



# Newsletter



From left to right: Patrick Harkans, Annie Quesnel and Faustino Flores M., mayor of Vinchos.

## A tribute to my mother

Hello! Life destined me for this whirlwind visit to Peru, so let me explain...

March 2020, the WHO officially declared a worldwide pandemic of COVID-19. My eldest daughter Maude, her friend Justine and I were getting ready to explore Peru, but had to cancel our plans a few weeks before our departure. We had been enthusiastically preparing for this trip for months, captivated by the diversity of the landscapes, the rich history and the colorful culture of the country's inhabitants.

During the pandemic, on February 4, 2022, my mother Liliane, aged 87 and long suffering from Alzheimer's, left us peacefully. On the first anniversary of her death, my father André Quesnel announced his intention to make a major donation of a reservoir to supply a Peruvian village with drinking water. An intention, he told me, that he had put on the back burner in recent years to care for my mother. At the time of his announcement, Peru was in

the news with a series of violent protests and strikes. I was incredulous!

I knew of my father's great generosity, but very little about his charitable work. I then learned that he was a former and loyal donor to *Wings of Hope*. Although access to drinking water is a very noble cause, for my father, it's also important that the charity behind it is trustworthy, independent and financially transparent. So I took an interest in the humanitarian missions carried out by *Wings of Hope* and consulted their periodic newsletters with great interest, not suspecting of course that my story and my testimony would one day be told in them!

In the field, political instability, social

conflicts and many other hazards do nothing to hinder the work of the coordinators and engineers who make up the local *Wings of Hope* team. **Fully committed to the cause**, the team works simultaneously to develop new projects, implement them and support them after implementation. One such project is the small Andean village of Sunilla, where the necessary manpower is being deployed



An emotional moment at the unveiling of the plaque in memory of Lilianne Robidoux Quesnel.



to bring its water project to fruition. As the main donor, my father was invited to the official inauguration of the cistern and its infrastructure. Since he was not in good health to travel, he delegated to me the privilege of representing him.

And so, on January 26, my husband Patrick Harkans and I had the exceptional opportunity to join the *Wings of Hope*



Another moving moment: after requesting a minute's silence in memory of Madame Quesnel, this community leader prayed for the health of Monsieur Quesnel, who was hospitalized at the time.

team on a mission. What an unusual way to mark Patrick's first day of retirement, and what an honor it was for me to participate as project sponsor!

We were delighted to meet the Sunilla community and take part in the inauguration celebrations. **We were deeply moved by the warmth and generosity of the welcome we received, and immensely touched by the show of gratitude.** The festivities, enlivened by folk music and dance, and brightened by colorful costumes, offered us an invaluable opportunity to forge links with these people and their culture.

We realized first-hand the scale of the challenges and efforts the villagers had to make to bring this project to fruition, a colossal task given the rudimentary means at their disposal. **Their determination and perseverance are remarkable!**

I'd like to emphasize that the approach and values of *Wings of Hope* resonate with me in a number of ways. Firstly, **promoting gender parity** on water committees and when speaking at events encourages women to get actively involved in an issue that directly affects their daily lives. Furthermore, I approve of the principle **that citizen involvement and self-determination** are required to obtain financial assistance from the organization. Furthermore, it is highly responsible to ensure the sustainability



Annie and two Sunilla children

of projects through meticulous preventive maintenance of equipment and the creation of a contingency fund for long-term infrastructure replacement.

**Peru's water crisis is real.** Dry and contaminated water sources threaten the health of people living in remote communities, particularly children and the more vulnerable elderly. Peruvians do need our support, because they can't rely on their government to remedy the major issue of access to drinking water for all.

Thank you to our friends at *Wings of Hope* for this unforgettable adventure. We carry you in our hearts and in our fondest memories of Peru. We wish you continued success in all your projects!

Annie Quesnel

## Chulit in celebration

February 10 was truly a celebration of the efforts of this Andean community. I've rarely seen **a community so overjoyed at the arrival of water.** People had been deprived of it for so many years! The project was a daring one, requiring the installation of **a double solar-powered pumping system.** At times, people even had their doubts. They wondered if the water would reach the reservoir at the top of the mountain. Skeptics were confounded!

André Franche

Three peasant women and a little girl pose in front of the reservoir at the top of the hill.





# Seeing the smiles on people's faces



In the center, Monyse Romulus, godmother of the event, breaks the bottle of sparkling wine.

The inauguration of the Condor Paccha water project in the Andes on January 28, 2024 was an emotional

moment for me. Following in the footsteps of my mother who passed away in 2019, a woman who adored Peru and its communities, I was deeply touched to see the joy of the locals now that they have access to clean water. Although I never had the opportunity to visit Peru with her, this event gave me a little more insight into her love for the country and its people.

Seeing the smiles on people's faces, hearing their sincere thanks, reminded me of the positive impact my mother had on the lives of others. It was as if she were there with us, guiding our



Condor Paccha: a happy family

actions and illuminating our hearts with her love for Peru.

By following in her footsteps, I pledge to continue her legacy by helping communities in need. This inauguration has strengthened my resolve to pursue this mission with love and compassion, in honor of my mother and all she stood for.

Monyse Romulus

# A symbol of progress and hope

The inauguration of the water project in Tahuanti, in the Peruvian Amazon, in February 2024, was a crucial moment, revealing an often ignored reality: **the lack of access to clean water in many Amazonian communities.** Clean water is the cornerstone of life, and this inauguration symbolizes new hope for Tahuanti's growth and development. I'm proud to be the godmother of such a project.

For years, my mother, a teacher at CÉGEP de la Pocatière, took her students to Peru to experience and understand the challenges faced by Peruvian communities. Today, as I see the tangible impact this project has had on the lives of the

people of Tahuanti and neighboring communities, I am filled with deep gratitude for her vision and dedication.

*Wings of Hope* provides invaluable support to the community by accompanying and empowering its members,



A young mother from Tahuanti, happy with her clean, running water

while bringing life through clean drinking water. The inauguration was a **symbol of progress and hope**, bringing together local residents, government representatives and the *Alas de Esperanza Perú* team. I also want to raise my children's awareness of water-related issues, so that they can help preserve this vital resource for future generations.

Monyse Romulus



Monyse and three mothers

## **YES, I want to join the monthly donation program**

Support the efforts of Peruvians all year round by making a monthly donation of just a few dollars. You'll never have to renew your donation, as it will be automatically renewed month after month, unless you tell us otherwise.

How do I make a donation? Fill in the coupon on page 4, online or by phone.



# Water for all

In Shahuaya



These long boats take more than 12 hours to reach their destination.

Shahuaya is a remote Shipibo-Coniboco community in the Amazon.

People are forced to consume increasingly polluted water from the Ucayali River. The province's health services report that 85% of children suffer from anemia.

Over the past few years, the community authorities have made several unsuccessful approaches to their local government. A home-made system was installed by a previous administration, but to the despair of

the natives, this ill-conceived system only worked for two months!

In 2022, people from Shahuaya visited acquaintances in Nueva Galilea. They saw how this community was carrying out its own project with the support of *Alas de Esperanza* Perú.

As a result, they gathered their community together and asked the district mayor to collaborate with them



Building the reservoir base

External assistance required to complete the project totals \$242,496.

***Thank you for joining the efforts of 150 families in this native community. You give them hope for better days ahead.***

## YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WINGS OF HOPE'S PROJECTS

### ONE-TIME GIFT

### MONTHLY GIFT

\$25    \$50    \$75    \$100    \$200    \$500   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- By cheque payable to: *Wings of Hope*  
 By direct debit (monthly donation) please send a cheque specimen  
 VISA                       MASTERCARD

Card holder name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry date | | | | |                      CVV number | | | | |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:  Ms.    Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_



Elicia Vasquez, a Shahuaya community leader

## ONLINE DONATION

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