



# Newsletter

## Mission to Peru

Since last November, Nicole Bergeron is a member of the board of directors and treasurer (she has a background in accounting). She shares her thoughts below.



The new village of 21 de Septiembre, El Porvenir

## "I was deeply moved"

I had the privilege of accompanying André Franche on a mission to Peru from January 29 to February 17. I had already been there in 2004 for a short stay as part of my job at CLUB 2/3, and I was very excited to return.

This mission allowed me to visit about fifteen communities and participate in the inauguration of three projects: memorable moments, meeting the people who welcomed us with



Digging a trench in rocky soil



Nicole Bergeron receives a warm welcome

open arms every time. The Peruvian people were just as I remembered them: smiling, warm and generous. These encounters truly moved me and touched my heart.

**The highlight of the trip** for me took place in the 21 de Septiembre neighborhood of El Porvenir: even though I had already inaugurated a project in the suburbs of Ayacucho in 2004, even though I knew the work had been done by the community, "with picks and shovels," even though I had seen photos of people at work, **I admit I was deeply moved** when I saw the villagers digging trenches in the rocky ground under the blazing sun to lay the pipes. **They all so richly deserve this access to drinking water, which is so vital.**

I will always cherish these memories and hold the people of Peru dear to my heart.

Nicole Bergeron

# Water Festivals

The villagers always welcome the **arrival of water** with great enthusiasm. Celebrating on this day is important to **acknowledge their efforts** throughout

the project and to honor this resource through their local culture. This activity also raises awareness among the community about water conservation.

## In Matachico



On February 8, before dawn, the women of Matachico are busy cooking a meal for the entire community and our visiting team. It is a **day of celebration** in the village to mark the inauguration of the new drinking water system and, at the same time, **to celebrate the efforts and achievements** of this Andean community.

Many people from neighboring villages are attending the event because they helped the Matachico community to dig the 9 km of trenches in which the pipes have been laid.

## In Vista Hermosa

On February 1, the community of Vista Hermosa and the marching band welcomed us at the village entrance. We first went to the water collection facility, then walked leisurely through the mountains for 2.5 km to the reservoir. This community is Catholic, so a priest from Chota came to bless the facilities and celebrate Mass in the small chapel. The festivities planned to celebrate the arrival of water were supposed to last late during the night, but a storm disrupted the schedule.



Nicole, the *godmother*, after the unveiling of the Vista Hermosa plaque



The Vista Hermosa water collection system

## In Saurama



The Saurama intermediate cistern

On Wednesday, February 11, the community of Saurama is inviting us to the inauguration of the expansion of their water system. The original system, built in the early 2000s, had become

inadequate due to a decrease in the spring's flow and population growth in the five villages.

Two new springs have been tapped and a **dual solar pumping system** has been installed. The newly elected management committee consists of two people - one woman and one man - from each of the five villages, plus a representative from the Municipality.



Lito, committee chair, explains the system to Elizabeth and Nicole



Crystal-clear water gushes from the two springs

# 2026 Water and Gender

## Water, a Source of Equality

**World Water Day 2026** is dedicated to water and gender equality. Even today, the lack of drinking water systems exacerbates inequalities. Indeed, the global water crisis does not affect women and men in the same way. It is women and girls who are responsible for collecting water for the family. They devote **many hours a day to this task**. This duty prevents them



The women happily participate in digging the trench on 21 de Septiembre

from studying or working, unlike boys and men, and exposes them to violence.

Women are also too often excluded from decision-making and water management. Yet their rights should be respected and their voices heard. Women should be **at the heart of water solutions** as they are the primary users. But the tasks carried out by women are often unpaid and go unrecognized because these tasks are considered natural for them.

In our Fall 2025 newsletter, we explained how we encourage the **active participation and empowerment of women as agents of change**. In our projects, at least 50 % of the members on water committees are women. In remote communities, more and more young women and young men are **working together** to improve access to water. Each person takes their place and plays their part for the good of the whole community. **Water thus becomes a source of equality.**



Young Mili enthusiastically agreed to be a member of the new Las Torres de San Borja water committee

*Annick Delestre  
Executive Assistant*

## Monthly Donations

To make your life easier and improve the lives of Peruvian families, make a monthly donation. You'll multiply your impact because your donations add up over the years. You'll help reduce our costs, leaving more money for our projects.



**Feel free to contact us**  
at 1-866-277-5111 or by email:  
adelestre@aildesesperance.org



A teacher at Cégep de l'Estrie who recently passed away and a donor to Wings of Hope, had always been committed to advancing women's rights and gender equality. The role given to women in the context of water access projects supported by Wings of Hope motivated her to name our organization as the sole beneficiary of her will. She was alone, so she was able to make this decision freely. As she had requested, we were present at her cremation and her ashes were collected in a ceramic vase crafted by the Shipibo-Conibo women of the Peruvian Amazon. We respect her wish to remain anonymous and will be eternally grateful to her.

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Eliza Coronel, treasurer of the Vista Hermosa committee

