



Help Bolivia Foundation

2018 Year End Project Update



Welcome!

Thank-you for your interest and support for Help Bolivia! Special thanks to our donors who have provided their trust when we reached out and asked for their help in changing the lives for a group of children, their families and the communities of El Alto, Bolivia. As the year winds down and we spend time with family and friends, we are delighted to report on Help Bolivia activities for 2018.

Why Bolivia?

This is probably the most asked question we receive when we tell people that we are starting a charitable foundation that supports a project in Bolivia. There are so many great organizations out there today that do great work around the world and locally in our communities in Canada. It might appear a little strange that a group of Canadians would want to start a foundation in order to help a small community on the outskirts of La Paz.

We're involved in supporting Canadian charities but all of us wanted to go beyond our borders. So, when an opportunity presented itself that magnified some of the challenges we see in



Dogs of all shapes and sizes roam the streets of El Alto just outside La Paz, searching for food in piles of garbage.

Canada; lack of education, sexual abuse, bullying, and malnutrition, we were all in. Our interest grew from involvement by one of our members, Lydia Hill, in a charity operating in this part of Bolivia, a country that few Canadians are aware of. She felt more was possible and we agreed. The HELP Bolivia Charity quickly came together driven by those of us who now sit on the Board.



Arriving at Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre

The Help Bolivia Board

Matt Hill



Matt is a Founder and the President of HELP Bolivia Foundation, and has many years of project management experience and a passion for landscape photography. While raising three children with Lydia, he volunteered with 1st Airdrie Beaver Scouts, coached in the local children's soccer league, and helped the local food bank. A trip to Bolivia in 2018 sparked a passion to do something for the children and families of El Alto to help them realize their potential and overcome challenges they face in Bolivia today.

Lydia Hill



Lydia is a Founder and the Secretary of HELP Bolivia Foundation. She has been involved in charity work and non-profits since 1997, has sat on several charity boards helping children in developing nations, and was an active volunteer with UNICEF for 17 years. Lydia's interest in Bolivia started with a research paper about Bolivia in the late 1990s. Soon after she and Matt began sponsoring Bolivian children, and helping Bolivian women entrepreneurs with micro loans. Lydia works in the specialized area of Aboriginal law on behalf of First Nations, and is very familiar with the social issues that are found in marginalized communities.

Henny Borsje



Henny sits as Board Treasurer For HELP Bolivia Foundation, and is pleased to bring her financial skills to the table. Henny has 4 children and 8 beautiful grandchildren, all in Canada. She is grateful for all that she has been able to provide for her family, and is happy to help families in Bolivia who are not as fortunate.

Louise Lawrence



Loui holds a degree in Marketing, and is pleased to bring her knowledge, skills, and fabulous ideas to HELP Bolivia Foundation. She has sponsored girls in South America for almost 20 years, and is excited about making a difference in the lives of the children at the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre. For almost 5 years Loui lived part time in the Yucatan. She now calls Ottawa home, and works as a corporate trainer and content creator.

Bob Laws



Bob is a writer and blogger who volunteers as a writing mentor for developmentally challenged adults as part of the Long Table Creative, and works at events for the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, often as a photographer. He has experience on the boards of non-profit and charitable organizations including the Alexandra Writers and Silver Springs Community Association. But, he's keen to become involved outside of Canada and is excited about the opportunity HELP Bolivia offers to children in need.

Tammy Ovalle



Tammy's family is from Guatemala, and she is fluent in Spanish. During her years in Guatemala her heart always went to less fortunate children. She tried helping different organizations with the opportunities that came her way. She very much enjoyed helping in building projects and feeding school children. They were big learning opportunities and she is happy to contribute to the Board of HELP Bolivia. She has a B.A. Organizational Communications from the University of West Florida and Human Resource Management Certification from the University of Calgary.

Connectivity and Starfish

While visiting Bolivia earlier this year, we had the opportunity to visit the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre. This was a centre that had limited supervision provided by parents. It also had some funding for a part-time educator to supplement the half-day schooling provided by the public-school system. We met with parents and some of the children that attend. The community centre provides a safe haven in the community. There was no meal program so any part-time teaching was a challenge for hungry children. Being able to connect with the parents and seeing the problems they face raising their children in this environment made it personal for us. We connected with the parents and children and wanted to do something. This would not be about writing a cheque a few times a year or contributing to payroll deductions and hoping something good was going to be done. This was a group of people that were asking for our help. We have always been active volunteers and donors to some great organizations in the past. With the project in Bolivia, we will be able see and measure first hand and communicate to our donors how their contributions are making a difference. We connected with a small group of children and their mothers. We had found a group of starfish we could help. If you are not aware of the starfish parable, check out the story on our website home page <https://helpbolivia.org>



Children gather around the laptop and projector purchased by Help Bolivia donors

Education Support

Bolivia has the highest rates of sexual violence in Latin America with one in every three women being a victim of sexual abuse before the age of 18. Gender violence is endemic with 90% of women experiencing it. Almost all cases are within the family. In September, donations to Help Bolivia were used to purchase a laptop and projector which is now being used to raise the awareness of the problem, educate children to help change cultural norms in the community and identify support programs for victims of sexual and spousal abuse within the community.

Hot Meal Program Starts

In July of this year, we were able to send donations to Tahuantinsuyo to clean up the kitchen which we had visited in March. We also authorized purchase of food and gas to support starting a hot meal program for 40 children in the community centre. Attendance in the community centre increased 30% as a result of the meal program.



Marlene (with Sebastian asleep on her back) preparing a meal in the renovated kitchen



Visiting the kitchen that had limited use back in March 2018

The meal, served daily consists of a hot soup and a hot meal that includes cooked potatoes (usually more than one type), vegetables and a small portion of fish or meat. A boiled egg might also be served with the meal.



CRA Application Update

Obtaining a registration from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) was high on our list of priorities starting out. We know that donors appreciate the ability to use the registration receipts to help during tax time. Expanding fundraising to apply for grants and donations from corporations and non-government organizations almost always requires CRA registration.

We are happy to report that our application (all 144 pages of completed forms and supporting evidence) was submitted on December 18th. Depending on the review cycle and any supplemental questions the CRA may have, we anticipate hearing late in the Spring. We also expect we will be able to provide a tax receipt for all donations received in 2019 as the CRA will likely back-date the registration to the receipt of the application!



Save the Dates!

For 2019, we are planning a couple of fundraising events that promise to be an enjoyable evening and help us achieve our goals for 2019.

- Calgary Fundraiser Dinner & Silent Auction - April 6th at the Coast Plaza Hotel
- Montreal Fundraiser Dinner & Silent Auction - October 5th - location TBA



Feature Family – Marlene

Marlene was born in La Paz, she is 27 years old and completed three years of high school. Marlene has three children:

- Jhisel - age 6
- Maria de los Angeles - age 4
- Carlos Sebastian - 1 year old



With the support from donors to Help Bolivia, Marlene has been engaged as a cook for the children in the community centre. She can now contribute economically to her family for the basic education expenses for her daughters. They are able to eat adequately now and her daughters receive educational support from educators in the centre.

On-line Presence and Contacting Us

Since establishing the website <https://helpbolivia.org> , we have also set up a page on Facebook - **Help Bolivia Foundation**. You can contact us by email at info@helpbolivia.org or via our Facebook page. Donations can be made online from the website. Look for Help Bolivia on Instagram and Twitter in January!

Thank-you!

It really does not matter why you decide to help. It may have been because you felt as we do, that we are obliged give back to others less fortunate than ourselves. It may be because we asked as a friend or family member. It may have even been due to the one of the gifts we offered with your donation. It does not matter your motivation, we cannot thank-you enough!

We remain determined to make a difference with this project but we can't do this alone. We are humbled by the trust donors like you are placing in us to make a difference in a community in Bolivia and are thrilled with the progress you are helping achieve.

Monthly Donor Appeal

If you have donated in the past, or are considering donating, please consider becoming a monthly donor. This will significantly help us plan the level of support we can provide, and provides you with an ongoing and affordable way to donate and stay in touch with this project. Any amount will do - even \$5 per month will go a long way in Bolivia! Monthly donations can be set up via the PayPal button on our website, or via e-transfer to info@helpbolivia.org

For 2019, we have a special ask. Until we are registered with the CRA and are able to access grants and corporate donations, we are needing a little help from our family and friends. **Please consider becoming a monthly donor for at least the first half of 2019.** We're asking for your help until we are on our feet, so that together we can HELP these children and their families.



Muchas Gracias!
Thank-you!