

Why is she smiling?



Because donor Karen Ohmans' gift to Mano a Mano is working triply hard. Each dollar she donates releases \$3 in matching funds from an anonymous donor. Every dollar for community based projects like schools and public baths releases another dollar. Put your money to work for Mano a Mano and you, too, can triple your investment in better health, education and prosperity for Bolivia.

Here's what your donation (plus matching funds) buys:

- Your \$500 purchases all fixtures for a community bath house.
- Your \$250 pays a nurse's salary for one month in one of our community clinics.
- Your \$100 pays for a week of a doctor's salary.

Send your tax-deductible gift to:

Mano a Mano, 774 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota Heights, MN 55118
Or call us at 651-457-3141 to learn about advanced giving opportunities.

Donate on line at www.manoamano.org. Click on "Donate"



Current Needs

If you can help with any of these pressing needs, please contact Mano a Mano at 651-457-3141.

Matching funds for clinic construction and water projects

Fetal monitors and ultrasounds

Wound care supplies (tape, gauze, bandages)

Gloves

Thank you!

Shop Mano!
Check www.manoamano.org for pictures of sample handcrafts for sale! A colorful tablecloth or a doll from Bolivia makes a perfect gift. You can also contribute to Mano a Mano online. Click on "Donate" to make a secure, tax deductible donation.

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Boletín

SUMMER 2006

OUR 11TH YEAR!

Mano a Mano Flies High, Saves Lives

Desperately ill patients get transport to treatment in our plane

Several times a week, Eugen Arvidsson steers a six seat, propeller plane out of a hangar near Cochabamba's main airport terminal. After a routine inspection by the airport's drug-sniffing dogs, a pair of be-draggled cocker spaniels, Eugen (or Eugenio, as the rugged Swede is known in Spanish) revs up the engine and heads off on yet another airborne mercy mission.

world, and has the world's longest runway, to accommodate the extra

to keep the plane level, especially if, as is often the case, he is ferrying a desperately ill patient.



Eugen Arvidsson: Challenging job for a veteran pilot.

It's exhilarating and often dangerous work for this veteran flyer, but he wouldn't trade his Cessna for a 747. As a volunteer pilot for Mano a Mano's Apoyo Aereo (Air Support), Eugenio faces challenges that most airplane pilots only dream (or have nightmares) about. "For one thing, the air is quite thin up at these high altitudes," Eugenio explains. "There's literally less resistance, which makes take-offs and landings difficult sometimes."

distance planes must taxi in order to slow down safely.

La Paz' runway is of course paved, and managed by professional traffic controllers. Runways that Eugenio lands on may be as high as the one in La Paz, but instead of paved tarmac, they are typically mown grass or dirt strips, mostly cleared of rocks. Often, cows or llamas must be shooed away before the plane can land. Winds can sometimes be violent, buffeting the little Cessna. Eugenio tries

where the doctors were able to stabilize her in the hospital and save the leg."

Apoyo Aereo plays a vital part in Mano a Mano's work to improve the health of Bolivians in the poorest parts of the country. By sending a light plane to transport grievously ill patients to a hospital that might otherwise be hours or even days away, Mano a Mano can support the work of its doctors, whose clinics are not equipped to

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About Our Work: Why and How

Mano a Mano Medical Resources is a non-sectarian 501c(3) non-profit organization with over 11 years' experience bringing health care into impoverished Bolivian communities. Mano a Mano, Spanish for "Hand in Hand," operates on principles of volunteerism, frugality, competence, accountability, empowerment, flexibility, respect and partnership with communities.

Our Mission

To create partnerships with impoverished Bolivian communities that improve health and increase economic well-being.

Our Core Strategies

- Obtain donations of needed medical supplies and equipment that are surplus in the US and ship them to Bolivia for distribution to non-profit health care programs that serve the poor.
- Partner with communities that have no access to health care to build, equip, operate and staff community health clinics.
- Empower community residents to manage their own clinics and related projects that meet local health, community development and educational needs.

For more information, to request a brochure, or to make a donation, please contact Mano a Mano's office at (651) 457-3141, or visit our web site at www.manoamano.org.

Goodwill Donations Keep Bolivians on Their Feet

Most Minnesotans think of their local Goodwill store as the place to pick up some bargains or drop off the remains of a garage sale. At Mano a Mano, however, Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota plays a vital part in the supply chain of surplus medical equipment that is sent to the poorest communities in Bolivia.

That critical link was recognized last year when Doug Erickson, Equipment Loan Assistant for Goodwill/Easter Seals was named Mano a Mano's Volunteer of the Year. (He received a free trip to California, courtesy of Northwest Airlines, which has also generously supported Mano a Mano over the years.)

Erickson oversees a program through which donated medical supplies like walkers, wheelchairs and commodes are cleaned, refurbished and loaned out to the public for several months, at no cost.



Doug Erickson, Mano's crutch and wheelchair connection at Goodwill.

It's a win-win program for Goodwill/Easter Seals, as it also provides occupational training for disabled workers.

But sometimes the piles of donated equipment exceed what Erickson can loan out, and that's when he calls Mano a Mano. "We get a lot of stuff, and some of it just isn't appropriate for our program," he explains. Those still-good aircastrs, wheelchairs, crutches and transfer boards are picked up by Mano a Mano volunteers about once a month.

"We are so appreciative of Doug's work on our behalf," comments Mano a Mano founder Segundo Velasquez, who's often loaded supplies donated via Erickson. "The least we could do is to give him an award." This year's Volunteer of the Year will be announced at the Mano a Mano annual picnic and celebration, scheduled for August 12.



Mano's plane on Bolivia's salt flats.

Mano a Mano Flies High, Continued from Page 1

handle complex emergency care. In the past three years, over 165 patients have been airlifted from remote villages to life-saving care. Several of those patients were women needing a Caesarian section in order to deliver their babies.

The flights go in two directions: sometimes Mano a Mano volunteer doctors and other health care staff board Eugenio's plane to spend a day or two providing care in remote and inaccessible villages. These "jornadas," or day-long clinics, are sometimes the only health care such villagers see in a year. People walk for many miles to be seen.

In these days of high fuel prices, flying a light plane is expensive, but Mano a Mano offsets some of the costs through donations, and also by using the Cessna to ferry businessmen or other non-profit staff to their destinations, for a fee. The Wagner Foundation funded the purchase of the aircraft, hanger and spare parts. The Lored Foundation provides funds for emergency airlift.

"About 10% of our flights at this point are for medical emergencies," explains Segundo Velasquez, President of Mano a Mano. "As the number of emergency flights increases and the plane is less available for income-generating flights, we'll have to come up with new ways to pay for the emergency airlifts. Rest assured, we will do that, since this is a

vital part of our mission!"

Eugenio worked alongside Mano a Mano for many years, as the chief pilot for Mision Sueca Libre, a Swedish missionary group in Bolivia. When the mission closed, he came on board at Mano a Mano full time. As the director and chief pilot of Apoyo Aereo, he flies for Mano a Mano at least four times a week.

Eugenio feels very positive about the work he does. "I came to Bolivia in the 70s when the Lord called me to serve my neighbor," he says. "Mano a Mano does an excellent job, and I am always so impressed at how efficiently run it is. I'm really happy to be flying with them."



Student Aid: University of Minnesota medical students are a busy bunch, but lately several of them have found time to help sort medical supplies. Med student Travis Olives, pictured here, coordinates the group. Travis will see where Mano supplies end up when he spends a month in Bolivia this summer, interviewing staff and patients in Mano clinics.

This Just In...

We've Got a New Director: Mano a Mano hired Dan Narr as its first Executive Director of US operations. Dan will begin working on July 31. He has a successful track record in fundraising for non-profits, has several years of experience directing volunteer programs, and worked previously in management of health care and equipment inventory. Here's what he said recently about his new job: "I am so excited to be coming on board, I wasn't able to sleep last night! Thank you for this opportunity."

Annual Picnic Is Aug. 12: Get ready for another fabulous Mano a Mano summer get-together on Sat., Aug. 12, 1-4:30 p.m.. Help celebrate a stellar year, with a Latin-themed picnic featuring creamy baked plantains, spicy beans and rice, and three different types of delicious tamales. Please consider bringing your favorite dessert to share. Invitations will be sent out separately but mark your calendar now!

Help Bolivian Babies: Beverly Bachman's grandchildren are all grown, so why is she still buying bags of infant clothes and stuffed toys at garage sales? The long-time Mano a Mano volunteer lovingly launders the bibs and onesies she buys, and wraps them in a ribbon, bound for delivery to a new mother in a Mano a Mano clinic. The gift bundles are a terrific boost to new moms, and serve as an incentive for them to visit the clinics for pre-and post-natal care. Other volunteers have recently joined this effort. Interested in helping create more of these layettes? Contact the Mano a Mano office, 651-457-3141 or at manoamanousa@manoamano.org