



Newsletter

Inauguration in Huancapuquio



A warm welcome in Huancapuquio

I learned shortly before my departure for Peru that I would be the acting patron of the project. It was an honour for me to take part in the inauguration of the first stage: water catchment and the installation of six hydrants in the village. To make it up to the ceremony on August 12 of last year, we had to go up a dirt road lined with precipices. Huancapuquio is a small village perched up into the mountains. I didn't look too much on the sides to avoid vertigo and being paralyzed with fear.

The villagers greeted us with flowers and beautiful smiles at the village entrance. Then we all walked towards the community hall where the ceremony was being held. The sky was blue and the sun was shining, but there was a soft breeze cooling the air. The women had prepared a delicious meal which we ate with our hands. I thought it was fun!

The speeches from various community leaders and teachers began afterwards. Then it was my turn to say a few words followed by André Franche who had been assigned a more physical duty, the raising of the flag. We all laughed as we watched him! Since there's always dancing at these inauguration ceremonies, I had prepared by practicing a few traditional steps with friends. Except that this time, no dance was scheduled... to André's dismay!

The patrons of the inauguration - Franklin and I - were called up. The mood was very emotional when we unveiled the commemorative plaque on the wall of the small chapel. Then we walked over to a small fountain to pop open the champagne... which was just a symbolic bottle of beer. Everyone gathered

around the fountain. We hit the bottle with a hammer and the bottle exploded with a powerful noise and made a lot of foam. It was a beautiful and joyful moment.

The festivities ended with the most anticipated of the events, the candy toss. Franklin, Elizabeth, Darinka and I threw candies all around. Everyone - children as well as adults, to my great surprise - started scurrying around and bending down to pick as many as possible.

Throughout the day, I had been able to notice how much the villagers were united and ready to roll up their sleeves to begin



An outburst of joy after the patron of the project turned on the tap



. According to custom, the patron gives a soccer ball to the boys and a volleyball to the girls

work on the second stage of the project which consisted of connecting homes to the water main. The women told me that they were very happy to have access to drinking water in their village. They told me that, thanks to this project, **their lives had improved a lot**. They don't have to fetch and carry water anymore, they have better hygiene and the children no longer suffer from illnesses linked to unclean water. It makes them very happy. **They feel livelier**. With your support, the community has worked hard for the good of all. Each of them sends a big thank you from the bottom of their heart.

Annick Delestre

Give added value to your life insurance policy!

Ten years ago, at the time when Mrs. Thérèse Théoret, one of our donors, was planning her estate, she decided to give *Wings of hope* her life insurance policy. With her blessing, the **Thérèse Théoret Fund** was created within the organization to fund, year after year, drinking water projects and other development projects. After she passed away, we received last January her insured capital of \$100,000 that we did deposit in the same Fund. **We are forever grateful.**

Each year in Canada, thousands of insurance policies amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars lapse or are rendered ineffectual for a variety of reasons: either the owners of these policies don't want them anymore, either they don't need them anymore or can't afford to pay the premium, or else they have been forgotten in some drawer! Obviously insurance companies don't complain since they don't have to pay the death benefit!

But these policies, even the ones marked with no surrender value, **do have value** since premiums have been paid for a certain number of years.

So instead of letting your insurance policy lapse and forgo an **important asset**, why not give this policy to a charity organization? It's easy to have

your policy appraised today. By giving your policy to *Wings of Hope* you will receive a tax receipt for your donation equivalent to the appraised value. The fiscal advantage gained through your donation becomes somewhat of a compensation for the premiums you paid for so many years. In addition, if you continue paying the premiums, we will give you a receipt for the paid premiums every year.

Isn't giving away a life insurance policy an excellent means of *ensuring you'll be making a large donation, a more generous donation than expected, for the cause that's dear to your heart?*

André Franche

Locals dig trenches Cuchoquesera.



The Ottawa marathon

Judith Strauss, Facebook, october 2014

There, it's done. The great adventure begins. I have signed up for my first marathon in Ottawa on May 24, 2015. And what better idea than run **26 miles for my 26th years!** It doesn't get any better than that. So I'm putting my attempt of 2013 behind me and I'm starting anew.

What motivates me even more than running 42.2 km, is the fact that I will be collecting donations for the **Patricia Strauss Fund** established by her parents after Patricia passed away in 2001 (the fund is affiliated to *Wings of Hope*). The sum that will be raised will contribute to bringing potable water to remote communities in Peru. Of course I'll be running for myself, but mostly to honour the memory of my sister Patricia by making a gift of life in Peruvian villages.

P.S. If you wish to support Judith, please indicate Marathon or **Patricia Strauss Fund** when making your donation. Thank you.

Marathon woman Judith Strauss



News from ongoing projects

Pillucho: Protecting and reinforcing the source

On the weekend of January 24, Elizabeth and Darinka joined the Pillucho community in the Andes to plant some 3,000 trees. The saplings were planted on either side of the ravine where the source flows. Tree planting takes place in January, during the rainy season, to give the new trees the best chance to grow. Obviously, it would be out of the question to plant the seedlings in the dry season because it would then be necessary to transport water to the top of the mountain to water them.



Darinka participated in tree planting

The goal of this operation is to protect the environment and the water source. The trees will prevent landslides (*huaycos*) and improve water retention thereby increasing the water supply.

In addition, the implementation of the drinking water project continues with the construction of the water collection system and the installation of pipes. Thanks to your continued support, the men of this community – with the help of a team of labourers brought in by engineer Mercedes Torres – managed to clear the water catchment site. Several tons of rocks were removed from the middle of the “*quebrada*”. Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Andean farmers. Unfortunately, they are too often forgotten.

Cuchoquesera: The project is being carried out under the direction of the Peruvian organization *Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER)*. To date, everything is going according to plan. The first source was tapped successfully: locals dug the 4 km trench for the water main, pipes were installed and the 20 cubic meter reservoir was built. At present time, workers are completing the water distribution network and connections to homes.



Water catchment at over 4 000 meter above sea level



The main water reservoir under construction

**ONLINE
DONATION**

Les Ailes de L'Espérance
Wings of Hope
Alas de Esperanza



<http://ailesdelesperance.org/en/donate/>

