



## Oye LENA in May

Dear reader,

As you may have noticed, it has been a while since we've informed you about our activities. This is due to the fact we are introducing a new type of newsletter and it took us a while to get it done. There are still some problems, so consider this a transition newsletter. It will get better and better, at least, that's what we're striving for.

Happy Reading,

the Oye Lena Team

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### 07-05: Mother's day





Like every year, the Oye Lena moms were celebrated with a big party on the project. The kids handed over their handcrafted gifts and sang a beautiful song they had learned for the occasion. Then, we had organised different activities in which moms had to play with or against each other to earn coins. These coins were used in the traditional Peruvian guinny pig game, in which you have to guess what box the guinny pig will enter.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed some hot choco and pancakes. We also opened our occasional clothing's shop in which they can buy donated clothes for 10 cents.

At the end of the afternoon, the moms returned happy and the kids joined them proudly. Every year a big succes!

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## 14-05: Clariza in Cuzco



*Clariza's greatest wish, to discover Cusco, was fulfilled at the occasion of her birthday, Saturday May 14th. She was astonished to see how big the city was. Around noon we decided to have dinner in a restaurant and we offered Clariza a delicious pizza. She found it weird that there was no television as is the case in nearly every restaurant in Curahuasi.*

*Afterwards we took a taxi to the shopping mall where we bought some new shoes for Clariza. To end this special day we had some ice cream and reluctantly, we drove back to Curahuasi.*

*By Jolien Grymonprez*

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## **18-05: Brayan and Jesús**



At the end of february, right before leaving on a holiday to Belgium, Stefanie found out that two of our most loyal kids, Brayan and Jesus, had been left by their mom in an orphanage in Cachora. This explained their absence on the project the weeks before but we didn't have any more information and weren't able to get hold of their mother on the cell number she had left on the contact information sheet.

When Stefanie arrived back in Peru, she went to visit them in Cachora, which is about an hour and a half away from Curahuasi, together with Kim Dierckx. Sadly, the gossip we had heard was correct and we found them living there, together with 12 other kids between 6 and 14 years old.

The first contact was hard and both the boys were obviously not behaving as we knew them. It was clear they were suffering from the situation. We gave them both some gifts (a backpack, a sweater and some school supplies) and talked with them for quite some time after which they opened up partially. We promised to go back and visit them with the whole group so we'll keep you posted in our next newsletter;



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## **A volunteer experienced "Cconoc with the kids"**



*The day after leading my first class here at Oye LENA, I was bundled into the van for yet another adventure; a visit to the thermal baths of Cconoc. We collected the children, and a few jam sandwiches later (after being slathered in*

*suncream) they raced into the pool armed with plenty of inflatables. Their beaming smiles did not leave their faces for the next hour, as they splashed and played about together; it was amazing to see how much they enjoyed being in the water. I was honestly impressed with how their initial fears and doubts about not being able to swim were put aside, as they quickly got to work with just having a great time. It's safe to say that, after all that excitement, we had a van full of sleeping children on the way back home!*

*by Catrin Harris*



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**A volunteer experienced "Día del jardín (25-05)"**



*On Tuesday, May 24th there was the day of kindergarten in Peru and of course this occasion was celebrated also in Curahuasi. Together with our toddlers, their siblings and parents as well as other families, we had a great march throughout the town. The children prepared beautiful lanterns for their excursion and created a whole sea of lights. The celebration was accompanied by nursery rhymes, dancing clowns and singing parents. It was a great feast with a solemnly mood and a lot of joy for the children. We enjoyed this celebration together with the kids and their families and are looking forward to participate next year.*

*by Emma Schneider*

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## **¡Feliz Cumpleaños Liset y Diego!**

A very happy Liset and Juan Diego couldn't keep the smiles of their faces during their birthdays. We celebrated them as always with a big crown and let them choose a nice present! The pair of them looked just like a fabulous princess and royal prince.

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*Photo below by Tanja Willekens.*



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**¡Bienvenida a Roy!**





We're very happy to welcome Roy, our newest kid on the block and the 3 year old cousin of Yaneth, Yerson and Eliazar.

**and welcome back to our graduates...**



We were also very happy to welcome our graduates during the holidays. During that time they were able to come back to the project like in the old days and play with their old friends.

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## **Volunteers come... and go.**

And again, we had to say goodbye to a bunch of great volunteers who gave their all the last couple of months.

We had 4 students: Lore Soetinck, Daphné Holvoet, Laura Vlieghe and Mayan Praats. Each of them had their own project within their own field of study. Lore worked out the activities for fine motor skills for the themes we are working

around for the next two years. Daphné worked out the theme of mother's day and organised a fantastic mother's day party together with the whole team. Laure Vlieghe continued our sign language project and introduced the signs to our teachers and volunteers. She also provided the signs for our books and songs and worked with Reyson on his communication skills. Mayan developed a test to map the kids big motor skills and developed a "learning line" for it. She also looked for fun and educational activities for each of the "big motor skills" objectives. As you can see, the four of them worked out fantastic projects which will serve for many years.



We also said goodbye to Laura Moonen who had been with us for 16 weeks starting from september but had been travelling around and decided to join us once more in april for 8 weeks.

Laura knew the project very well so she was able to guide around the new volunteers. She lost her heart to the country and the kids and she will definitely be missed!

Former volunteer Kim Dierickx who worked for 6 months on the project in 2014 and has been a member of our Oye Lena Team since then, has joined us once again during her holidays for 2 weeks. Being a physiotherapist, she had a lot of good tips for our work with the kids with cerebral phalsy! Thanks for your unconditional support.



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## Generous visitor



Ingrid Hendriks stayed at Casa Lena during the week of the 20th of May. She brought along a suitcase full of stuff and bought a sun hat for all the kids. Thanks a lot!

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## Actions in Belgium

16-05-2016 Parents of volunteer Jolien have a bbq!

Koen and Marie-Paul Grymonez, parents of current volunteer Jolien organised a bbq on the 16th of May for Oye LENA. They invited all their friends and family and managed to

28-05-2016 Golf tournament:

Marnic Gypens and Patrick Lenvain had entered as contestants in a golf tournament and won 800 Euros for "a project of choice".

They were so kind to choose Oye

gather 250 people around the table. It was a marvellous initiative and a great day. They collected 3700 Euros and another 285 Euros by selling traditional Peruvian souvenirs from the Oye LEEna souvenir bag.

A very big succes indeed! Thank you very much Koen and Marie-Paul as well as all the helping hands and hungry stomachs!

Lena and we were very excited they did! Thank you very much Marnic, Patrick and the Lions club Brussels.

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## **New godparents**

Welcome and thank you to Heidi Bortels (visitor of Casa Lena), volunteer Laura Christiaens and her mom Inez Vereecken, Ringoet Edith as well as Laura Moonen (ex-volunteer)

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## **Dear godfathers, godmothers and other sponsors,**

Because we do everything our selves and we have a lot of work, from now on we will not send private mails anymore with pictures and news about your godchildren. When the children receive a present or a letter you will read about it in the next newsletter. Don't hesitate to send us an email to ask about your godchild.

Hoping for your understanding,

Lots of love,  
Stefanie and the Oye Lena Team



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