



# Newsletter

## A difficult situation

The current health crisis is a difficult time for everyone. We share your concerns and invite you to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

The Covid-19 pandemic is global, so Peru is affected. On 15 March, the Government declared a state of emergency and a curfew to contain the spread of the virus. As a result, the

implementation of projects has been temporarily suspended. Our field team is ready to resume work as soon as possible. As water is an indispensable and vital element in the fight against this virus, Peruvians need you more than ever. Thank you for your loyal support and for keeping our mission in mind during this exceptional period. We wish you and your family to stay safe and healthy.

## Villa los Ángeles

On February 17, Verónica Flores, a social worker, took Pierre Cadoret and André Franche to Villa los Ángeles for a day of general chores. More than 150 people, men, women and teenagers, are digging the trench in which the new water pipe will be installed to connect the cistern to the reservoir at the top of the hill. How could we refuse to support the efforts of these farmers?



◀ A peasant woman participating in the community effort

▼ The pupils of the school and the kindergarten also participated in awareness sessions on the project and solar energy. At the centre, Verónica Flores.



# The Water Warriors

Autumn Peltier, 14, has been appointed Chief Water Commissioner by the Anichinabe Nation in Ontario. On World Water Day, March 22, 2018, the *water warrior* spoke at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City and delivered the following



Autumn Peltier (photo L'Actualité)

message: «I am sounding the alarm to governments and leaders that more attention and consideration must be given to drinking water. She also added, «In my culture, *water has a spirit*, it is alive, and we must respect that spirit of water. (L'Actualité, September 2019, Interview with Marie Boule).

The indigenous people of Peru share the same vision and conception of water. In carrying out our projects in Peru, we



Pinina Fernandez

also meet women water warriors such as Pinina Fernandez, a young mother of six who was elected president of the Shinipo drinking water committee in the Amazon. **Her enthusiasm and leadership have earned her the respect of the entire community.** She was able to motivate all her people of the Asheninka Nation to carry out the water access project, a project that required thousands of hours of hard work, as the spring was tapped 6 km from the village in the middle of the Amazonian forest.

There is also Darinka Pacaya, a member of the management team of Alas de Esperanza Perú. Since the summer of 2019, she has been a social worker in the communities where we



Darinka Pacaya

carry out projects in the Amazon. Darinka does not hesitate to make very long trips by boat or on foot to reach these remote communities. She supports the members of the water committees in their work to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water supply systems that have been installed. **She is an inspiring young woman whose leadership is recognized and respected by the nativos (natives).**

Darinka at the landing stage on the Ucayali River



## A gesture from the heart

Madeleine LaFerté, originally from Drummondville, died in February 2019 in Bellingham, Washington. She spent most of her professional life as a medical archivist in Los Angeles. Her three sisters, Georgette, Françoise and Céline, like her unmarried sisters, had preceded her into the afterlife. The relationship with these donors and before that with their aunts Mesdames LaPerle goes back to the early 1980s.



Madeleine LaFerté

Madeleine LaFerté has supported the work of *Wings of Hope* for several decades. It was certainly the organization whose cause was closest to her heart. When she last updated her will, thinking of the daily struggle of Peruvian women to obtain water, she had planned and registered an important bequest to *Wings of Hope*.

We can already say that, thanks to her gesture, an entire remote village in Peru will soon have reliable and constant access to clean water. The project will be inaugurated in her memory to pay tribute to her and to thank her.





## A great water festival in Huaralica

On February 16, Pierre Cadoret and André Franche had the pleasure of participating in the inauguration of the drinking water project in this community of 80 families. The pride of the farmers was palpable. They had worked so hard over the past six months to make their project a reality. The day before, they had killed an ox and very early in the morning a group of women were busy preparing a meal for all the community members and visitors. The villagers wanted to show their gratitude to all those who had supported them. **Indeed, their lives were changed forever.**

The sponsors of the event, Fatima Lahmami and Jean Gagnon of



*A young mother happy with her washbasin*

the Rotary Club of Montreal, unveiled the commemorative plaque. For the final touch to the project, the community planted avocado trees around the facility.

## Alexandra's dream is still coming true...

On January 12, we remembered with great emotion the death of Alexandra, 10 years ago already! A few days before the earthquake, she had gone to Île-à-Vache and had promised Sister Flora to help the children of the Island. The **Alexandra**



*Line Beauregard surrounded by Île-à-Vache students*

**Duguay Fund** created at her funeral contributed greatly to the reconstruction of the nursery school and the purchase of equipment for the orphanage. A group of donors collaborate regularly with this fund. In 2015, Line Beauregard, a teacher from Témiscamingue, volunteered on Île-à-Vache. Since

then, she has been coordinating an annual fundraiser with her colleagues and friends. All donations become sponsorships for the most underprivileged students at École Saint-François de l'Île-à-Vache. Line herself rigorously monitors the awarding of these sponsorship grants with Sister Flora and the school administration.

A sincere thank you to all Alexandra's donors and friends for pursuing her dream.

*André Franche, Alexandra's father-in-law*

P.S.: Donations are made payable to *Wings of Hope* for deposit to the fund.



*Alexandra Duguay*

## An emergency situation

Last November, torrential rains caused a huge landslide that washed away the water catchment structure that had been supplying the village of Occochiura since 2007. We responded to the distress call issued by the Mayor of the District of Independencia. To restore service, Engineer William proposed to collect water from a more distant source and have the water pipe suspended above the huge crater.



*The huge crater caused by the rains*

## A 50-year history

On March 29th, *Wings of Hope* entered its 50th year of existence, half a century of commitment to support the populations of the Amazon, the Andes and the coastal region! Peru, for its part, will commemorate the bicentenary of its independence declared by General José de San Martín, liberator of Peru with Simon Bolivar on July 28, 1821. This independence became effective on December 9, 1824 when General Antonio de Sucre won the battle of Ayacucho against the Spaniards. Peruvians came in large numbers to the site of La Quinua to pay homage to their valiant fighters.



