

Dear Supporters of Centro Educativo La Minga,

Here I am starting the "pre-trip" newsletter from Quito - and then finishing it in Boulder after the trip. I had one almost all written and simply couldn't finish it before I left. One of the main purposes of this newsletter is to share the benchmarks reached in the 6 months since my last visit as well as my goals for this trip.

There is some tragic news. On Oct. 2nd, the President of Malingua Pamba was fatally wounded when trying to get a truck unstuck within 500 m of his home. (Paulino called me the day that this accident happened.) He was a well-revered leader as evidenced by the 700 people who paid their respects at his funeral last month. The beginning of our "welcome ceremony" was dedicated to him. The wails were deafening. I brought a framed 8 x 10 photo as well as 4 x 6 photo for each household. He was a visionary and will be greatly missed by all!

Paulino Sacatoro, his second son,
was (appropriately) elected president.



In the 6 months since my April Visit, good luck has smiled upon us in terms of donations.

- All of the guaguas have received sponsorships for the school year of 2006-07.
- **First Philadelphia Chapter School** sent 9 boxes of school supplies - 2nd year in a row! Featuring 30 Spanish Readers compliments of Jim Stanton's **Rotary Club**, Pennsylvania.
- Steve & Candis Thomas made a generous donation which we hope to use to start a Micro-financing Program. Anyone interested in helping set this up?
- 5 computers loaded with Spanish Windows from Chris & Lon **West Grand School District**.
- **Boulder Flatirons Rotary** & the **Fraser Valley Rotaries** have made generous donations.
- **Esperance Family Foundation**, Roger & Coco Newton have given overwhelming support for the Second Story as well as for the Water Project to be described below. Katrien sent me the below in progress photos of La Segunda Etapa (The Second Story). Can't wait to see it!
- And many other people have donated their time, skill, materials! You know who you are!



There are some great things in the works:

- In June, the Denver Professional Chapter of the **Engineers Without Borders** unanimously approved taking on the *Water Storage Project*. This team of 7 (a married couple, a woman, and 4 men) are going to be surveying the current water needs, assessing the quality of the water, taking measurements, etc. to be able to design the most appropriate water system (which we hope to begin in spring, 2007).
- Petra, a member of the **Grand Lake Rotary Club** has decided to join me on this visit and with the blessing of Eden, Asst. Gov. of the Fraser Valley Rotaries, her husband.
- Crystal Sharp, entrepreneur and seamstress/designer has decided to join us along with a **sewing machine** and lots of fabric.

Other things in Pam's goodie bag for the Malinguans:

- 2 printers from J. Brent
- 61 more uniform vests for the new students compliments of **Creative Hands Emporium** (see photo) and Ron of **Mountain Mend**,
- pictures from my last visit to put in our continuing album,
- picture album for my god-daughter, Nataly,
- yarn, a bed-in-a-bag for the new teacher, printer ink refill kits,
- flower and vegetable seeds from **Botanical Interests**,
- and my sourdough starter to make the 2nd annual pancake breakfast.



Tomorrow we (7 EWBs, Petra, Jill our driver & main translator, Belen and her civil engineer father from Ecuador (see photo→), and Ana - a young translator) will begin our sojourn from Quito to Isinliví in Jill's Chevy Luv plus a furgoneta - a vehicle that holds 10. Then the fireworks begins on Sunday!



Abracitos a todos!

Pam

Centro Educativo La Minga, Inc.

www.escuelaminga.org

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