

## TWO EXHIBITIONS: LIFE AND WATER

We wish that these exhibitions  
help us to live more awake and  
watchful in our day by day

There are huge differences worldwide in supplying people. Since the beginning of our activity we have been developing the NGO profile. In addition to the international cooperation carried out through the project "Pueblo sin Hambre" in Arequipa (Peru) and the volunteers in Arequipa and Panama, we try to support social initiatives at a local level - such as the project "Sostre" in Barcelona and the project "Werkstatt unter dem Kirchturm" in Tübingen. Also, social awareness raising, and capacity building through this bulletin help to define the profile of our organization. Therefore, we would like our twinned organizations (CfD-Germany, CxD-Spain and CpD-Peru) to have three common working areas: international cooperation, local cooperation, and capacity building and awareness raising.

It has been a long time since January 19th, 2003 when we organized an organ concert in Stuttgart-Möhringen to collect funds for South Africa. We had not organized ever since any similar event - in terms of magnitude - to raise awareness and collect funds. In April 2011 we managed to open the exhibition "Sueños de niños" in Esslingen. This exhibition showed almost 30 pictures of children in the school "Villa Independencia" in Arequipa (Peru), where we support a nutritional program and we are in charge of the teaching in the school with the help of our volunteers. Each picture is accompanied by a handwritten letter - and its German translation - of the child in each picture. Sarah

## editorial

Ament, volunteer in Peru for the academic year 2011-2012, and María José García with the support of her husband, were the soul of this initiative. The exhibition was hosted by the language school of Tübingen "Vivat Lingua" during the months of July, August and September and by the parish of St. Michael from in November and December, also in Tübingen. This exhibition could take place in other venues. If anyone is interested in hosting it, please contact us.

At 17th July 2012 another exhibition will be exposed by CfD in the City Council of Bretten. The topic of this exhibition is "water" and there will be information about the topic in general, as well as about the results pertaining to a comparative study of water samples from Arequipa and Bretten. Students from the High School "Melanchthon-Gymnasium-Bretten" together with some teachers, and Michael Schliep and Gjon Radovani from CfD's side, are the authors of this exhibition. The idea is to present this exhibition in other places inside and outside Germany.

We wish that these two exhibitions do not only help to raise funds to have enough resources to continue supporting the projects in Peru, but also help us to live more awake and watchful in our day by day.

In this bulletin we introduce the volunteers of the present academic year 2011-2012 in Arequipa (Sabrina Frenzel and Carolin Burmeister) and in Panama (Verena Ludwig and Inez Kern). In addition Aleix Layola narrates the story of the journey to Peru in October 2011.

The Directive Councils of CfD, CpD and CxD

## ONE YEAR IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

My name is Carolin Burmeister. I am 20 years old and I live with my parents and my 3 younger siblings close to Ulm. I just passed the Abitur (final exams) at the Robert Bosch High School in Langenau. End of July I will leave for Arequipa, Peru, where I will live for 1 year. As a volunteer I will teach English at our partner school in Villa Independiente which is one of Arequipa's poorer areas.

In 2008, I spent 2 months as an exchange student in Chile. Then I decided that I would like to spend more time in South America after I passed the Abitur. Through Claim for Dignity I have got the possibility to experience a foreign culture and at the same time be part of our school partnership project.

I am looking forward to going to Peru and meeting people and getting to know their way of life and also to taking on new challenges.

Carolin Burmeister

## thoughts

My name is Sabrina Frenzel and I am 19 years old. End of July I will leave for Arequipa, Peru, and for the next year I will be a volunteer for Claim for Dignity.

After passing my Abitur (final exams) at the Robert Bosch High School in Langenau I am looking forward to spending 1 year in Peru.

For a long time I have wanted to go abroad after passing the Abitur. My intentions were always to do something meaningful and not just 'be away'.

The school partnership project of our school and two schools in La Mansion and Villa Independiente which are poor neighborhoods in Arequipa, as well as the school cafeteria project are the perfect possibility.

I gained some knowledge about Peru through different supporting projects and fund raisers at my school (i.e. the blog and the charity run). When they were looking for 2 volunteers for the following year I was excited. Now I can be a part of the school partnership project and be an on site helping hand.

Sabrina Frenzel



Sabrina (left), Carolin

## thoughts

Oh, how beautiful you are, Panama! Words spoken by Tiger and Bear before they set off to find Panama. Together with Inez I will leave for the land of Tiger and Bear, Panama, beginning of August. For 1 year we will be volunteers living and working in Panama City. I will teach English at a school located in the poorest area of Panama and help out wherever I am needed. My church congregation of St. Michael introduced me to Claim for Dignity. Edi told me about the possibility to serve as a volunteer and I started to like that idea. To spend 1 year in a foreign country and experience something completely different after high school and before I start university is a great opportunity for me. My wish is to get to know a new and unfamiliar country, its people and their way of living and to be of help with their work with children.

One month before my departure I feel the rising anticipation but also the tension. The travelling arrangements are in full swing. Vaccinations, insurance, plane tickets, what should I pack, what should I leave? At the same time I try to learn as many Spanish words as possible so I am set for some basic communication. I am looking forward to new impressions, people and experiences and to a year without the German way of life.

Claim for Dignity organized 25 days of preparation which taught me a lot. Topics were the situation of Panama and Latin America, what we should expect of our job site and our way of life in Panama and also some insights to our own motivation and how to deal with foreign cul-



Verena (left), Inez

Panama and I hope that soon I can also say: Oh, how beautiful you are, Panama!

Verena Ludwig

My name is Inez Kern and I am 20 years old. Together with Verena, for one year, I will get to know a completely different world.

'It's not enough to know  
You have to make use of  
It's not enough to want  
You have to do it'

This quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe will be my motto for the following year in Panama. Just 4 more weeks until our departure – anticipation and nervousness both increase.

Verena and I will be serving as volunteers in a slum neighborhood called El Chorillo. The area adjoins Panama City. We will work at a school at Mercedarios del Chorillo. I also will work in a kindergarten.

My former Spanish teacher Édison Fañanás-Lanau introduced me to the project in Panama and their work with children. I was thrilled by it immediately and decided for one year I would exchange a prosperous and pleasant German lifestyle for the experience of a 'simpler' life in Panama. To get to know a foreign country as well as their people and their way of life is very exciting.

For months now I have been preparing for this trip on a daily basis. What will take to Panama, what will I need and what can I go without? What will I teach the children and how will I teach effectively? How will they react to me? Will I manage life for 1 year 'all by myself'? Probably I will have answers to these questions in a few weeks or months.

I hope with my knowledge and experience I can be helpful to those who need it the most. I am looking forward to experiencing this whole new world together with Verena.

Inez Kern



## AN EXPERIENCE FROM PERU: LITTLE IS VERY MUCH

From October 29th to November 4th, three members of Clam per la Dignitat (Catalonia) and Claim for Dignity (Germany) got the opportunity to visit two projects that we are supporting near the city of Arequipa (Peru).

First of them is an out of school canteen in the "young neighbourhood" of la Mansión II (a recently built outskirt in So-cabaya that accommodates the immigrants from "la sierra" – "the mountain range"). There, from Monday to Friday, 90 children receive a nutritionally balanced lunch made from local ingredients. Pamela and Deisi, two nutritionists members of Clamor por la Dignidad (our Peruvian sister organization) coordinate by shifts the teams of volunteer mothers who cook for the children. They plan meals and purchases, supervise the economic accounting and control growth and deworming of children. Carolin and Sabrina, two German volunteers from the German state programme Weltwärts (= to the world), collaborate in the tasks of feeding and monitoring. They will stay there one year and they belong already to the second generation of volunteers who make this experience).

Although, the above depicted is very encouraging, some shadows are behind the project. One of our targeted tasks was to analyse economic alternatives to make the project viable in 2012. The partnership with the Robert Bosch Gymnasium of Langenau (Germany) is still active but other funding received from the Spanish Alimerka or German Landesstiftung foundations will finish and then our budgeted revenues will reduce by a 70%. Faced with this adversity, it was possible to encourage a group of mothers to ask the Government of the Department to give a grant in form of food.

In addition, we have evaluated that the families could farm self-sufficient food. Despite the scarcity of hydric resources, that barely covers the basic needs of population —who do not benefit from running water, and moreover have it rationed —, a first pilot test of self-growing is being introduced with the help of Mr. Anthony Gomez, an English-Peruvian senior citizen very committed with the environment. The water problem has progressively worsened due to the effects of climate change. The collaboration of families in the water supply that was established during our visit will also be es-

## experiences

sential for the survival of the project. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach an agreement with the school to go on with the free English courses to pupils given by the volunteers.

The second project consists in providing breakfast at the Villa Independiente School (Selva Alegre District). All the district children who do not have resources to access to better-off schools attend this one. Like in La Mansion II, family breakdown, alcoholism, domestic violence and sexual abuse to women and children are unfortunately very widespread. This does not however preclude the existence of great families immersed in the scarceness they are bound to live. In this context, many children attend the school without having received the necessary care from their parents, including basic food, which is provided as breakfast in the classroom through this project. School performance has increased significantly since the start of the project.

We learnt other realities besides the two projects: a program to prevent domestic and young violence in Villa Independiente and to give catechesis to children and adults carried out by the Comboni Missionaries, and the reforestation project of Matarani with "atrapanieblas" ("fogcatchers") managed by Anthony Gomez (<http://www.askitsdone.co.uk/%7Eangocho/islay.html>).

We were delighted with the warm welcome, dedication and perseverance of the people. However, it struck us the suffering and poverty of much of the population struggling hard to survive every day. Which is our responsibility as "first" world, when we plunder their resources and waste their energy, to maintain our comfort at the expense of their impoverishment? It is painful to see how our irrational use of transportation, heating and consumer products, for example, causes thirst and hunger 11.000 Km away from our home. To blindfold these situations will eventually take its toll to us and maybe we will no longer have time to pay it.

Of course, one must point the way to the economical self-sustainability of projects, but we also need secure steps to reach it.

We are open to any collaboration, both at volunteering or economical level. You can contact us at the Centre, [www.clamdignitat.org](http://www.clamdignitat.org) or [aleix.layola@clamdignitat.org](mailto:aleix.layola@clamdignitat.org).

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