

United Together

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Henry Ford

Over a year ago, dreams were shared between Friends of Chimbote, ACAF and local Community Leaders. The decision to move forward on a water project was made and as one Peruvian community leader stated...

"Next year when you return, you will see green!"

Because of amazing FoC donors and organizations, forward thinking community leaders, ACAF & FoC leadership and community neighbors the great task that was put in front of us is becoming a reality!

"Water is Life" and the mission of Friends of Chimbote is dedicated to supporting programs that improve and transform the lives of the poor of Chimbote, Peru and surrounding communities. We are following that mission! Great changes are taking place. We give hope & dignity and paths out of poverty because of you!

By October 2023, when the FoC Board of Directors and staff arrive in Chimbote for their Fall Board Meeting, waterlines will be dug to the homes in Cambio Puente. The people of Cambio Puente have been working tirelessly providing the labor to make this happen with the great gift of resources you have provided.



A Season of Transformations...

Todd Mickelson, FoC Executive Director

This is the first time that we are going to generate 3 newsletters with this brief one in between our summer and winter newsletters. After the severe challenges of the past few years with the pandemic, political unrest, natural disasters and economic misery, we are ecstatic to bring you news and stories of pure joy and gratitude!

You made it possible to relieve the suffering of recent challenges. Now, we want you to know all about the empowerment and transformations of this year because of you, United Together!



As part of our transition to the outskirts of the city and a goal of community development to impact thousands of people, we collaborated with ACAF and community leaders to identify life-changing projects in Cambio Puente. With your support, we completed many of the highest priorities identified in our collaborations of the water, learning center, childcare center and additions of the soup kitchen that we share with you in this short, but sweet newsletter.

Not only do these projects transform thousands of lives, including the volunteers who installed and built them, but they empower our brothers and sisters in Cambio Puente to run them. We provide the capital assets, technical support, engineering, coordination and lots of labor and encouragement and they will operate them with ACAF's support and guidance. In true collaboration, the men, women and children of Cambio Puente fully participated with their treasure and sweat equity, effectively doubling your donations!

That's not all the wonderful news that we share with you in this small, newsletter package. We are so excited to inform you of our planned transition occurring this year with Mike Smith joining our Mission as Executive Director. Our future is so bright as we employ our new successes in community development with Mike's proven, servant leadership!

One of the greatest privileges and blessings of my life has been to work for and be the Executive Director of this Mission with the amazing donors, volunteers, congregations, Board members, staff, ACAF and especially the beneficiaries. Our brothers and sisters in faith whose lives we are embedded in, are so inspirational as they work tirelessly to advance their lives and those of their children. I am beyond grateful to be able to continue this work and grow our Mission, as Mike steps into his role.

In Service & Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd".

Servant Leaders for our Future



Mike & Katie Smith & Family

Dr. Mike Smith will be joining Friends of Chimbote as our Executive Director on October 1, 2023. He and his wife, Katie will be an amazing team benefitting our Mission and the poor we serve.

They bring decades of international work and living experience including their very beginnings in the Peace Corps in Honduras. Mike is currently the Superintendent of Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools providing outstanding education to over 3,000 students from 70 countries.

Mike and Katie are well known and respected throughout the Midwest with tenure as a principal in numerous schools, the Superintendent of the Fargo Catholic Schools and all Fargo Diocese Catholic Schools and with Katie's family and roots in Hillsboro, North Dakota. Their familiarity and support of our Mission have been demonstrated while leading multiple Mission Visit groups from Shanley High School in Fargo. One of our top priorities and prayers while searching for a new Executive Director was to find a mission heart, we found two!! Prayers answered.

With Feet on the Ground...

Community Transformation Proceeds

With great collaboration between FoC, ACAF, Mission Visitors, Donors & Community Leaders, an incredible season of transformation took place in Cambio Puente. Much planning and execution created not only physical transformations but comprehensive services to empower our brothers & sisters on their journey out of poverty.



Learning Center

After 9 months of planning a new Learning Center in Cambio Puente became a reality. The Learning Center is a tutoring place for children in the community to study. Also, numerous weekly vocational, health and wellness seminars are held by ACAF Staff. A mission visit team, F3 Nation, consisting of 6 gentlemen raised enough money to fund the entire project and also built the learning center in 4 days. Another generous donor provide equipment such as a computer, printer, bookcase and materials to complete the project. What a beautiful gift this community received on land donated to our mission.



The Virgin of Mercy Parish

They say that the “Heart of a Community” is the church and that could not be more true with the Virgin of Mercy Parish led by Father Erasmo. Through all the struggles of no help, Father Erasmo has done his best to make all welcome and has given as much as possible. This season, the church was gifted with some remodeling inside and out and incredible friendships were made along the way. Keith Guercio and mission teams from Waypoint Church, NC and I Am 24/7 Team funded and built roofs, repaired walls, painted inside and out and added a bathroom.



Daycare Center

The Cambio Puente Community Center Project began as a dream but that dream is now coming alive. A plan was drawn up with 3 stages, The Learning Center, A Daycare and ACAF Social Worker offices. The Daycare center was fully funded by the Mission Team, Waypoint Church and I Am 24/7 in August and this team of 30 tirelessly worked to complete the project. The daycare will provide care for children so their mothers can find work in the fields or community to provide an income for their families. This daycare will be a collaborated effort with the community to provide childcare staffing and resources.



CONTAINER is on its WAY

Throughout the year many donations are collected and stored in a warehouse in Shakopee, MN. Many volunteers come to the warehouse in the evenings and Saturdays to organize and prepare the donations to be packed on pallets.



Last week, it all came together, with the help of a forklift and 12 volunteers. The trailer was packed in 4 hours. The container is on its way to Chimbote packed with School in a bags, Home in a Box containers, Baby Bundles, wheelchairs, tools, clothing, laptop computers, crutches, walkers and many other essential items that will be welcomed with open arms upon its arrival.



Thank you to all that contributed to this important task that changes the lives of so many in Chimbote. A special thanks to St. Michaels Catholic Church in Prior Lake, MN for your tireless efforts to make this happen.



Our Mission of FAITH

Father Erasmo from the Virgin of Mercy Church received a beautiful gift. During the St. Michael's, Prior Lake mission trip in July, Father Thomas Walker noticed that Father Erasmo's book of prayers for Mass was a very old version.



This past week, Father Erasmo was gifted a brand new Spanish version of The Roman Missal. This gift was given to him by St Michael Church in Prior Lake, MN and Father Thomas Walker.



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/ and click the “like” button.

JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Sign up to receive our monthly emails by visiting our new website at: 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.



If you would like to get involved or have any questions about this container project please contact Connie Altringer (FoC Board Member) at 701-238-9866 or connie.altringer@outlook.com