



# Newsletter

## Lagarto Millar: Mission accomplished



*You may remember Reder, the little boy from Lagarto Millar carrying a heavy water container on his shoulder from our 2017 Christmas card. That's a chore he no longer has to do since February! Look at his joy as the water pours into his family's washbasin.*

*The Lagarto Millar reservoir*

The incessant heavy rains delayed the execution of this project. Indeed, the work had to be suspended because of the amount of precipitation and the diseases it brought. The engineer and two workers were badly affected by typhus.

But these difficulties did not discourage the natives of this community. On the contrary, Leidy Zahuaro, Chair of the Drinking Water Committee, led her community remarkably. You had to have a serious reason to miss community work!



The project is now complete. The solar panels and the pump were installed in February and the water is now flowing, as if by some magic, in each of the 35 houses and buildings in the village. The official inauguration is scheduled for next August.

*The technician and a few residents of Lagarto Millar in front of the solar panels; Leidy Zahuaro is 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left.*

## New United Nations Water Decade

The issue of access to water is critical for populations struggling with hunger, poverty and malnutrition. In 2018, the United Nations begins a new



decade on the theme of water with the aim that all its member states provide quality water to all humanity by 2030. From March 18 to March 23, 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, held under the theme of «Water Sharing» took place in Brasilia. Decision-makers, representatives of civil society and all stakeholders from 160 countries met to assess the situation.

# Young people take an interest in access to water in the Amazon

My recent trip to Peru with my friend Adélie Laruncet was unforgettable. Together, we spent a few weeks in an entirely different environment and had the chance to meet amazing people. Among them were members of *Alas de Esperanza Perú*: Elizabeth, the office manager, and William, an engineer, as well as Darinka and Luis-Felipe, in Atalaya, who are wonderful people. We were able to join them for several days on a mission to the Amazon, in the community of Diamante Azul. There, we visited the drinking water supply projects currently under construction. We saw the inhabitants of Diamante Azul working very hard, united in their efforts to finish building and painting the elevated water tank. They worked tirelessly every



*Running water in Diamante Azul, an essential service.*

day to bring water to the village, for their children and their wives. It was beautiful to witness the impressive team effort which showed their undeniable ability to develop their community for the good of all.

It was a very inspiring experience. It allowed us to get to know the members of this community and live among them, adopting their way of life. The natives welcomed us with open arms, inviting us to eat at their table, sharing every meal with us as if we were part of their family. I'm grateful to *Wings of Hope* for allowing us to live this unforgettable experience. I never thought that one day I would live in an Amazonian community. These moments spent at Diamante Azul are by far my best memories. I sincerely thank the wonderful people of Diamante Azul for their warm welcome.

*Alexia Delestre-Ducharme*



*Alexia (center) and Adélie arriving in Diamante Azul with engineer William Cerron.*

## Board of directors



Following the General Assembly held last November 22, here are the members of the *Wings of Hope* Board of Directors: Pierre Cadoret, Vice-President, Nicole Rouleau, Treasurer, Marie Joëlle Fluet, Administrator, Annick Delestre, Secretary, Darinka Pacaya, member of the Peruvian team and André Franche, President. On January 20, 2018, we took advantage of Darinka Pacaya Diaz' presence to hold an enlarged Board of Directors' meeting.

## The passing of a development giant

André Godin, from Saint-Eustache, died last November 26. He will be remembered for the many years he spent working with poor people in Peru. In particular, Mr. Godin founded institutions at the end of the 1950s that transformed the lives of the inhabitants of Comas, a huge slum in the northern suburbs of Lima. These include the *Escuela Técnica Jesús Obrero*, which for more than 50 years has been training a specialized workforce for the needs of Peru, a country he knew better than anyone else.



When he retired, Mr. Godin actively took part in *Wings of Hope* as a member of the corporation and of the Board of Directors. Our gratitude survives him.

# Dry landscapes transformed into farmland



An operating sprinkler

For a long time, subsistence farmers of Rurunmarca, in the Saurama district, have dreamed of bringing water back to their arid lands on the banks of the *Rio Pampas*. The previous irrigation system was damaged and then abandoned during violent incursions of the *Shining Path* in the 1980s. Following the insistent demands of their mayor Victor Medina, *Wings of Hope* decided to financially support the realization of an irrigation project.

Water is captured from a stream and driven down by gravity into a 100 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir. From there, the water continues its course through the distribution network to which are attached pressure sprinklers to water the land.

Silvestre Quispe, an agronomist, designed the system and directed the work while the farmers provided the labor. Today, thanks

to the 25 hectares of land now irrigated, the food security of 72 families is insured and their standard of living has improved. In fact, not only does the community now eat better, it can also sell surplus crops to increase income.



The reservoir for irrigation

## Waripercca: a community on the move!

Phase I, access to drinking water, of the Waripercca project did come to an end. Two water catchments have been constructed and the water distribution network is already in place. The community worked hard to dig the 17 km of trenches needed to install the pipes. The water arrives to each house. A situation that moms never dared even dreaming of! **Your donations support these farmers' hard work.** Receive their gratitude and ours.



Each family now has its own washbasin



Reservoir Nb. 2 in Waripercca

## Thank you Mr. Tousignant

Mr. Roger Tousignant lived most of his life in Hawkesbury where he had a furniture store. When he retired, he and his wife moved closer to Montréal where their three daughters live. Throughout his life Mr. Tousignant supported various missionary and humanitarian causes. *He knew the taste of shared bread.*

He had remained a loyal *Wings of Hope* donor for some forty years and access to drinking water for remote Peruvian communities had become his cause of choice. A few days before he passed away, Mr. Tousignant consulted his financial advisor and decided to make a **large donation of securities** to extend his support for remote and underprivileged populations of Peru. I had the opportunity to visit him soon after he was admitted at the *Maison des soins palliatifs* in Laval to express our deepest gratitude. That meeting was very emotional for both of us.

André Franche

P.-S. The donation of publicly traded shares offers significant tax benefits. Talk to your accountant or financial advisor for more information.



