



This year we are celebrating 20 YEARS of success working in Cusco, Peru!

Daily we see our little girls with big, ear-to-ear smiles as they show us and the community just how smart they are. In the early years of our Alternative School for Girls, it took some talking to convince their parents that these young girls were worth educating – and it took even longer for the community to see our students' value. Today, after one or two years with us, our girls pass the public school entry exam with the highest scores. They proudly march in all the Cusco parades, in their uniforms with the CW logo, led by our Chicuchas Wasi Banner. The community has taken notice.

During the 10 years since we opened our School for Girls, we have served many children living with a variety of realities; you have heard about several of their histories over the past years. Today we are filled with pride and much emotion when we look back on so much good work completed. We regularly follow up on our graduates, and learn that not only have they advanced academically, but also --- and most importantly --- they have advanced socially and emotionally, with their improved self-image strengthening their relationships with family and their community. We can say that the seeds we have planted have sprouted – this truth reflected in the changes noted from where we started with these children, AND their parents; parents who are now aware and committed to a bright future for their daughters, having discovered their daughter's value.

Today, Chicuchas Wasi girls are marching ahead. 100% continue in school, in different state education centers, and it is no surprise that our girls are academically successful. For school meetings, we often invite graduates of Chicuchas Wasi, along with their parents, to come and share their stories with new students and their parents. The new parents learn that with CW, these graduate girls have begun a process of growth and change touched by Chicuchas Wasi's faith in them and generosity toward their families. This positive influence has spread to the community outside the walls of our school, to where these girls and their families live.

Our girls:

- take pride in their appearance; they are showered, their teeth & hair brushed, hands washed, and they are wearing clean school uniforms. Before CW they understood little about hygiene nor did they care about their appearance.
- sit at a keyboard, two at a time, playing educational games on the computer – as if they have always done so.

Our girls:

- respond to the teacher's questions with heads high and voices loud and strong; when they were new to CW, their eyes were on the ground and only low mumbling could be heard.
- have mothers and fathers who attend the CW parenting classes and class festivals to celebrate their daughters', and their own, achievements. Before Chicuchas Wasi, nothing like this existed for these girls and their families.

There is so much we would like to share with you about these past 20 years, but to do so would require many pages. Instead, we are planning a Celebration of Chicuchas Wasi's 20 year Anniversary with slides, video and stories.

You are invited to come celebrate with us. We will be sending an invitation after the first of the year...
but for now, please

SAVE THE DATE!

• MARK YOUR CALENDARS •

On Sunday, February 3, 2008
Chicuchas Wasi will
CELEBRATE
our 20 year anniversary ---
and we would like YOU
to join us!

We hope
to see you there!
• 2 pm •

There will be a video and slide presentation by Ruth Uribe Barrios, Chicuchas Wasi School Director, and Erik Vera Alarcon, CW Lawyer & School Counselor, sharing with us a pictorial history of our Chicuchas Wasi Childrens' Home, and Alternative School for Girls, in Peru.

The Peru Team will also show photos and talk about the recent 20th Anniversary celebrations in Cusco.

- Refreshments will be served -

AND, as you have so often in the past, please remember us this giving season. With your generous support, Chicuchas Wasi will continue to make a REAL difference.

Happy Holidays!

With thanks and love from the Chicuchas Wasi Family,

In California:

Rae Lewis (Pieraccini)
Karen Amoroso
Mary Salfi
Terry McDonald

In Peru:

Ruth Uribe
Erik Vera
Gloria Socorro - teacher
Danisa Corimanya - assistant



1987-2007

CELEBRATING

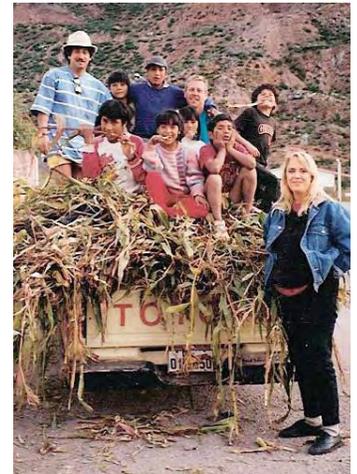
Chicuchas Wasi

THE CHILDRENS PROJECT
20 Years of Service

The early years...



...serving the needy and abandoned children in Cusco, Peru



Chicuchas Wasi (Children's Home) started out by serving abandoned children of Cusco, Peru. After several seasons, we evolved...we learned that to help Andean children, we must prepare Andean women to be able to provide for themselves and their children by improving female education and lifestyle options.

This shift in focus led to establishing the Chicuchas Wasi Alternative School for Girls.



Morning snack & class time outdoors

1997-1998



On a Field Trip



Class of 1999

Chicuchas Wasi girls in the parade for Peruvian Independence Day



Hygiene class





Chicuchas Wasi girls learn to use computers so they understand and are prepared to compete in the modern work world someday

Class of 2003



It's time for a new location for the Chicuchas Wasi Alternative Girls School...

...and here's Director Ruth painting at the new school



There's always lots to learn in the classroom...



...and hygiene lessons continue.

2006 is a BIG year!

We have a new school van!



A visit from a Chicuchas Wasi supporter makes for an exciting day!



Class of 2006

shown here with teachers and parents



Students in uniforms pose for a photo with visiting Chicuchas Wasi supporters

Class of 2007



Our new van at work!



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