

NEWS FROM MOSQOY

Mosqoy: Sacred Valley Youth Fund's Annual Newsletter

Featured Student

Lizbeth Monica Chavez

Lizbeth began her three-year accounting degree this year. After completing her studies, she says, *"I want to return to my community because I want to support people like the Mosqoy project does. I would like to do something good for my family, for my community, and for my country."* Lizbeth eventually wants to be the president of Peru! She is still looking for a sponsor. If you are interested, please contact communications@mosqoy.org or visit www.mosqoy.org.



Director's Note

After 4 ½ years of work, this year saw Mosqoy's first graduation ceremony! 17 students from Mosqoy's first class walked across the stage in Ollantaytambo, each with a few family members by their side. Over 200 people filled the room, to share in what had been a collective effort. It was incredible to finally witness, first-hand, our impact. And to see that, yes, in fact, *this is working*. I embarrassed myself, crying and blubbering Spanish nonsense in front of the entire community, as my emotions of pride, hope, and – primarily - relief of a promise now fulfilled, usurped my previously prepared speech.

Now, only months later, several of our graduates are employed in the Sacred Valley. In addition, four of the alumni have stayed behind to

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Call for Help!

Sponsors!

There are still Mosqoy Three students awaiting sponsors! Visit our website to sponsor.

Donations!

We give tax-deductible receipts in Canada, and your \$ goes directly to our projects!

Volunteers!

In Canada & Peru, exciting openings available! Contact jasmine@mosqoy.org for more info.

Mosqoy Canada: 2010 Developments

Interns turn Mosqoy's Office into a Well-Oiled Machine!

Thanks to a partnership with the University of Victoria's Humanities, Fine Arts, & Professional Writing Co-op program, as well as a grant from the Government of Canada's summer jobs program, we were able to employ our first interns! **Mark Knudsen** and **Beatriz Palacios Fernandez** volunteered for four months last spring, receiving course credit for their work. Mark worked as our Grants & Funding Coordinator, while Beatriz worked as our first Administrative & Outreach Coordinator. In the summer, we were able to hire full-time interns, **Janette DeLong** as our Communications Coordinator, and **Tia Low**, to replace Beatriz as the new Admin & Outreach Coordinator. Because of the work of these four dedicated and intelligent individuals, Mosqoy was able to establish a virtual office, where all of our documents are stored on a file-sharing database; a sponsorship framework to better communicate effectively with our sponsors; and an international communications system, to better monitor and receive feedback from the Mosqoy students, alumni, and volunteer staff in Peru. In addition, we have applied for several grants and have improved our network of supporters, through public relations, outreach, and social media.

Welcome, New Volunteers!

We look back a year ago, and wonder how we even survived without people like **Werner Knittel**, our new strategic advisor, and **Denise Clarke**, our bookkeeper. We now can't picture Mosqoy life without them! We also recently gained dedicated volunteers in Peru and through the **UVic Club**. We have been incredibly fortunate to increase our volunteer base by 73% this year, topping out at almost 60 volunteers in Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Peru, USA, and Abroad. Thank you, to all of our volunteers – new and old, young and young-at-heart!





Canada welcomes its first Mosqoy Ambassador!

In December 2009, Mosqoy welcomed its first-ever student ambassador to Victoria. **Rolando Aucapuri Iturriaga**, one of the highest achieving Mosqoy One students, studied ESL at the University of Victoria for three months. After spending the holidays with the Akins family, Rolando began his classes in January. Rolando quickly became a star student, earning high praise from his teachers, who described his presentation on traditional agriculture in the Sacred Valley as “absolutely outstanding.” Rolando is also remembered for his hilarious stint in a long purple wig, dress, and feather boa during a commercial the students produced as part of their studies. He was also able to witness the Olympics first-hand in Vancouver, returning from watching

the gold-medal hockey game (on the Robson St. TV) with new words like “crazy” and “gong-show” added to his vocabulary. Rolando improved his English immensely during his stay and is now using those skills in his work as a tour guide, and as Mosqoy’s volunteer communications coordinator. We would like to thank **Jody & George Bain**, who generously hosted Rolando during his stay; **Gerry Luton**, who organized his trip; the **English Language Centre** who waived his tuition fees; **our volunteers** who eased his transition; and **our supporters** who donated funds for his expenses. The Mosqoy Ambassadorship goals are to strengthen cross-cultural understanding between Canada and Peru, and to provide youth with leadership skills.

The Spirit of A True Leader

Sonya Rokosh, a UVic student majoring in Environmental Studies and Spanish, has gone well above the call of duty. After three years volunteering with Mosqoy, she decided 2010 was her time to lead. She acted as Rolando’s guide in Victoria, facilitated a weekly Spanish conversation group in the spring, supervised two full-time interns this summer, and hosted two large events this fall: the Peruvian Feast and the Weaving Hope Gala. Both of these events brought new audiences to Mosqoy, and were beautiful celebrations of culture, volunteerism, and global stewardship. Sonya has an uncanny knack for connection, making everyone around her laugh and feel comfortable, regardless of demographic. She grew up in Peru and hopes to return with Mosqoy someday; we hope she can too!



Live from Peru: Technology teaches North American Students

Tim Kitchen, a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education, is currently completing his master's degree, looking at global education through video-conferencing. Traveling with his family on sabbatical, Tim spent the first month of the trip working with Mosqoy in Peru. Here, he shares his unique project.



"*Videoconferencing from Peru, are you crazy!!!*" This was the initial response among colleagues when I told them my idea to connect students from North America to Mosqoy students in Peru. Technically speaking, this would be the most difficult connection I had ever tried to organize. We received support from organizations like Matrix Audio Visual and the 2Learn Society, as well as individuals such as Terry DeAlexander who did technical troubleshooting from Edmonton, and Sarah Confer who guided us to Q'ente weaving villages. The Mosqoy students were also great hosts in both Cusco and Ollantaytambo, especially Rolando, who acted as our guide, guest speaker, and friend. The two-day videoconference was an incredible success, connecting with over 1,000 elementary and high-school students across the US and Canada on the topics of *Culture and Traditions of Peru* and *Effects of Globalization on Peru*. To date, the project has raised over \$1,400 and some schools have independently continued to fundraise even more.

A GLIMPSE BACK AT 2010 (& WE WONDER WHY WE ARE EXHAUSTED!)

JANUARY

- Rolando, 1st Mosqoy ambassador, comes to UVic
- Mark & Beatriz, our first co-op students, begin internships
- Werner Knittel becomes part of Advisory Board

FEBRUARY

- Ash & Rolando give presentation at First People's House, UVic, to over 250 people
- Presentations given to classes at Langley Fine Arts School, Spectrum Community School, and the University of Victoria
- Mosqoy 2 students begin new semester, Cusco

MARCH

- News article featured in The Martlet
- Salsa Night Fundraiser, Victoria Events Centre
- Peruvian Feast, St. Philips Church, Victoria
- Mosqoy 3 students complete practicum, Cusco

APRIL

- News article featured in The Ring
- Values Proposition Workshop, Vancouver
- Spectrum Community School GEP event, UVic
- Peru Rocks fundraising concert, Lucky Bar, Victoria
- First paid interns, co-op students Tia & Janette, are hired through Canada Summer Jobs grant

MAY

- Ash & Jasmine go to Peru (2 months)
- 2nd Education Generation Fellowship in Peru (6 weeks)
- First Mosqoy graduation ceremony in Ollantaytambo!
- Students move into their new house, Casa Mosqoy, Cusco

JUNE

- Mila, Education Generation rep, monitors our project in Peru
- Kallpa Koj student volunteer service project is piloted
- Mosqoy 4 students are pre-selected

JULY

- Four new Peru leaders begin their volunteer positions
- Mosqoy expands to small community of Chillca

AUGUST

- Virtual Office established
- Sponsorship packages and framework created
- Mosqoy receives Greygates Foundation grant

SEPTEMBER

- UVic Club gains new volunteers
- Mosqoy 3 students begin their studies

OCTOBER

- Students participate in folkloric dance festival, Ollantaytambo

NOVEMBER

- Third Annual Soiree with Vicky Husband
- Mosqoy receives SLIP grant, UVic
- Tim Kitchen completes video-conferencing project in Peru

DECEMBER

- Mosqoy students give "Chocolatada" to children in Amaru

From the Ground Up: Mosqoy's seeds sprout roots

New Peru Alumni Leaders!

Four of our best Mosqoy One students, who graduated in May, have come on board to assist Mosqoy in volunteer leadership positions in Peru. **Elvira Huaman Guerra** is acting as Education Coordinator, organizing tuition, classes, and institutes. **Adrian Jimenez Suma** is the current house supervisor, living in and mentoring students in Casa Mosqoy. **Rolando Auccapuri Iturriaga** is our new Peru Communications Coordinator, gathering information and sponsor letters from students and monitoring their progress.

And **Ebhert Alvarez Huaman** is the Activities Coordinator, organizing events, dances, and meetings to bring the groups together. They have given so much of their time since graduation, and we are grateful. They are truly examples of positive youth leaders in their communities.



Sponsor-A-Leader Campaign!

We are launching a new campaign in 2011, to help support our alumni leaders in Peru. We cannot continue Mosqoy without their assistance, and they cannot dedicate sufficient hours without appropriate compensation. Thus, we are looking for sponsors! They each need \$1,200 per year in sponsorship funds to continue their positions. We are looking for \$300, \$600, and \$1,200 donations. In return, you will receive updates, letters, and information directly from the Youth Leaders, regarding their experiences, Mosqoy's progress, and why their current positions are helping their future dreams.



Program Facilitator, Jasmine Nielsen, witnesses Grad Ceremony!

“This summer, after more than 3 years of volunteering, I had the chance to travel to Peru and finally meet the students and families I had been working with from afar. The most memorable experience was the opportunity I had to celebrate the graduation of the Mosqoy 1 group in Ollantaytambo. The students and their families organized almost all the logistics of the event, from the decorations to the food (at 4 pm, families started arriving with pots & plates, filling nearly 3 tables with delicious things!). By 5 pm, the room had filled with over 200 people, including the Mosqoy 1, 2, & 3 students and their families, friends, and supporters from the community. The night itself was filled with dancing, eating, presentation of certificates, and many warm speeches. It was a night of many emotions, the strongest of which was pride for the amazing accomplishments of this group of young people. It was very special to witness the unique community that has evolved around Mosqoy's mission, and the support and friendships that have flourished as a result. Returning from Peru, my faith in the potential of Mosqoy has only been strengthened.”

From Skytrains to the Back of a Cattle Truck Lessons Learned in the Peruvian Andes

Education Generation's 2nd Peru Fellow, **Jevta Lukic**, gives us a glimpse into his two-month experience with Mosqoy.



This summer I had the life-changing privilege of volunteering in Peru with Mosqoy, through the Education Generation Fellowship. I spent my days visiting families, documenting their lives, and interviewing students. I worked with new and current students to organize community events, monitor student progress, and strengthen the cohesiveness of the groups. Below is an excerpt from my final entry of the fellowship blog: edgenfellow.blogspot.com. If you are interested in making a change and spending a meaningful summer volunteering with Mosqoy, Education Generation is recruiting Peru fellows for Summer 2011! The deadline is January 31st. Find out more about the fellowship and how to apply at: www.educationgeneration.org/eg/fellowship.

Before I had set out on this adventure, I was afraid. Until a few weeks before the trip, it did not really hit me that I would be living for 2.5 months in a completely foreign environment, a completely foreign culture, and speaking a completely different language. Not only that, I had to actually WORK in this very same country, culture and language. I got very nervous... but, nonetheless, decided to challenge myself, suck up the fears, and get the most out of the experience.

In retrospect, I am glad that I didn't let the fear or nervousness take hold of me, because the time in that beautiful country, with such exceptional students as my friends, was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Waking up in the Andean mountains, having breakfast with a Peruvian family, and then working during the day, meeting students and families, learning about the way people live, hearing their stories, their wants, needs, wishes. It was a true immersion into a culture that is so rich and inviting.

The experience would have been nothing without the immediate friendships that I had made with the Mosqoy students. They are mature, enthusiastic, and friendly students who are eager to take on the world and the new opportunities being presented to them. I felt so fortunate to be working with organizations that are truly making a difference in the Peruvian communities.

One student wrote to me after the trip: **"Thank you for giving me strength to keep going and never give up."** It really moved me and made me think. My work in Peru did not change the world. What I realized

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and saw firsthand, however, is how we can all make a difference. There is no impact too small. One, two, or 400 kind acts – they all help and, in turn, create a ripple effect. The work that Mosqoy and Education Generation do, helps, not only the student, but their families, and their communities as well. Act by act, empowering people to make a difference themselves – that’s how you change the world. I saw for the first time, however, to what extent this actually works. Lives are being changed. Families are being changed. Communities are being changed. All because everybody is doing their part to help.

I will always remember how eager the students were when they talked about the Mosqoy program. How excited and hopeful their parents were when they thought of all the opportunities their child’s education would bring to their families. They kept asking if this program would go on for longer, because it is so important to them.

The fellowship *is* a challenge. It’s a different life: sometimes without showers or comfortable beds. Sometimes with different food or different customs. Sometimes you love it and other times you’re frustrated with it.

It was powerful waking up in small villages, not thinking about what I was going to wear, or stressing about what people will think if my jeans are a little dirty. Seeing that some families do not have proper kitchens, electricity, or even running water, really shifts one’s priorities. It makes me feel ashamed that I am stressing about getting the new iPhone while my Mosqoy friends live simply. The thing that got to me the most was that they were all incredibly happy, while I, who has a ‘higher standard of living,’ could list many more problems in my life. I saw that you don’t need much to be happy and sometimes even felt ashamed at how spoiled I was. I would not trade this experience for the world.



Profile of a Mosqoy Supporter

We have so many tireless supporters, and some never cease to amaze. Meet **Carolyn Clarke**, fan turned supporter turned volunteer. (Bottom left, with Mosqoy volunteer Andrea DiLucca.) From Toronto, Carolyn first found Mosqoy through donating to Education Generation. But she quickly felt she needed more involvement. For the past two years, she has hosted birthday parties, inviting all of her friends, making homemade goodies, and providing live music. The hitch: All friends must bring some cash for their Mosqoy student, rather than a present. Because of over 60 friends’ generous birthday gifts and fundraisers, Gisela Vilches Maracho will successfully complete her degree this year! Talk about the power of community. Carolyn has also become a Q’ente volunteer, selling textiles at local craft fairs in Toronto, and spreading awareness about our organizations. Gisela feels very lucky, and blushed when she learned that so many people are working to support her! Thank you, Carolyn, and all of our Mosqoy supporters in Toronto!

2011 GOALS

1. Employ 6 leadership positions in Canada and Peru
2. Fund 2nd round of Mosqoy Ambassadorships to study at UVic in 2012
3. Launch corporate identity and brand (including logo, colours, business cards, brochures, etc.)
4. Launch new and improved website
5. Obtain a humble office in Victoria
6. Provide training for new Peru Alumni Leaders
7. Launch Kallpa K'oj (Mosqoy student volunteer service program)
8. Improve volunteer program (both HQ and field), and recruit consistent long-term volunteers
9. Maintain our new and improved sponsorship communications framework

contribute as full-time volunteers, managing Mosqoy Peru as student supervisors, mentors, and coordinators. This, to me, is our largest success. These four young leaders are glimpses of what we hope Mosqoy's future will look like: a locally empowered organization that is led by youth from the communities. We just didn't think it would happen so soon.

In Canada, we set out with the 2010 goal of establishing a better internal framework from which to operate. Last year, we had grown so rapidly, that we needed to catch up administratively, to better serve our students, supporters, donors, and sponsors.

Thus, we spent the year sorting. We established cross-cultural and international mechanisms through which to effectively communicate, and launched many of our dormant social media networks. We now offer introductory and graduation sponsorship packages for each student sponsor, as well as monitoring systems in Peru, to better supervise and communicate with each student regularly.

We also worked hard this year on our strategic development, analyzing our missions and values, to ensure that our programs indeed reflect what we set out to accomplish in the long run. *Integrity,*

transparency, and *reciprocity* were all words echoed by many volunteers as we underwent intense workshops and exercises with volunteer advisors Werner Knittel and Anne Graham.

Despite our efforts this past year, we are still struggling to find enough time and energy to manage Mosqoy, as all of our leaders – both in Peru & Canada – are still acting as volunteers. We realize that long-term growth and stability is only feasible with consistent leadership and, thus, we are now looking for funding and strategies to employ key leadership positions, which are currently filled by volunteers giving an unsustainable 15 – 40 hrs of weekly service. This shift will be our biggest challenge yet.

I repeatedly hear from supporters how unique our group is because of the passion, positive energy, and dedication that Mosqoy's young volunteers exude. And it's true. It's amazing what everyone has accomplished in such a short amount of time, and I am continually grateful and inspired to be working with such a positive, skilled – and perhaps idealistic – team, both in Peru and in Canada. And we couldn't do it without you, our supporters, donors, and friends. So, thank you. Gracias. Sullpayki.

Sincerely, *A.G. Akins*

VISIT US AT WWW.MOSQOY.ORG!

For more information, or to donate, email admin@mosqoy.org or visit us online!
Remember, we're a registered Canadian charitable organization & can give out tax-deductible receipts.