



Newsletter

Celebration in Tzipani



Congratulations to the natives who dug the trench



Attending the presentation of Reyes Vasquez, the young President of the water committee

Last August, my daughter Geneviève and I were able to make our dream of accompanying André Franche on his annual visit to Peru a reality. On August 14th, we were expected in the community of Tzipani for the inauguration of the new drinking water system. André had a surprise in store for me: I was to be the project patron.

For over two weeks, planes, buses, taxis, and four wheel drives transported us off the beaten track to **small, often neglected communities** in need of clean drinking water. It took more than 3 hours to get to Tzipani in the Amazonian jungle, from the small port of Atalaya: an hour and a half in a small motorboat on the Rio Ucayali, an hour in a pirogue on the Unini, 45 minutes on foot on a small path through the jungle to the village, and then 30 more minutes to the water reservoir.

Tzipani is a jungle community like those we imagine from looking at pictures in National Geographic magazine. The natives are handsome, small, agile and shy, but also full of life. There are many

young children. In this community, boys and girls become parents at a young age: girls marry at puberty. Several men and women wore **their traditional Ashéninka costume**, a long red and white striped tunic made of four bands of woven fabric sewn together. Their faces were painted with red motifs and several women bore blue tattoos. A few members wore braided headdresses with large colored feathers. They seemed to be in **perfect harmony with their environment**. This community was certainly inspiring: one felt great respect for these people who are able to survive in a seemingly hostile environment.

For seven months, the young and not-so young members of the community worked to dig trenches, some as deep as four meters, to lay the pipes that would connect the water

collection reservoir to the village. The work took place during the rainy season. The conditions were very difficult, as the trenches were continuously filled with mud. Roots had to be removed with very limited means. Everyone showed great courage and **all of the effort put into the completion of the project deserved recognition.** ▽



A young Tzipani family

The celebration began with excellent, well prepared speeches: the natives know what they want and don't want. As the patron, I had prepared a short speech in Spanish to share my joy of being among them. Upon our arrival, we were offered a bowl of *masato* (macerated manioc) which, out of respect, could not be refused. I thought that my microbial flora would be happy. They also prepared a feast of rice and noodles with fish and chicken.

I had the honor of breaking the bottle of champagne with Bonifacio, the former village chief, for the unveiling of the commemorative plaque. This christening is said to ward off bad luck and bring good luck and happiness to the village. Once the balloons had been distributed, the traditional candy toss enthralled both old and young.

As night fell, and the full moon shone, we knew it was time to depart. My heart overflowed with appreciation for this unforgettable experience.

Sylvia Marion



Sylvia and Bonifacio, patrons of the event

UNINI, Amazonie

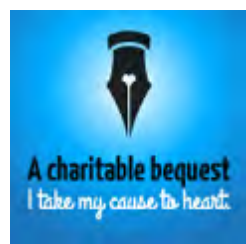
Last August 16, I spent the night in a hut in Diamante Azul with my two traveling companions. The next morning, we were woken up by the sound of pickaxes. Looking out, we saw about 90 men digging the trench in which the water main that will go around the village will be installed. A dozen more men had gone to

work on the site of the water catchment, 3 km upstream. In another village called José Olaya, the water main had already been installed and the same job has been done in Cascada Unini since then. Before the end of November, the 135 families living in these three communities will be getting running water in their homes.



90 men start digging the trench every morning at 6 AM

Leave a legacy Ma cause, je l'ai à cœur!



This fall, the French counterpart of the *Leave a Legacy* program, *Un héritage à partager*, has launched a new promotional campaign called *Ma cause, je l'ai à cœur*. Each one of us is invited to contemplate the possibility of making a donation in their will to support *Wings of Hope's* mission. Wouldn't it be a great way to demonstrate the importance you place on access to safe drinking water for remote communities in Peru?

2015-2016 Annual Report

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, our income totaled **\$1,545,961**. This amount includes the interest earned from various endowment funds and life annuities (\$168,095), deposits in endowment funds (\$712,586), and the capital to create life annuities (\$145,700). The bequest to be received as of June 30 (\$306,188) is not included.

With regard to expenses,

- \$531,047 were transferred to Peru to support projects.
- 6.98 % of our income was used for fundraising and administration.

Once again, we **thank you** sincerely for your continued support.

P.S.: a more detailed financial report is available in French on our website under «L'Organisme».



145 sinks were built in Huancapuquio, Pillucho and Huayracasca. This one was installed inside the house

Grand inauguration in Pujas

San Francisco de Pujas (Pucca in Quechua) is a small community of 436 inhabitants, located at an altitude over 3,500 m in the Andes, in the province of Vilcashuaman. To reach it, you have to drive for several hours on narrow dirt roads and acclimatize progressively as you gain altitude. But what we found as we arrived in Pucca on the morning of August 6 was well worth every minute of the trip.

ownership of the project which makes them proud.

These projects may be costly but they are more sustainable than those developed by the government at even greater cost because they are planned by and for the communities that don't have access to drinking water. These isolated communities sometimes have access to airwaves and internet before they gain access to drinking water.



The sprinklers project water in a 40 m radius



Geneviève, patron of the event, gives a volleyball to girls of Pujas

Members of the community were expecting us for the grand inauguration of the irrigation project that now allows them to water their lands. **The smile on their faces expressed their pride and gratitude.** The fact that *Wings of Hope* requires the local population to take part in the projects that they lead and finance allows people to acquire technical knowledge about their water system. In addition, the active involvement of the villagers helps develop a sense of

Since they live off their land, water isn't only necessary for basic use, but it is needed to produce food. This is why Pucca expressed its gratitude by organizing a celebration the preparation of which had kept the women in their kitchens for part of the night.

La chicha de jora, the Inca drink made of fermented corn, was plentiful; musicians played traditional melodies to dance to; the dishes, composed of chicken, potatoes, sheep and rice,

were cooked over a fire and accompanied with traditional *canchitas*, roasted grains of corn. We visited fields where water spraying high above ground from the new irrigation system watered the soil and held promises of tender green sprouts. Corn, beans, several varieties of potatoes, avocados and papayas will soon be cultivated here. A villager actually gave us a few ripe papayas.

Afterwards, we broke a bottle of sparkling wine on the reservoir to christen it in the manner of a ship going out to sea for the first time. With each inauguration, *Alas de Esperanza* gives a new soccer ball as well as a volley ball and a net to the children. The donation took place in front of the official plaque expressing gratitude for Mrs. Lyne Francœur and her family for making this project possible. But what really took me by surprise was the inscription on the blue plaque when the white veil that covered it was removed. It read: *Madrina: Geneviève Marion-Séguin. I was so proud!*

I sincerely thank Pucca for the unforgettable memories and the whole team at *Wings of Hope* for allowing me to experience these precious and unique moments.

Geneviève Marion-Séguin



Lyne Francoeur (centre) and her daughter Keely during a trip to Peru.



A subsistence farmer is amazed by Geneviève's photos.

Your email address

With your email address, we can keep you up to date on ongoing projects.

Email us at afranche@ailesdelesperance.org to be on our emailing list.

Thank you. .

