with meeting future beneficiaries and following up with a beneficiary...Florcita Martinez.



### WEDNESDAY

FoC Team was able to visit the Hospital la Caleta. They have a temporary tent set up for COVID patients. Hospital has received some relief and there were open beds. A tour of the Hospice Building and discussions for the future.







SPRING/SUMMER 2022

## WEDNESDAY CONT...

The Foc Team was able to participate in a Fishes and Loaves campaign in Cambio Punte. The community welcomed the team with signs, music and open arms.



## THURSDAY

The FoC Team participated in a safe water campaign and handed out water purification tablets and buckets. A tour of the San Miguel Soup Kitchen in Sand Pedro and a school visit in Bellavista.



ACAF Scholarship recipients addressed the FoC Team and shared how the gift of a scholarship for an education changed their lives. A farewell dinner at the Hospice Building completed the trip!





# Water Project Cambio Puente



Prior to the pandemic, our Mission was increasing our support and programs on the periphery of the city in the poorest invasion barrios. When the pandemic hit and quarantines were enforced for months, the meager daily income of the barrios' residents of three to five dollars per day was greatly reduced. They struggled daily to buy food and water. Our focus quickly shifted to humanitarian aid of food, water and medicine that your donations made possible.

The three thousand residents outside Cambio Puente on the outskirts of Chimbote, near the prison, have been a major focus of our humanitarian aid over the past two years. As we worked with community leaders, we learned that one

of the greatest needs, cost and priorities for members of the community is water, which they buy from trucks. For the single mothers, elderly and handicapped who have the fewest resources, water is difficult to afford on an income of \$80-100 dollars per month.

While we identify long term solutions to the lack of income that places them in the most extreme poverty, we assist them with daily survival. The water assistance has been significant. We have purchased and distributed over 1,320,000 liters of water during the pandemic – 88 tankers of 15,000 liters of potable water at a cost of \$20,000. By reducing their expenses for water, more of their meager income has been available for food and other essentials. However, much like increasing income, a long-term solution is needed. Water is life and a necessity for health, hygiene, growing food and raising animals. We continue to deliver life-saving water and purification tablets to these and other communities every few weeks.

**“Purchased and distributed over 1,320,000 liters of water during the pandemic and 88 tankers of 15,000 liters of potable water.”**

Consulting and collaborating with community leaders in Cambio Puente and the waterless barrios, solutions have been identified and are being qualified. While we were in Chimbote, we were able to witness the hard work of the community members of the barrios who have all contributed to their dream of piped water to their homes.

Since the city has virtually no tax base or funds for infrastructure, residents raised over \$18,000 from their precious income to install water main piping and a concrete storage tank to get water to the edge of the barrios. The remaining project is to install piping, pumps and another tank at the top of the hill which can then feed pipes to over 300 homes. This second phase of the project is only \$35,000 to provide four times more water piped into their homes at a savings of 84% from their current cost from trucks. Piping into each home is only twenty-five dollars! The entire project could be completed in seventy-five days.

We are hopeful that we can secure the resources to complete this second phase of the project. Water in their homes will increase the dignity, improve the health, reduce the expenses and fulfill the hopes and dreams of an entire community of our brothers and sisters we serve in Cambio Puente. This project will be such a blessing and truly transform lives.



Returning to Chimbote, experiencing the hope of new communities we are serving, being lifted up by donors, planning with mission visit groups, welcoming new Board members, there is the joy and energy of new life everywhere in our Mission! Contributing to this energy and motivation, is the Hospice facility.

This facility had been vacant since 2017 due to operational challenges and expenses. It is in a rebirth. We could feel and see it on our recent trip to Chimbote. While we continue to complete ownership transfer back to our Mission and examine the repairs and funding needed for occupancy ministries, it is alive every day. Essential medical clinics, community meetings, oxygen tank management and logistics take place within this beautiful oasis.



As the required repairs, maintenance and modifications take shape, we will be forming sustainable plans for how this facility can once again be essential in our ministries of transforming lives of beneficiaries and benefactors together. We are so enthused that beneficiaries, donors, staff, board members, communities and collaborators are sharing their joy and dreams for the new life of this facility.



## Bill Seiler FoC Board Member



### Outpouring of Gratitude

It was so enjoyable to renew our friendship with the Chimbotanos who have many of the same aspirations we have to enjoy their families, prosper, and reach out to help someone else. There was an immense outpouring of gratitude by the beneficiaries that was unanticipated and heartfelt.

Thanks to ACAF and their social workers who identified the urgent need for humanitarian aid and long term relief in a barrio/ neighborhood of extreme poverty where most people live on \$2 a day or less and where women are the head of about 70% of households. We will be allocating resources to new projects to provide opportunities for those in poverty to have hope, transform their lives, overcome their poverty, and prosper while also building up their communities. What a great way to do God's compassionate work!!



# Dan Kuzlik FoC Board Member



Although I have had the opportunity of visiting Chimbote and its people over 20 times, this last visit was one of my most enjoyable. Two years ago I was able to donate a prefabricated home to a very deserving family that was selected by ACAF Social Worker staff. This family consisted of a single mother and her four sons who lived in extreme poverty, so it was my pleasure to provide them with a three bedroom home with a concrete floor. Unfortunately, due to the world-wide pandemic, I was unable to meet this family until this trip. Now finally I was able to meet the mother, Dominica and her four sons Oscar, Jose, Eloy and Manolo. It was a heartwarming experience for me.

Another unique aspect of this trip was that as an exploratory group, we did not have a full slate of board meetings, so that gave us time to meet and learn much more about various ACAF staff. In addition, we spent more time in the various communities where Friends of Chimbote provides a variety of services to the poorest of the poor. A special treat for me was to be able to participate in the "Loaves and Fishes" distribution in Cambio Puente. With my team, we were able to provide each family with three fresh fish literally caught the previous evening. After leaving our fish table the families were then provided with freshly baked bread and just picked mangos. This was a special treat for families that many times go to bed hungry.



Icing on the cake so to speak for me, was being able to spend several days with one of the founders of Friends of Chimbote, Fr. Jack Davis. We traveled together to the Mala River Valley south Lima and to the Tortuga beach area south of Chimbote. I continue to sow seeds of gratitude in my heart for having been able to participate in this trip.



## Education-High Priority Moving Forward...New Development Center

After two long years of remote learning or no access and being completely isolated from one another due to the COVID-19 pandemic... Schools in Peru were fully open by March 28, 2022. ACAF worked in Chimbote and surrounding communities to equip children with school supplies and safety essentials. Excitement and joy has spread throughout the communities with children being united in their classrooms.

During the FoC Discovery Trip... a temporary school made with estera was toured in the Bellavista-Cambio Puente community. This is the beginning of introducing an education program into the community. Children were thrilled to share their new classroom and were so grateful for the supplies that FoC Donors had given them.



# Back to School



**St. Michael's Church in Prior Lake**  
**Celebrating 25 Years of Transforming Lives**



**St Michael's**  
**Sister Parish Highlights**

- Dozens of Mission Trips**
- Containers**
- Soup Kitchens and Meals**
- Homes**
- Furniture**
- Microloans**
- School Backpacks**
- Baby Bundles**
- Home in a Box**
- Medical Campaigns**
- Scholarships**
- Education Programs**
- Water Deliveries**
- Oxygen Tanks**
- Board Members**
- Prayers & Petitions**

Our Mission is so grateful for 25 years of partnering with St. Michael's parish in Prior Lake, MN. Over these many years, hundreds of parishioners have traveled to Chimbote, organized fundraisers, packed containers, prayed, donated time, talent, treasure and their hearts to serve and transform the lives of the poor of Chimbote, Peru.

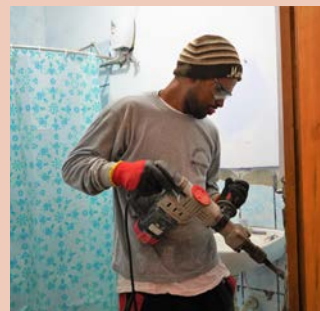
The generosity and advocacy of Father Tom Walker and so many parishioners, especially over the past 2 years of the pandemic, have relieved the suffering and provided hope for thousands of the least of our brothers and sisters. Our entire Mission is eagerly preparing for the resumption of mission visit trips by St. Michael's when we can share our love and gratitude for their blessed support. Muchas Gracias Amigos!!



**Mission Visitor Preparations**  
**Approval to Move Forward..**

We are excited to announce that after the FoC Mission Discovery Trip in April to Peru and the FoC Spring Board of Directors Meeting...the decision to move forward and open the mission up for visitors has been unanimously decided.

With this decision and with a generous donation of a long-standing donor of FoC...construction has begun in the Gringo room and in the dormitory bathrooms to prepare for the welcoming of mission visitors.





# Kelli Kester FoC Board Member



Butterflies, or mariposas in Spanish, have been a powerful symbol for me throughout my entire life. One of my grandmas especially loved them and my first-grade teacher at Nativity, Sr. Eugenia, shared many stories of the butterfly while connecting these beautiful creatures' adventures to our faith. During the last few years, as I've embarked on a journey of recovery from Alcohol Use Disorder, butterflies continue to help influence how I see the world and my place in it.

Returning to Chimbote as the global pandemic is, albeit slowly, lifting, brought to mind beautiful, and somewhat difficult, imagery surrounding the life cycle of a butterfly. I think this narrative can apply not only to people in recovery (and to those who love them), but also to the extremely and utterly dire situation in Chimbote as the pandemic began to unfold. While a caterpillar is nearing the completion of the work necessary to become a butterfly, a small opening appears on one end of the chrysalis. If you've ever had the good luck to watch this process, you've noticed it appears the butterfly is struggling mightily to free itself from the cocoon through this small opening. Your empathic heart might have been tempted to help because the struggle seemed so real. You may have even felt afraid for the butterfly. Yet, there is nothing you can do to help the butterfly emerge. The butterfly has to do the work on her own or she will never be able to fly.

You can imagine my emotional reaction when, at our first business meeting during this trip, Jorge Villar began to reference the butterfly! (Jorge loves quotes and has the gift of being able to find just the right words to empower the people who work at ACAF.) He eloquently used the imagery of a cocoon, darkness, light, the mariposa because, as Covid hit, he understood immediately he would need to help the staff embody and embrace all of the darkness, light, and faith-filled hope in order to continue – and grow exponentially! – the work of ACAF.



And grow and work they did. Sometimes, when I think of all of the fond memories I have of this trip, I wonder if it was all real. The cohesiveness of the ACAF staff, the development of new programs, the incredible amount of work being efficiently done, the people being lovingly cared for, and the utter resiliency I witnessed sort of blow my mind. Of course, your financial contributions and fervent prayers helped in thousands of ways! I hope you can observe these ways as you read this newsletter. Yet, neither you nor I could physically be there. We could not send groups to build houses and foster connection. We could not be with our friends as they worked tirelessly, hurt - inside and out, became ill, and, for some of them, died.

We cannot help butterflies emerge. We have to trust the necessary and natural process. Thank God for the people of ACAF. And thank God for your generous and heart-felt contributions to the people of Chimbote. Because of each staff member of ACAF and because of each one of you, opportunities were granted for a process of organic and beautiful transformation. And there is hope for the butterflies.





**\$100**  
**Winter Gear**

Provide blankets and jackets for a family during the winter months.

**\$400**  
**Microloan**

Provide funds for an aspiring entrepreneur to receive a microloan to start a business.

**\$400**  
**Essential Package**

Provide 20 families with a package of food and essentials.

**\$380**  
**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*

**\$1,190**  
**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.

**\$50**  
**School Supplies**

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

**\$4900**  
**House Build**

Provide shelter to a family in need with a 3 bed home, concrete floors, 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.

We Are Ready to Welcome YOU Back With Open Arms!!



## 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.

