

# The Chimbote Foundation

“...a bridge of love and hope.”

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

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“The Chimbote Foundation is a response to the call of Jesus to make His kingdom come to be, to manifest through our works of faith and love the power of His love.”

— Bishop Donald W. Wuerl

August 2003



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## Handle with God's Loving Care

I greet you from Chimbote and bless you for your interest in and continued support of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's mission effort in Peru. I would like to share with you where we are, the challenges we face and where we want to go.

You can turn to page four of this newsletter which lists our overall statistics from last year. As you may be aware, the Center for Social Works dedicates a good deal of its efforts to care for pregnant mothers, babies and children in this impoverished area. I am happy to report that our clinic birthrate has slowly recovered from the disastrous consequences of a state-imposed campaign of forced tubal ligations for the poor as a solution to Peru's poverty problem.

Unfortunately, we now are experiencing a steady stream of newborns admitted to our neonatal intensive care unit because of their very precarious birthing circumstances. Through our care all but a few are returned to good health. We also receive newborns who are born at home in slum shacks where mothers and newborns are exposed to incredibly infectious conditions.

One of the principal goals of our maternity/child care program is to educate mothers about the need for adequate pre-



**COMFORTING A CHILD:** Monsignor Roos attends to one of Chimbote's children who was born with Down Syndrome.

natal care and professional attention at the time of birth. Through our education efforts we hope to eliminate those practices and customs which contribute to infant mortality.

One of our greatest challenges is to get people to respond to preventive health measures such as Well Baby Clinics, immunization and programs that address major realities such as malnutrition tuberculosis. The poor of Chimbote are so accustomed to disease and death that preventive medicine is an unknown concept. Simple daily survival so preoccupies parents that they themselves create the most dangerous threats to their babies by their unintended indifference to good health care practices.

As we administer to more and

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## Death of a Special Child Brings Help for Other Children

Daniel and Kimberly Kresh of Butler, PA, became the proud parents of their fourth child on October 31, 2000. Their new son, Jacob, was diagnosed with Down Syndrome the day after his birth. On November 15, 2002, after living just two short years, Jacob passed away unexpectedly.

The Kresh family received an overwhelming response from the community to their young son's death.

"Jake touched so many people that the church was full at his funeral," said Kimberly Kresh. "The small cemetery at his burial could not hold all the cars that were in his procession."

This response prompted Daniel and Kimberly to set up a fund in Jacob's name that would benefit other children with Down Syndrome.

It is little known that the Social Works Center in Chimbote serves more than 20 children with Down Syndrome. These special needs children present medical, social and psychological challenges over and above those everyday needs of the poor already being addressed at the Center. Several of the Chimbote children with Down Syndrome have been abandoned by their parents.

In an effort to serve these special children of Chimbote, Daniel and Kimberly created the "Jacob Kresh Fund" with an initial family gift of \$1,300. This fund has been established under the umbrella of the Chimbote Foundation.

Students from Butler Catholic Elementary School contributed to the fund through their "Jacob's Bridge" project. For every 50 cents a student donated they would get a popsicle stick with their name on it that contributed to make a bridge. A total of 3,310 popsicle sticks made the bridge. It is through these initial gifts and those from others that help will be given to children with Down Syndrome living in Chimbote.

"Jake's legacy of love and joy continues and it is the desire of his family to reach other children with Down Syndrome through the Chimbote Foundation -The Jacob Kresh Fund," said Kimberly. "If our gift and the gifts of others to this fund can help these children, in any way, then the legacy of Jake's love will live on."

*If you would like to make a contribution to the "Jacob Kresh Fund" contact the Office for Stewardship and Development at 412.456.3085.*

## Meet Some of Chimbote's Children

### Pablo Yerson Quinones Age: 4

Pablo lives with her parents, four siblings and two grandparents in a two-room thatched straw house with a dirt floor and no electricity. The family sleeps on beds with no mattresses. Pablo's mother and father work meager jobs. The grandparents suffer



from tuberculosis and receive treatment at the Center. From the Center the family receives free medical care, used clothing and food supplements such as oatmeal, rice and milk.

### Italo Vasquez Saldana Age: 11

Italo lives with his mother, father and six brothers and sisters in a thatched straw house. The family shares two beds among all of them. Italo's mother earns money



cleaning fish and washing clothes. The Center provides the family with free medical care. Italo's mother recently recovered from a bout of tuberculosis. His father suffers from severe arthritis and cannot work.

### Mariana Age: 2

Mariana has been cared for by the Center's staff for the past 11 months. She was abandoned shortly after her birth and put in the Center's care by Family Court. Mariana's chances of adoption are slim. Since it is very difficult to identify a facility that will take in a child with Down Syndrome, Mariana faces a life in various state institutions.





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more of the poor, our need to provide the technical and medical services demanded also increases.

We are elated and excited about the initiatives undertaken by a couple in Butler, PA, to help our children with Down Syndrome. We are grateful for their efforts and those of the children attending Butler Catholic Elementary School to raise funds for our efforts. We are further grateful to Deacon James Sheil from West Virginia University and the medical students who spent several weeks in Chimbote assisting us in our mission.

Lastly, I would like to thank you on behalf of the people we serve for your continued financial support and prayers as we face the constantly changing challenges in meeting the needs of the poor in Chimbote.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May God bless you.

*Msgr. Roos*

## **✠ VOLUNTEERS**

### **Chimbote Mission a Family Affair**

When Mark Roos was in third grade, his uncle Father Jules Roos departed on what he thought would be a short assignment helping the poor in the village of Chimbote, Peru. Some 30 years later, Mark's uncle is still working in Chimbote and Mark himself is serving on the board for the Chimbote Foundation. Working to help the poor in this South American village has certainly become a family affair for the Roos'.

Mark recalls communicating with his uncle in Peru using a short wave radio that was connected to a telephone. From their home in Bellevue, PA, Mark's grandfather organized his own humanitarian effort and gathered materials and supplies to ship to Chimbote.

Mark's other uncle, Ken Roos, designed many of the buildings initially constructed to house the Social Works Center. Unfortunately most of these buildings were destroyed in the mid 1960s during a devastating earthquake that hit the region.

Recognizing Mark's talent and enthusiasm, Bishop Donald Wuerl invited him to join the Chimbote Foundation Board. Mark brings extensive experience in business management to the board and to the people in Chimbote.

## **Diocese Unveils New Website for Chimbote Foundation**



The Diocese of Pittsburgh recently launched a website dedicated to promoting its mission work in Peru. The attractive new site features facts about the Chimbote area, information about the history of the mission effort and more.

Visit the new site at  
[www.chimbotefoundation.org](http://www.chimbotefoundation.org)



## **Medical Students Visit Peru Center**

This past April, a team of physicians and interns from West Virginia University spent time at the Social Works Center in Chimbote learning, contributing and applying their skills to the needs of the poor. The doctors who visited the Center were West Virginia University Medical School professor Dr. Luis Teba, and interns Drs. William Tarry, Travis McCoy and Hassan Mir.

This program was started by an initial correspondence in December 2002 between Monsignor Roos and Dr. James Shiel, who is also a deacon. West Virginia University Medical School asked the staff of the Social Works Center if they were willing to accept a limited number of medical students who were in the final month of their internships. The purpose of the visit would be for the medical students to obtain a familiarity with medicine practiced in third world countries; to exchange ideas with medical staff; and to work alongside the Chimbote staff.

The West Virginia University physicians and interns went on home visits, assisted with deliveries, clinic visitations and had extensive dialog with clinic staff. The program is being evaluated from both sides to ascertain its value and the nature and extent of future interaction.

## Social Works Center (Centro de Obras Sociales)

Patient Treatment Statistics  
January - December 2002

<b>MATERNITY</b>	<b>98,251</b>	<b>OUTPATIENT CLINIC</b>	<b>44,270</b>
Deliveries	1,501	Medical Consultations	30,473
Pre-Natal Clinic	20,214	Minor Surgery	193
Post-Partum Clinic	2,195	First Aid Treatment	2,990
Medical Consultations	3,531	Injections	3,637
Emergency Treatments	2,350	TB Clinic	955
Emergency Hospitalizations	1,051	Asthma Program	282
Pap Smears	4,172	Special Treatment Unit	1,096
Ultrasounds	5,577	Malnutrition Clinic	2,198
Electronic Fetal Monitoring	461	Home Visits	2,446
D&C	35		
Amniocentesis	93	<b>CLINICAL LABORATORY</b>	<b>42,925</b>
Prenatal/Lamaze Preparation	7,008	Patient Number - Clinical	37,969
Physical Therapy	2,155	Number of Analyses	196,623
Well Baby Clinic	16,536	Average Number of Tests	1.08
Neonatal Special Care			
Prematures	115	<b>TOTAL CASES 2002</b>	<b>185,446</b>
Phototherapy	116		
High Risk Newborns	628		
X-Rays/Special Care Unit	148		
Orphans	123		
High Risk Newborn Clinic	1,247		
Vaccinations	23,754		
Home Visits	2,710		
STD Counseling	2,531		

### How You Can Help...

You can provide basic and critical medical care for the poor in Chimbote with a donation through the Foundation. The following list offers a glimpse of how your generosity translates into care for God's children.

- \$14,000 operates the Medical Clinic for one week
- \$6,000 operates the Well Baby Clinic for one month
- \$3,000 underwrites the cost of vaccinations administered during an average week
- \$1,500 operates the Outpatient First Aid Treatment Unit for one month
- \$750 provides a month's worth of medical treatment for high-risk newborns
- \$300 underwrites the cost of ultrasound tests administered during an average week
- \$150 underwrites the cost of Electronic Fetal Monitoring tests given throughout one month
- \$75 underwrites the cost of medicine, supplies and labor used in the Clinic for one hour
- \$40 underwrites the cost of medical treatment for approximately 10 people during an average day

*Please use the envelope provided with this newsletter to make your donation. Thank you.*



# 38th Annual Peru Mission Dinner

October 23, 2003  
Sheraton Station Square

Reception begins at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

For information call 412.456.3085 or email [development@diopitt.org](mailto:development@diopitt.org)

**O**n October 23, 2003, the Annual Peru Mission Dinner will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square in Pittsburgh. Last year's dinner was attended by nearly 600 people who believe that serving the poor is the apostolate of all the people of God.

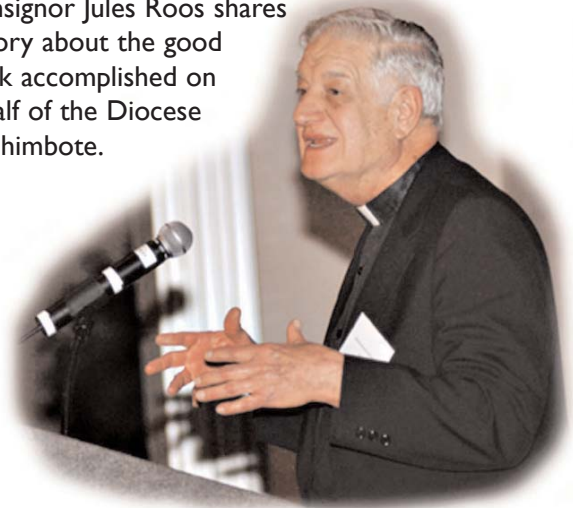
Mr. Mike Clark of WTAE-TV will once again be the master of ceremonies for the dinner.

It is our desire this year to fill the ballroom of the Sheraton to its capacity of 800. We can do it with your help and commitment and through your asking a friend to join you. In the meantime, mark your calendar for October 23, call a friend and/or call 412.456.3085 for more information or to reserve a table or seat.

Remember, in addition to enjoying an evening with friends, you will be responding to Christ's command to help His poorest children. Formal invitations will be mailed in September.

## THE MISSION MESSENGER:

Monsignor Jules Roos shares a story about the good work accomplished on behalf of the Diocese in Chimbote.



## DINNER MUSIC:

St. Sebastian Parish Youth Ministry perform songs from their annual musical. The group donates all proceeds from the musical to the Chimbote Foundation.



## A SHEPHERD SPEAKS:

Bishop Wuerl shares the spirit of mission work with dinner attendees.



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# *38th Annual Peru Mission Dinner*

October 23, 2003

Sheraton Station Square

Tickets \$125 each/\$1,250 a table

Reception begins at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

“A bridge of concern, care and love  
spans the distance between Pittsburgh and Peru.”

— Bishop Donald W. Wuerl

412.456.3085 or [development@diopitt.org](mailto:development@diopitt.org)

*Formal invitations will be mailed in September.*