

# The Chimbote Foundation

"...a bridge of love and hope."

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

"It is a spirit of Christ that is passed on to us through the Gospels that motivates us to reach out to the poorest of the poor, whether it be here in Pittsburgh or as far away as Chimbote."

– Fr. Ron Lengwin

*If you would like additional copies of this newsletter, please contact us at the number below.*

Summer 2007



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## Third Annual Chimbote Golf Outing An Outstanding Success

On May 29, 2007, over 100 golfers participated in the Third Annual Chimbote Golf Outing at South Hills Country Club, raising over \$58,000 for the maternity hospital of the Centro de Obras Sociales (Social Works Center), directed by Msgr. H. Jules Roos.

"It was a beautiful day and a wonderful venue, new for this year's outing," noted Tom Shanahan, President of Shanahan Transportation Systems, Inc. and co-chair of the event.

Joining Shanahan as co-chair was Jim Zielinski, Director of Property and Planning for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

For the past three years, the annual golf outings have become rewarding fundraisers, increasing revenue for the Chimbote Foundation and for the "poorest of the poor" in Chimbote.

On behalf of the Chimbote Foundation and the Centro de Obras, gratitude is extended to dozens of businesses who sponsored the event, including Ferry

Electric Company, R.G. Friday, Inc. and M.I. Friday, Inc., Centimark Corporation, Pittsburgh Asphalt Company, Pain Control Center of Pittsburgh, Management Engineering Corporation, York Claims Service, Koppers, Inc., Astorino, Star Electric Company, Kelly, Rielly, Nell Associates, Inc., Volpatt Construction, The Huber Group, Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc., Century Steel Erectors, Michael Grimes, D.M.D., Eber and Associates, Fagan Sanitary Supply, Iron and Glass Bank, Chisler, Marx and Company, and Frank B. Fuhrer

Holdings, Inc.

Additional generosity was provided by Tee and Green sponsors, as well as individual sponsors like Jeff Roos, Gretchen Roos and Scott Lane.

If interested in joining us next year in support of the poor in Chimbote, Peru, please contact 412-456-3085 to reserve your space.



# Glimpses of Chimbote

Recently, Chimbote Foundation board member Bill Shuttleworth travelled to Chimbote with a group of volunteers, including Jane Evans, Brendon Sullivan, Terese Sonnett, and Joan Reale. All were moved by the experience. Here, in their own words, is some of what they saw.

## An Oasis of Hope

Maybe if you sailed far enough away from the port of Chimbote you would finally lose its characteristic noise-car horns that sound like sirens, claxons, wolf whistles and tunes along the Pan American highway.

Next to this busy road is an unobtrusive fenced compound of brown and cream buildings, grass and palm trees, The Maternidad of Mary. An oasis in both the literal and figurative sense, the Maternidad is dedicated to helping those unwanted by others.

One Friday, a premature baby was transferred here from another hospital. He needed oxygen pumped regularly into his immature lungs, but, after initial success, the machine to do this job failed. That meant that the

nurses had to take turns squeezing the bulb every few seconds to deliver the life supporting dose of oxygen. The hospital personnel manager, Theresa, usually works a thirteen hour day, but she stayed an extra three hours, until midnight, to help out the neonatal nurses.

Babies born, babies kept alive, dedicated staff. And outside, the sound of those car horns! Just another day at the Maternidad. – Jane Evans

## “Jesus Me Ama”

We had arrived on a small village on the outskirts of Chimbote. An array of ramshackle houses, constructed of merely straw and cardboard, lined the sides of the road. Our shoes kicked up clouds of sand, dirt, and dust as we walked through the garbage ridden, unpaved street. There was nothing astounding about what we saw, or at least it wasn't astounding for Chimbote.

I noticed a large message written on a side of the hill rising up above the houses. It said “Jesus me ama.” Jesus loves me. As we turned up this path, we passed by a group of teenagers, who giggled at the sight of us.



TWO STREETS, TWO LIVES: The bustling heart of downtown Chimbote ...



... and the devastating poverty nearby.

We found our destination, a small house where a woman lived with her family. The woman had broken her leg some time ago and had never had it reset. The resulting deformity in her leg was a reminder of the lack of proper health care available to so many of Chimbote's residents.

I thought of what I had seen written on the hill, "Jesus loves me." I realized that even in a place of such immense suffering such as this, Jesus's love is still visible everywhere. It is visible in the dirty, but happy nonetheless, faces of the children of this city. It is visible in loving and protective nature of the mother who was more worried about her children's safety than her own. And most of all, it is visible in the facilities and staff of the Maternidad de Maria, a truly miraculous sign that Jesus loves Chimbote. – *Brendon Sullivan*

### God, Our Rock

I have never seen a place so poor. Going into the homes and hospitals and seeing how the people of Chimbote live and suffer, I experienced so much on my short trip. I experienced empathy, sorrow, and

pain. I even experienced illness. And from seeing the poverty, I cannot put into words how much I experienced gratitude. But throughout the whole trip, I did not once experience guilt.

How is it that I who have been blessed with financial stability, an excellent education, and more possessions than I will ever need can go into a place that is so poor and not feel guilty? Saint Paul says it well in his second letter to the Corinthians, "Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less" (8:15).

Saint Paul teaches what I have realized from my venture into a third world country: What we possess in our short lives does not really matter, because we all share equally in one thing. We are all created equally in God's love.

We all share the same dignity. The greater the difference I see in people around the world, the more I am convinced that we are all the same. God did not send me on this trip to make me feel bad about what I do



A KITCHEN: A woman cooks a meal for her family.



have. He sent me to show me that what I have in this life does not matter.

It is not that I have more than the people of Chimbote, but that I have more of what I do not need. I can live without shoes, and I can live without an education. I can even live without my family and friends. But without God, I cannot live. Nothing in this world is guaranteed except for God's love. We are all different, yet we are all the same. Possessions break down, feelings go away, and people die. But God's love for us will never die. And this is our rock. – *Terese Sonnett*

### A Home Visit

We hail a taxi and arrive at the first home visit on the outskirts of Chimbote to three children and a mother in extreme poverty. The house of three rooms and a court yard is built of straw with dirt floors and practically no furniture except a television in the corner of the living area. The bedroom has straw mats that serve as beds. At the back of the house in the courtyard, the mother keeps guinea pigs for the only source of protein. Although there is electricity, there is no heat and no water in the house. The temperature today is approximately 34 degrees. There is no bathroom. Two extremely skinny and scrawny cats roam through the house.

The first and primary patient is Vanessa, an 8-year-old child who is very thin and poorly dressed. She is in a wheelchair and does not speak but smiles a lot. She is unable to walk as a result of an unknown dis-

ease. Her skin is very leathery and dry. The same conditions and symptoms affect her sister, who is approximately 18 years old, and her brother, who is approximately 21 years old. Both sit in wheel chairs and smile. The family has no water and all three children are in dire need of baths and basic grooming. The mother hovers around with a worried look in her eyes and offers us seats.

As it is almost lunch time, the mother begins to cook lunch on a makeshift brick stove, feeding the firewood a little at a time. There is very little wood to be found in this community and she is an expert at knowing how much wood it takes to keep the fire burning to boil the little water she has to prepare lunch for her and the



VISITORS FROM PITTSBURGH (from left to right): Mary Kay Kelly, Jane Evans, and Brendon Sullivan on a home visit.

## Glimpses of Chimbote, cont.

children. Before we leave, the home care team gives fresh fruit to all the children.

The next day we make several other visits. The most striking is a visit to an 80 year old woman who lives alone and has no family. She lives in a one room straw shack with no heat, no water, and no bathroom. There are guinea pigs running loose all over the dirt floor.

When we arrive, the old woman is sitting on an old bucket outside her home with the door almost closed. She is scantily clothed and the temperature is about 36 degrees this morning. She appears to be cleaning sugar cane stalks. This is probably her only source of income.

Inside the hut, the bed is covered with her belongings, and she relates that sometimes she sleeps on the dirt

floor. After an examination of her back and assessment of her pain, the nurse evaluates her medications and is satisfied that all that can be done for her pain is being done. The team asks if they can do anything else and the woman states that she would like a sweater and some socks to keep her warm. Immediately the team responds, and we walk to the nearest clothing store and purchase the sweater and socks and take them to her. She is grateful.

The Maternidad Hospital is truly a place where the health care team has come to serve Christ through the poor, the sick, and the dying. And while they serve, they seem to keep in mind that it is Christ who works through them which is manifested in much love and compassion as they go about their daily service to the poor, the sick, and the dying. – *Joan Reale*



Terese Sonnett on a home visit.



Three orphans from the Maternidad.

*Save the Date!*

**The 42nd Annual Peru Mission Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 24, 2007**

**Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Station Square**

*Invitations will be mailed in August 2007.*

*We look forward to seeing you again!*



## The Chimbote Foundation

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**With your  
help, they  
won't walk  
these streets  
alone.**

The following list offers a glimpse of how your generosity translates into care for God's children.

- \$14,000** operates Medical Clinic for one week
- \$6,000** operates Well Baby Clinic for one month
- \$3,000** underwrites the cost of vaccinations administered during an average week
- \$1,500** operates Outpatient First Aid Treatment Unit for one month
- \$750** provides a month's worth of medical treatment for high-risk newborns
- \$300** underwrites cost of ultrasound tests administered during an average week
- \$150** underwrites cost of Electronic Fetal Monitoring tests for one month
- \$75** underwrites cost of medicine, supplies and labor used in Clinic for one hour
- \$40** underwrites cost of medical treatment for 10 people during an average day
- \$20** underwrites the cost of medical treatment for 5 people during an average week
- \$3** pays for a year's worth of essential vitamin and mineral supplements for a malnourished child

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