



Bolivian Water Appeal,
Cherry Tree Nursery
Off New Road Roundabout
Northbourne
Bournemouth
BH10 7DA
United Kingdom
www.cherrytreenursery.org.uk

Dear Sir,

Allow us to introduce ourselves. We are a Sheltered Work Opportunities Project (Registered Charity No. 900325) providing people with mental health problems of all ages, sexes and abilities, with the opportunity to work in a sheltered environment and gain work experience, confidence, and self-worth. Please find our enclosed leaflets : “SWOP Cherry Tree Nursery” and “Cherry Tree Nursery Plant Sale, 6 October 2007”.

While we have our safety net in the British welfare state, the National Health Service and Charity, we are aware of those in the undeveloped world with **nothing**, where the most basic necessities of life, taken for granted by us, are a daily struggle for them. An outstanding example is **WATER** - fresh, clean, life-giving liquid which in parts of the world is carried for miles on women’s heads as in Africa and Bolivia in the Andes.

Most rural communities in Bolivia have **no** constant supply of fresh, clean, potable water. Their women traverse kilometres of difficult terrain over 12,000 feet ASL to fetch water for their families. Safe piped water allows girls to go to school as it is usually they who spend the day fetching water. Dirty water is the chief cause of infant mortality through diarrhoea and dehydration, a horrible death for a tiny baby.

What have we done and what are our hopes for the future? Our Bolivia Water Appeal has, since inception in late 2004, raised the sum of £10,000 bringing fresh water to the villages of Villa Concepcion, Chichaque and Chiquiruni in the Sorata valley. This funding serves the water needs of 84 families (277 adults and five to six hundred children). Cherry Tree has improved dramatically the lives of hundreds with a safe water supply. But this is only a drop in the ocean and much remains to be done. The ultimate goal is to give all rural Bolivians access to clean, fresh, safe water. We chose Bolivia as the poorest country in South America, getting little media attention for its needs. Rural Bolivians are amongst the poorest people on the planet. 65 to 70% of rural Bolivians lack running water and electricity. Contaminated water is the cause of most illnesses. Our fundamental belief is to provide water to Bolivians who need it most. According to the World Health Organization, 14,000 people a day die from water related diseases world wide.

What do we need to continue? This is the sixty-four thousand dollar question! Joking aside we need £10,000 for our next project in the village of Chuchulaya which will, we hope, provide over 100 families with clean, fresh, safe water. This is the largest project we have undertaken. Previously we raised money by the following means:

Various stalls at our three annual plant sales; sales of T shirts, homemade cakes, cards, easter eggs, wrist bands, fresh strawberries, biscuits, and genuine Bolivian knitted finger puppets. Collection tins, haircuts, collection of 20 p coins in sweet tubes, donations for tea and coffee by our plant sale customers and an art exhibition. We also raised £1,000 with 20 volunteers completing a 6 km sponsored walk carrying 6 litre water-filled containers imitating the daily chore of Bolivians. (We could not simulate the rough terrain and high altitude.)

A word about Chuchulaya.

Coordinates: lat. $-5^{\circ} 42' 0.00''$, long. $-68^{\circ} 46' 1.20''$. Altitude 9,300 ft ASL. Situated in the Sorata valley, La Paz Department, about 50 km from the eastern shore of Lake Titicaca, the highest, navigable lake in the world. The people are indigenous Aymara, speaking Aymara and Spanish and have lived in this region for 2,000 years. Population about nine hundred. Outside links: Two buses per week for only four months of the year. The road tracks are impassable in the rainy season.

We hope to raise £10,000 within two years, but to bring water to Chuchulaya sooner we decided to appeal to the generosity of British and International bottled water companies. We thought **you**, more than anyone else, would understand the dire straits of many Aymarans who have **no** fresh, clean, and safe water.

We would be very grateful for a matching grant of £1 for each £1 raised or a straight donation of any amount. If this appeal succeeds and we fulfill our commitment to Chuchulaya, then we will be able to finance a water supply to another village. We hope with all our hearts, with the Aymara, that you will help in this life-saving endeavour. Our funds go to Quaker Bolivian Link who convert cash into running water in the villages. For more about QBL, please go to their website www.qbl.org .

Please make a generous grant to Cherry Tree Nursery Bolivian Water Appeal.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully

CHERRY TREE NURSERY BOLIVIAN WATER APPEAL

Affiliated to QUAKER BOLIVIAN LINK (UK Charity No. 1055192)

<http://www.qbl.org/ps.homenews.cfm?ID=1295>

The flag above our address is the Wiphala, flag of all Andean indigenous people in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia who disregard the national borders imposed by Spain.