

The Rainforest Review

December 26, 2009

Preserving the rainforest, one child at a time.

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Oh, The Joys of Clean Water!



What a great year we've had with our mini-water treatment plants. So much donor support, community support and university support through our two resident grad students from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Christie Chatterley and David Sparkman.

Starting in April with our second plant in Irlanda (the first was Timicuro Grande in 2008) followed

by the first water workshop, we continued on down the list and completed water plants in Tamanco, Irlanda, Manco Capac, Palmeras II, and Llachapa. To say they've been well-received is an understatement. We are so excited each time we visit a village to see the kids and parents drinking clean water. When minor problems arise, Marcos quickly checks them out and finds the solution.

In December we did a final round of visits to all the water plants for testing and brief interviews with the women of the villages. We inquired as to their level of use and any barriers they had in regularly obtaining the clean water. Christie and David handled the testing and two students from the Universidad Nacional de Amazonia Peruana (UNAP) handled the interviews.

Later in the month, we completed our annual visits to all 75 communities in the Adopt-A-School program for our annual evaluation process which included a team of 18 people. Although not all our communities have access to clean drinking water, it was another opportunity to visit the villages that do have water treatment plants. We discussed with those communi-

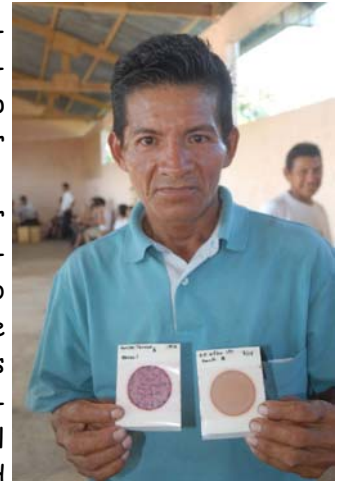


ties that don't have water plants, their level of interest. Overall it was quite high and the demand for clean drinking water in the outlying

villages is really on the increase. Looking for more water plant and water workshop donors will be a priority for CONAPAC in 2010!

I couldn't end the year or this article without giving sincere thanks and salutations to our donor partners who made the water treatment plants this year possible. For Tamanco, we had four individual donors who contributed \$1000 each: Susan Sigmon, Don Strumillo, Natalie Mroz and the DeBlieu Family, all of whom are from the States. International Expeditions, also from the USA and a regular tour partner with Explorama Lodges, generously underwrote the cost of water plants for Santa Teresa and Irlanda. And finally, our donor partner The SAGA Foundation, out of the UK, assisted CONAPAC with a large enough grant to build three water plants--Manco Capac, Palmeras II and Llachapa--plus the cost of seven, two-day community water workshops. This piece of education, about the importance of drinking only clean water, has been one of our most successful projects. We are proud to be able to offer both the water plant itself and the education tools with which the community members can improve the quality of their lives. Thank you, SAGA, for your support and recognition of the important work CONAPAC is doing in Amazon River rainforest basin!

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Thankful

As the year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the last eleven months. The Adopt-A-School program has introduced me to so many generous, well-traveled, fascinating people. Many of you I'll only ever know through emails and phone conversations, but I am thankful for everyone's support and passion for education and the conservation of the rainforest.

The first weekend of December I traveled to Reston, Virginia to attend an Alternative and Fair Trade Gift Market. I needed to use up some time off at work and what better way to use it than visit the Washington D.C. area during the holiday season.

Alternative gifts are a wonderful way to show your appreciation for someone. This market offers visitors the option to support the Adopt-A-School program by supporting a child's school supplies for a year. There are other projects that can be supported in countries around the world, such as reforestation, sheltering abandoned animals, and medical supplies. The weekend was wonderful, it was so good to put names with faces that until now I only knew through cyberspace.

I have noticed a growing trend of classrooms and schools supporting the Adopt-A-School program. Long-time supporters are introducing the concept to schools, where their children and grandchildren attend, and in their communities. While real-time communication is a tremendous challenge, there are many options for the students on both sides of the equator to have a meaningful partnership. If you know anyone who would be interested in bringing the rainforest into their curriculum or community, please contact me and I would be happy to help in any manner needed.

My sincere wishes for a very happy, healthy holiday season to each and every one of you and your families.

*By: Claire Lannoye
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Photo taken by B. Gornie, available as a postcard and poster for individual order. Please contact clannoye@dzs.org for more information if you are interested.

Current Funding Progress for the 2010 Adopt-A-School Delivery

In 2009, the Adopt-A-School program received \$112,000 from generous supporters, like you, to purchase and deliver school supplies to the rural villages along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. We're looking forward to another successful year with your continued help!

