



YOUR 2023
SUPPORTER
YEARBOOK



2023 YEARBOOK

Here's a review of all the joy you were able to create in our Help Bolivia Foundation projects throughout the year of 2023.



The kids were on summer break this month. Lots of time for play and time spent at home.



The children returned to school and to our Tahuantinsuyo and Villa Ingenio Community Centres this month, and life went back to normal.

We were excited to work with a club from the University of Calgary in the design of a rooftop greenhouse for the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre. We saw this as a wonderful opportunity for the children and families to

learn sustainable agricultural practices and provide locally grown food for the nutrition program, with a plan to build the greenhouse in May.

Colourful Ch'alla celebrations were held at the Tahuantinsuyo centre in late February, coinciding with the annual carnival celebrations. Ch'alla is a ceremony of reciprocity with Pachamama, a mother-earth goddess central to Aymara beliefs. Ch'alla celebrates their relationship with Pachamama, expressing gratitude for her blessings. Celebrations include decorating your home, setting off firecrackers, and enjoying lots of food, often holding a community potluck picnic called Apthapi.

[Challa video \(youtube.com\)](#)



This month we published an update on our fledgling program at Villa Ingenio. The children in this program look forward to gathering every Saturday to learn, play, and just have fun being kids in a safe and happy environment. We restated our commitment to growing this program to full time, like Tahuantinsuyo.



On March 24th we held a Calgary pub night, in support of our Greenhouse, including a silent auction and sale of chocolates, seed packages, earrings, Bolivian handicrafts, and more.



Help Bolivia Foundation held its fifth Annual General Meeting on April 12th. The board members from last year were all happy to continue their roles for 2023:

Matt Hill, Lydia Hill, Bob Laws, Henry Wiens, CPA, CGA, Kristy Rouleau, Paul Dubeau and Ibukun Adewale.

We said goodbye, with a big thank you, to Daniel Orgaz. Daniel was our first employee, and provided our in-country face in Bolivia, administrating and implementing our programs in Tahuantinsuyo, always keeping the Board in the picture.



At the same time, we introduced and wished the best of luck to our new Bolivian employee, Yoselin, who expressed her excitement to be working with us.

Finally, we announced our Pub Night Fundraiser to be held in Montreal on Saturday, October 14, at [Kellys Orchard in Pointe-Claire](#), to include a silent auction and a Bolivian market table.



Help Bolivia turned five! To celebrate, Help Bolivia Foundation founders Matt and Lydia, along with board member Paul, and supporters Cam and Aaron travelled to Bolivia to visit the children and families you're helping.



In early May, Dr. Elizabeth the dentist visited the Tahuantinsuyo Centre to do preventative dental work for the children. She planned to visit Villa Ingenio soon.

Highlights of Help Bolivia Foundations visit included:

Paul DuBeau cutting the ribbon on Carol's Classroom. The Tahuantinsuyo women expressed their deep gratitude to Paul for sponsoring the sewing machines, in memory of his late wife, Carol. Without Paul's loving gift, the program would not be possible.



When Matt & Lydia Hill visit El Alto, there's always time for a trip to the beach – a bus trip to Lake Titicaca and lots of splashing in the water!!

We were also excited to share that "Have a Heart, Lend a Hand" Club from Magnolia Science Academy 2 Community School in Los Angeles, California, had raised funds for the Help Bolivia Foundation.



The Willkakuti, or return of the sun, was celebrated on June 21st in the pre-Inca ruins of Tiwanaku, known as the Aymara new year. The sun's return symbolizes renewed cosmic energies and the beginning of the new agricultural cycle.

Aracely, a tour guide in La Paz, presented her first English language class this month at Tahuantinsuyo, after visiting the Centre with Lydia in May. She will be teaching English to the children and the mothers.



The children at Villa Ingenio continued to thrive at their once-a-week day of learning and fun. This program, which only runs Saturdays, means so much to the children and families; imagine if it ran all week!



HBF had a tent at the 2023 Airdrie Pride Festival. We sold chocolates, earrings, purses, tablecloths, monkeys (with rainbow headbands), seeds, crocheted llamas, and coffee.



We appealed for support to an amazing opportunity for the kids of the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre. A German foundation donated musical instruments so the kids can learn traditional Aymara music and dances!



Then, Heidi, a retired schoolteacher from San Antonio, Texas, brought a suitcase full of school supplies to donate. We were so grateful that she reached out! Here she is, meeting with the kids at the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre and delivering the much-appreciated supplies.





HBF granted a small cash prize to the bright young minds who successfully completed grade 9 and those graduating from grade 12.

For recipients and families, these graduation awards are a recognition of academic achievement and a lifeline toward higher education goals.



HBF held their 3rd Annual Fitness Challenge. Enthusiastic participants across Canada chased fitness goals while raising more than \$5,700 for the programs in Bolivia!

In El Alto, amidst a vibrant local fair atmosphere, the mothers of the Tahuantinsuyo sewing program showcased their remarkable

creations. Thanks to Paul DuBeau and the Fig Tree Foundation for making the sewing program possible!

The Villa Ingenio community program resumed after winter break in extreme blustery weather, as children and their families defied the winds, to everyone's delight. The kids had a lot of fun!



15-year-old Wara, a long-time Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre program member, recently participated in a group mountain climb of Huayna Potosí Mountain.



In September, we sealed the floor of the computer lab, our hub of learning and innovation since its opening. It's now dust-free, resolving a major issue for us. The computer room is now a pristine environment, eliminating dust and improving the overall air quality. The lab is once again a busy hive of study sessions and creativity for the children.



We were proud to announce the launch of a new Tuesday morning program at Villa Ingenio. Ten children with severe learning difficulties come to the Centre for tutoring in math and languages – challenging subjects. Lunch is also served, with much anticipation by the children.



In Bolivia our friends marked the beginning of spring on September 21, also known as Students' Day and "día del amor", a day that youth send cards, chocolates and flowers to their friends and crushes.

Meanwhile, in Calgary, we held a Paint Class Fundraiser a week later.

Finally, we were pleased to announce the formation of a team of Bolivian Advisors to the Board. We welcomed Stanley, Ana, Angelica & Maricarmen,

who live in La Paz, as well as Aracely from El Alto who teaches English to a group of our Tahuantinsuyo mothers.



With the onset of Spring, the program at Tahuantinsuyo hosted enriching nature walks for the students, empowered teenagers through thought-provoking theatre, and initiated a recycling-driven spring planting project.

Meanwhile, the Tuesday school support program in Villa Ingenio reported making a significant impact as the staff continued to work to address learning challenges faced by these children.



On October 14, in Montreal, the Bids for Kids fundraiser was a great success! The event featured delicious food, a silent auction, fun coin purses with surprise gifts and the sale of calendars and crocheted llamas.

Thanks to those who attended, enough funds were raised to pay for an entire month of hot, nutritious lunches for the children in Bolivia.



Bolivian comedian Frank Torrez paid a visit to the children at the Villa Ingenio program on November 4, spreading joy and laughter. Frank's kindness and concern for these young ones have touched our hearts deeply, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to him.



We shared an update on the music and dance program in Tahuantinsuyo, made possible by your generous support through the GlobalGiving micro project fundraiser. Thanks to your kindness, we hired a dedicated teacher

to nurture the Aymara musical and cultural dance traditions among our centre's children.

HBF Board Director Michelle Tribe and her husband Nikolaus Maack visited the Tahuantinsuyo Community Centre for a tour and to meet some of the staff and children. "Every person I spoke with, from the dedicated teachers to the children themselves, expressed their heartfelt gratitude. Knowing that a caring community exists beyond Bolivia's borders fills them with joy and hope, a testament to the far-reaching difference our support brings to their lives."





With the beginning of summer in Bolivia, the programs wrap up with Christmas Fiestas; on the summer solstice, the Andean Indigenous peoples celebrate Kapak Raymi, the biggest festival of the sun.

The Villa Ingenio Fiesta was made extra special with child entertainers and the provision of snacks, thanks to a benefit show put on by the Stand-Up Comedy Bolivia comedy troupe!

A group of teenagers from Tahuantinsuyo had a fantastic time at a science expo-fair, invited to connect and share experiences by the University of the Career of Education Sciences.

Help Bolivia Foundation is grateful to the donors that made these programs possible. Without you, we could not do what we do. Together we are making a difference in the lives of these children and their families. Thank you.

[Canadian Donation Link](#)

[US & UK Donation Link](#)

Would you like to become a volunteer? Please [send us an email](#) to learn about ways you can help!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being part of our community of care for the children in El Alto. We wish you all the best in 2024.

With gratitude,
Matt and Lydia Hill
Help Bolivia Foundation