



A Quaker Response to Poverty



20 Years and Counting!

This fall we continue to celebrate the important work that Quaker Bolivia Link has done over the last 20 years, providing effective responses to poverty among the Aymara communities of the Altiplano, with a new community water project.

The people living and working in the Community of Taipí Spahi (Centro Yaribay-Ayllu), located in Santiago de Callapa Township, lack a safe and sanitary source of water, as do many communities in Pacajes, a province in La Paz.

This community has requested funding from QBL for a safe water supply through the implementation of three gravity-fed subsystems. The project will improve the quality of life for residents in the community by providing 37 families with access to potable water, safe enough for drinking and food preparation. After one year of operation, it is expected to decrease the incidences of diarrhea by 10%.

The Yaribay Water Project is QBL's most recent undertaking, continuing our history of improving the lives of residents on the altiplano of Bolivia. Over 20 years, QBL has:

- **Built over 365 family greenhouses, bringing a secure food supply to all those families.**
- **Provided over 1,870 families with access to clean water.**
- **Helped over 260 families with a variety of breeding projects, including trout, chickens, cattle, pigs, llamas and other native species.**
- **Supported over 50 families with projects specifically designed to generate income, such as weaving, cheese production and flower cultivation.**
- **Helped over 750 families with improved crops or irrigation systems.**
- **Worked with handicapped people and their families to provide training and awareness of the potential of disabled children.**
- **Assisted over 3,280 students and adults with educational needs.**





Quaker Bolivia Link is proud to welcome our new Consulting Director, Ximena Murillo!

Ximena is an entrepreneur and consultant in international trade, global development and corporate social responsibility. She has designed and implemented numerous programs, projects and marketing campaigns, and developed strategic plans for start-up social enterprises and nonprofit organizations in the USA and Latin America. Ximena also co-founded a nonprofit organization that was recognized by former President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative University.

Ximena holds a Master's Degree in International Business from the University of St. Thomas and is an Associate at Global Affairs Associates focusing on corporate social responsibility strategy and implementation in the oil and gas industry.

Highlights from a recent chat between QBL-USA board member Jackie Helpern and Ximena:

Jackie Helpern Where did you grow up and where is your favorite place to visit?

Ximena Murillo: I grew up in La Paz, Bolivia and have lived in the USA since 2000. I have two favorite places to visit: Copacabana, a small town located on the Bolivian shore of Lake Titicaca, and the Grand Lac in Geneva, Switzerland. They are both magical places!

JH: What inspired you to work in international development and specifically with Quaker Bolivia Link?

XM: My inspiration to be involved in international development began as a child when I watched my parents help the less fortunate. I used to travel with them to small villages in Bolivia. Seeing disparity made me realize I wanted to pursue a career that allowed me to make a positive difference. I was interested to work with Quaker Bolivia Link because the organization is creating opportunities for better and healthier lives in my home country, which means a lot to me.

JH: What are you most excited to do as Consulting Director?

XM: I look forward to supporting Quaker Bolivia Link going to the next level, not only assuring its sustainability as an organization but also making sure people around the world learn about QBL's incredible work for indigenous communities of Bolivia in regards to water, sanitation and agriculture.

JH: What is one goal and one challenge you see for Quaker Bolivia Link?

XM: To me, Quaker Bolivia Link's goal is to ensure indigenous communities in Bolivia are not imposed upon by new ideas, but rather the communities are involved in the process of each project, such as getting safe water for drinking and irrigation. The main challenge I see is overcoming the current government's resistance to change and international assistance. That could be an obstacle to work directly with the communities in need.

JH: What activities do you enjoy outside of work?

XM: Besides traveling, I love music in general. I enjoy dancing, playing the piano and going to concerts. I also like playing tennis and biking.

JH: What is the greatest advice you have ever received?

XM: Always have an indelible and unshakable sense of optimism in everything you do.

We are excited to welcome Ximena Murillo to Quaker Bolivia Link and look forward to her leadership.

Help us to keep this work going with your donation!

Please note our recent change of address and telephone number:

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Quaker Bolivia Link is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. Donations are fully tax-deductible.



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