

Newsletter Oye LENA

Educational project, Curahuasi - Peru



march - april 2016

IN BELGIUM

Sint Jozef school supports Oye LENA

Primary school Sint Jozef from Sint-Agatha-Berchem, Belgium, also decided to support Oye LENA this year. They organized a stroll with all the kids of the school and every step they took was sponsored! In addition, just like the kids from “the Small Giant”, they prepared a very simple meal to save some extra money. The project ended right around the time Stefanie was in Belgium, so she was very happy to visit the school and to give some more information about the project. She also showed them how many kids are being picked up with our bus and collected the magnificent check of 1750 euros also added to the amount of money already saved to purchase our new bus. As a little extra, every class also made a T-shirt for our kids! Thank you very much.



Small Giant supports Oye LENA

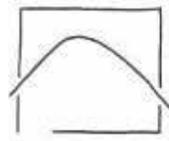
“De Kleine Reus” (The small Giant), a primary school from Houthalen, Belgium supports every year, a good cause. Ex-volunteer and teacher in the school, Sandra Gorissen, made sure Oye LENA was chosen for this year’s edition. The school sold flowers and the kids had a very simple meal to save money. A total of 895 euros was collected! This huge amount of money will be added to the money already saved in purpose to purchase our bus.



Kalmthout also supports Oye LENA

We were lucky this month, because a third school also supported us! The "Vrije Basisschool Heuvel" from Kalmthout, Belgium, have been very loyal sponsors and supporters for the last few years. And so, once more, they have donated the profits from their yearly "fasting action for toddlers" to Oye LENA. The kids had to do some small jobs in and around their houses in order to collect some money for the Oye LENA piggy bank.

A lot of small jobs have been done and as a result Oye LENA received a beautiful check for 300 euros from these nice kids! Thanks!



den Heuvel
BASISSCHOOL

02/03/2016 - Londerleliekindjes steunen Oye LENA

On Wednesday, March 2nd, Stefanie gave a workshop about Peru in "Londerlelie", a yoga school for kids in Londerzeel, run by Lentel de Hertog. This time however, instead of doing yoga, they worked around the theme of Peru and especially around Peruvian music and instruments. The entrance fee was entirely for Oye Lena, which added up to an amount 95 euros. Thanks to everyone. More information?

More information on www.londerlelie.be



12/03/2016 - Oye LENA parties in Belgium!

On Saturday, March 12th, Oye Lena organized its third reunion and celebrated project leader Stefanie's 30th birthday. A lot of ex-volunteers, future volunteers, friends and family joined the party.

It was a great occasion to reminisce, exchange information and have a lot of dance fun on Peruvian party music. In the collecting bus, we found 125 euros.

Thank you everyone for joining the celebration and we hope to see you next year for another great party!



Parent teacher meetings

Parent participation is considered very important at Oye Lena.

As a result we try to improve the contact with parents and their engagement year by year. In 2016 we planned monthly gatherings to talk about their children, share knowledge in workshops or get to know each other better at a party. In April, we focused on explaining the sign language we have been developing. At first, they had a lot of questions and remarks, but they also became very enthusiastic!

We hope to continue and expand these contacts so that they truly become a part of our daily routine and we can make the most of our joint efforts!

15-04-2016 Stefanie tries her best in Quechua

In order to improve the communication with the parents and other people of more remote villages, project leader Stefanie has started learning Quechua. Quechua is one of the official languages in Peru but is mainly spoken in the “sierra”, the mountain range, being part of the Andes that form South America’s backbone. For a lot of our kids, Quechua is still the language they speak at home and although the majority of our parents speak Spanish as well, some of them don’t and can only express themselves in Quechua.

This is even more the case when we go into the mountains to smaller villages (Puka Puka, Ccochua, Ccoca,...) with our “play suitcases” where the vast majority of kids as well as their parents only speak Quechua. Our teacher Susi and our cook Diofe are fluent in Quechua, but Stefanie decided she couldn’t stay behind. So now, she is learning the basics hoping to improve contact with parents but also to help kids, who only speak Quechua at the moment, to learn Spanish.

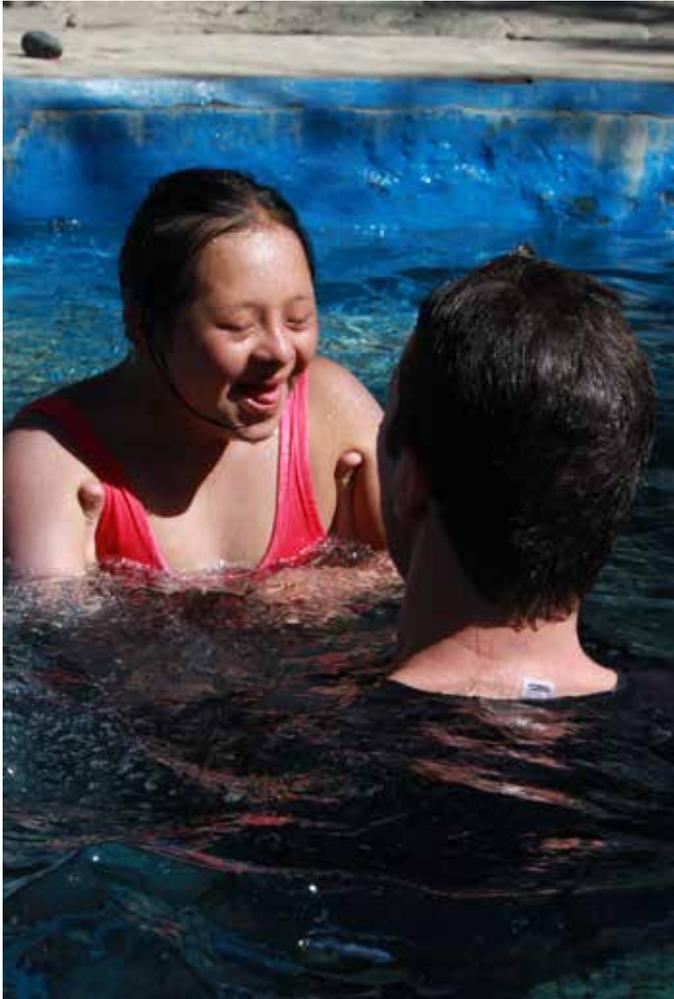
Common Quechua phrases	
English	Quechua
What is your name?	Imataq sutyiki?
My name is...	ñuqap ... sutyimi
Goodbye	Rikunakusun
Yes	Ari
No	Mana
Hello	Rimaykullayki, napaykullayki
Good morning	Windia
How are you?	Ima hinalla?
Please	Allichu
Thank you	Añay
Where are you from?	Maymantataq hamunki?
You're welcome	Ni imamanta
What is that?	Ima chayri?

Swimming lessons in hot pools Cconoc

As you may know by now, every month, we take our kids to the hot springs of Cconoc (one month our special kids, the other our toddlers). We have been doing so for about a year now, and as this was a very new experience for a lot of our kids, we focused on building their confidence while playing in shallow water. However, this time, we were pleased to have the expertise of Mayan Praats, sports student at Howest, who developed a learning plan with exercises to teach the kids to swim.

Thanks to this plan, we are also able to check the kids’ abilities at this point and track their evolution in the following months. The trips made for another two afternoons of fun in the warm water, beneath the hot sun and surrounded by our fantastic volunteers.





Carnaval!

Late February, early March Carnival in Peru is a cheerful and joyful event. A typical ritual is the so called yunza, when a big tree is planted on the main square of the city and is covered with presents.

Couples dressed in traditional clothing dance around this yunza. Each couple tries in turn to chop down the tree while dancing. The couple succeeding to let the tree fall will be responsible for the organisation of the yunza for the following year.

During the festive weeks people throw constantly water to each other or try to spray shaving cream on each other. Everyone is in a party mood for several weeks!



21-03-2016 - World Down Syndrom Day in Curahuasi

On March 21, the Fourth International World Down Syndrome Day took place.

Our volunteers, dressed in their Oye Lena T-shirt, and accompanied by our special children having a yellow balloon in their hand, dispersed in the streets.

Evidently they attracted a lot of attention Flyers were given to everyone in Curahuasi. Doing so, we want to make people understand how beautiful diversity is!



Short messages!

Last time we forgot to mention that volunteer Jonas Dieltjens and his family refused to accept Christmas presents for themselves, instead they asked that the money normally destined for these presents should be donated to Oye Lena: 230 EURs as a result! Thank you very much!!

Our two laminators on the project broke in the same week, so we launched a call for a new one. The parents of volunteer Laura Christiaens reacted immediately and donated a new one! Thank you so much. We also launched a call for more jigsaw puzzles for our kids, and it was definitely heard: Maaïke Van den Steene, Vanessa Burms and the family Verhaert reacted promptly and donated a lot of puzzles. Thank you all!

John en Paula, two American citizens (www.ourbiggerpicture) stayed for one night at Casa Lena and being impressed after a guided tour, donated 100 soles for the sake of the children. Thanks! Willy De Geest and Jacqueline Van Daele sent us many cute books, thanks!

Barbara and hannes Brändli, mother and father in law of volunteer Ida Kaufmann gave a lot of arts and crafts materials for the project. Thanks!

Caroline Sol read our call for lids for our toothbrushes to store them in a hygienic way. She donated the necessary amount to the project. So many thanks!

Christian and Fabienne, Swiss citizens (charreschmieri.blogspot.ch) stayed also for one night at Casa Lena and donated a step, enormously appreciated by all of the children, thanks!

Godmother and good friend Fientje Demesmaeker bought a nice train set for the project. The kids are really loving it, thanks!



Wednesday March 16th, Stefanie , our project leader, presented the OYE LENA project in the “Cultureel Centrum” (Cultural Centre) of Strombeek-Bever, Belgium. Being an inhabitant of Grimbergen, Stefanie’s purpose was to inform citizens of the immediate surroundings. The visitors bought Peruvian stuff or donated a small amount of money with a 165 Euros as a result. Not bad for the first time, we’ll surely do this again and we will try to mobilize more people!

The past two months, a lot of personal gifts were bought for our Oye Lena godchildren, which arrived through mail or in the suitcases of lovely volunteers or project responsible Stefanie. Thanks a lot everyone!

Wilde and David can expect to get theirs as soon as possible!

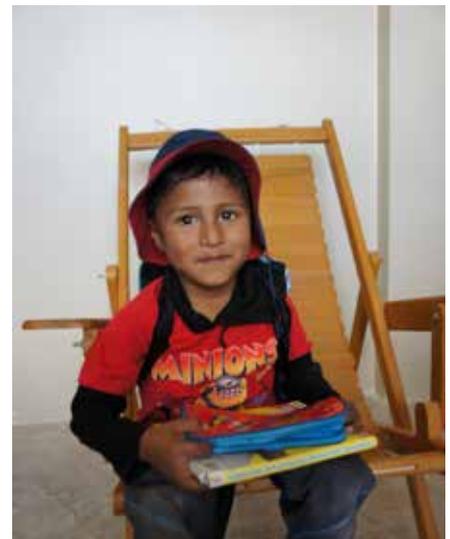
Romke and Tomasa stayed overnight at Casa Lena and donated babyclothes and a blanket! The clothes were given to the parents and the blanket to Clariza, thanks!



Clariza received a present from her godmother Vanessa Burms and also from ex-volunteer Eline! Needless to say she was gloating while opening both presents, thanks!



Fons Aerts donated extra money for his godchild Asiri, Carol Eva’s sister., Stefanie decided to buy nice dolls with it; thanks! (foto on the left)



Viviane and Eric Van de Velde sent along nice presents for several children; Joncito, Yerson and Marleni were more than happy, thanks! (foto on the right)



Elisa Raes offered an extra amount of money at the occasion of Liset’s birthday. A backpack and cooking supplies were purchased. Thanks!

Lisets sure had a Lucky day: her second godmother, Gillian Van Bombeeck offered her also a present, thanks!



¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Happy birthday to these lovely (not so) little ones: Maria, Fernando en Ruth Betsy



Volunteers come and go!

Laura Christiaens and To De Bondt, two future primary school teachers currently studying at the “KDG Antwerpen”, joined us for 10 weeks. What a support they were! Two very motivated girls who conquered every little heart at the project!

Despite her only being 18 years old, Anna Gasshof has been an amazing volunteer for the past five months. As the only German volunteer, she stood strong in between the Flemish and the Peruvian kids. Small, tall, young, old, boy or girl, everyone truly loved her. She made sure everything ran smoothly on the project and had a lot of fun with the kids while teaching them new things every day. Thanks, Anna, you couldn't have done it better! She was joined by another fantastic volunteer, Lore Mennes, who helped us for 8 weeks and enjoyed our little toddlers as much as they enjoyed her!

Chicas lindas, you couldn't have done this any better and will be missed dearly! We hope to see you again soon!



Welcome to these little ones...

March being the start of a new schoolyear, new toddlers are welcomed:

On top : Selena, little sister of Zharit Lluvitza en Reyson; Elisban, brother of Romina and Asiri, sister of Carol Eva

Bottom row: Aldair, brother of Damariz, and also Juan Diego & Yidda

Naymar's brother and Jhendies brother will join us once they are three years old!



and to our new sponsor...

As a dear friend and as a godmother of one of our children, Lien Jacobs was from the beginning involved in Oye Lena. Recently she offered us an Ipad. In return we decided to offer her some publicity.

Being a certified food consultant in Putte, Belgium, she is able to support you if you wish to adapt your life habits in general and more specifically your food habits. Together a realistic and individually adapted scheme will be established.



Diëtiste Lien

More information on:
www.dietistelien.be

We would like to wish all moms and dads a happy mother's or father's day! Normally, our sponsors should have received one of these beautiful handmade postcards... if that's not the case, please contact us!



Welkom to our new godparents...

Volunteer Sara Defoor, Lieselot Bronselaer, already being the godmother of Romina, also became the godmother of Romina's brother, Elisban, Cinthia Sneyers, volunteer Holvoet Daphné, volunteer Maurane Desmet and mama Katrien Libberecht Carolus Hoefkens, Heremans Bergen (Warre and Ebe).

last but not least... another bus update!

At the end of february we had already gathered 15256.5 euros for our new bus. This amount keeps on growing steadily with another 1330 in march and april, bringing the total to 16586.5 euros! Thank you very much everyone.

50	DE GRAEVE VANDERBEKEN
895	DE KLEINE REUS
40	DECKERS - NELEN
15	HEYNDERICKX YASMINE
50	LOOS - BENOY
50	VANDEBLEEKEN
230	FAM DIELTJENS

Only for those who live in Belgium: Did you know ...

You can receive a tax certificate for your donations from € 40 and more?! This certificate can be added to your tax declaration and the amount of your donation will be deducted from your taxable income.

To determine if you have the right to a tax certificate for a certain assessment year, all the donations you did during that year are being count up at the beginning of the next assessment year. If you reach a total sum of € 40 or more, you receive a tax certificate (at the beginning of the year following to the year you made the donation in).

Do you want to know how much is being deducted? Take a look at the table below. How much do you earn on an annual basis and what is your taxable income.

Marginal tax rate per €40 - tax deduction per €40

€ 0,01 - € 8.070	25%	€ 10
€ 8.070 - € 11.480	30%	€ 12
€ 11.480 - € 19.130	40%	€ 16
€ 19.130 - € 35.060	45%	€ 18
€ 35.060 or more	50%	€ 20



The certificate will only be given for donation to the account number:

IBAN BE48 5230 8027 2427 / BIC TRIOBEBB

Leraars zonder Grenzen vzw, Jan de Graefstraat 7, 2600 Berchem

with mention: "gift aan LzG, ONG Oye LENA"

Oye LENA is looking for more godparents!

Do you want to become a godparent to one of Oye LENA's toddlers?

If you do, you can offer a whole new future to a child for only a couple of eurocents a day. Thanks in advance!

Godparents can let us know if they prefer to sponsor a boy or a girl, aged 3 or 4.

When you become a godparent, you receive a picture and a drawing via e-mail (two weeks after the first donation). Most communication will happen via e-mail in order to keep costs down. If, however, you would like to receive regular mail on special occasions, you can leave us your address.

If you do not want to send your godchild messages via mail or e-mail, that is no problem at all. If yes, you can do so in English. We will make sure a translation is available. However, keep in mind that our children are still very young. A nice picture will do more than a long letter. Also, do not forget that it can take a while before your letters arrive in Peru. If you want to avoid long waiting times, it is also possible to send an e-mail. We will make sure your e-mail gets printed and given to the child. You can send your e-mail to oyelena.peru@gmail.com.

The postal address is:

ONG OYE LENA (Stefanie Van Erps)
Oficina oficial de correos de Curahuasi, Curahuasi, Abancay, Apurimac, Peru

It is also possible for you to come and visit the project and your godchild, just tell us in advance if you want to come over.

In order to make sure payments go as smoothly as possible, it is best to use a standing order. That way, you automatically deposit a fixed amount into our bank account (a minimum of €10 = €0.30 a day). Oye LENA has a Belgian bank account:

BE28 06889753 0620

BIC: GKCCBEBB

The money is not destined to your individual godchild, but will be used for EVERY child on the project, for:

- buying food and drinks. The children receive a free lunch, fruit, a snack and drinks every day;
- financing visits to the doctor's, where the children receive free treatment and medication;
- buying toys and educational materials;
- celebrating birthdays and other festivities: cake and presents!

If you wish to stop being a godparent, you can do so anytime. You only have to send us an e-mail and cancel your standing order. We will also keep you up to date with all the latest developments of the project and your godchild!

Lots of love, The Oye LENA – team