



*A Quaker Response to Poverty*

# Quaker Bolivia Link

[www.qbl.org](http://www.qbl.org)

## QBL–US Board Annual Report for 2008

Dear Friends:

2008 was a year of growth and challenge for Quaker Bolivia Link. Fulfilling our goal of building sustainable projects in partnership with impoverished Bolivian communities, QBL staff worked on 20 projects, benefiting 760 families. Working with our colleagues at QBL-UK and QBL-Bolivia, we continued to focus on bringing water to parched villages on the Altiplano, in the form of irrigation and fresh drinking water; and on building low-cost adobe greenhouses.

An ongoing goal for QBL is empowering women in a male-dominated society. Two of our three Bolivian staff agronomists are women, and serve as role models to village women who may have little leadership experience. Local women are involved in planning, construction, and maintenance of our projects. This is a good start, but there is more to do. Our Bolivian staff developed a Five –Year Strategic Plan in 2008 which addresses the need to increase women’s leadership roles in QBL community projects.

2008 saw changes in the QBL office in La Paz. The first full audit of our QBL Bolivian financial statements and new accounting software will mean more efficient and effective financial and program management in the future. A growing staff – program director, three agronomists, and an accountant/administrator – moved to a larger office in December.

U.S. staff and volunteers increased our outreach program with newsletters, e-newsletters, an expanded website, and in-person presentations. Two study groups visited QBL sites in Bolivia this year.

However the economic downturn has affected QBL in several ways.

- higher prices of building materials and fuel raised project costs
- the decline of the value of the dollar impacted Bolivian operations
- total donations decreased 8% from 2007.

There were bright spots in the fundraising picture. Thanks to a generous donation of securities in 2006, in 2009 we will fund QBL at the same level as 2008. In addition, two hardworking volunteers wrote successful grant proposals that brought in \$13,300 from three foundations.

Though I am stepping down as Clerk of QBL-US, I will continue to serve on the Board. In addition I plan to travel again to Bolivia in 2009, along with other US and UK Board members and Robert Vincent, who coordinates our U.S. operations and Pattie Richmond who has a similar role in the UK. We will meet with the Bolivian Board and staff, and visit several communities with QBL-funded projects.

We enter 2009 full of hope that we can continue to make a difference in impoverished Bolivian communities. Your financial support makes this possible.

Sincerely,

Graham Johnson  
Clerk, Quaker Bolivia Link - US (2006-2008)



## QBL Projects in 2008

**QBL projects that were completed and in progress in 2008 will change the lives of 760 families:**

- Water supplies to 525 families, averaging \$210 per family.
- Greenhouses for 49 families, averaging \$533 per family.
- Other projects for 186 families, averaging \$298 per family.

### Projects which were completed in 2008

**Pallcapampa Water** – 17 families have been provided with access to clean water and training in hygiene and water use. As usual for such projects, we expect that one year after installing the water system the incidences of diarrhea will be reduced by 30% in children under five years old. Funded by QBL-US, \$2,289, with help from Rotary, total \$7,441.

**Sacasaca Water** – As a result of providing 30 families with access to clean water and training in hygiene and water use, one year after installing the water system the incidences of diarrhea will be reduced by 30% in children under five years old. QBL-US support: \$10,036.

**Matara Peaches** – 15 families in this remote community obtained 3,000 seedlings and training in care of the trees. As a result, there has been a 10% increase in family income due to the improved peach production. QBL-UK support: \$6,830.

**Kokotha Wells** – 40 families now have access to clean water and training in hygiene and water use. The wells will also reduce their time for collecting water by four hours per day per family! QBL-US support \$308, with Rotary, total \$8,269.

**Amacari Clinic Management** – This health clinic built by QBL is expected to cover 50% of the health needs of the community and to implement a Malnutrition Program by providing permanent medical and dental attention, laboratory work and nursing attention. The clinic will be 20% financially sustainable through municipal government payments and is seeking grants and medical staff from other organizations. QBL-UK support: \$4,900.

**Villa Puchuni Water** -- 34 families in Villa Puchini have been provided with safe drinking water piped to a tap outside their houses, and the families have been trained in appropriate hygiene habits, appropriate water use and water system maintenance. QBL-US support: \$9,523.

**Pajcha Peñas Greenhouses** -- 26 families in Pajcha Peñas have been provided with QBL greenhouses where they are cultivating vegetables and growing flowers for sale in local markets. They have received training about vegetable production and commercializing flowers. We're grateful to the Dickler Foundation of Boston for funding this project. QBL-US support: \$12,257.

**Masaya Greenhouses** -- All 23 families in Masaya now have a QBL greenhouse growing fresh healthy vegetables and strawberries, improving their nutrition, and all have been trained in vegetable production and strawberry commercialization, which will generate income for them. QBL-US support: \$13,868.

**Calacoto Chickens** -- The 22 families of the Calacoto community now each have chicken coops with 20 chickens. Their diets are expected to improve significantly as a result. QBL supplied building materials, chickens, seed and training to build and manage the chicken coops. QBL-UK support: \$7,283.

**Choquecoa Water** -- The quality of life will improve for the 45 families in this community since QBL provided direct access to water and trained the families in appropriate hygiene habits, appropriate water use and maintenance of their new water system. QBL-UK support: \$11,359.



**Chuchulaya Water** --112 families in Chuchulaya have drinking water piped to their houses and have been trained in hygiene and water usage. This village is particularly isolated in a remote valley of the eastern Andes. QBL-UK support: \$23,332

**Collpacanta Water** -- All 43 families in the remote village of Collpacanta now have access to clean drinking water. As with all our water projects QBL gave them a course in hygiene and dental care. The expectation is that one year after installing the water system the incidences of diarrhea will be reduced by 30% in children under five years as a result.  
QBL-UK support: \$13,691.

**Chaguaya Chickens** -- In the village of Chaguaya all 16 families have chicken coops and hens, for an improved diet of meat and eggs. QBL also provided chicken feed. The families have been trained in the productive and sustainable management of the hens.  
QBL-UK support: \$4,727

**Colquencha Water** -- We provided 161 families in the village of Colquencha with access to drinking water. We also offered training to the families in the maintenance of their system and in hygiene and water use. As a result, we expect that by one year after installation, the incidences of diarrhea will be reduced by 20% in children under five years old. QBL-UK support: \$14,235.

## Projects in progress at the end of 2008

**Khara Kota Trout** -- The 20 families involved will increase their income by selling rainbow trout in La Paz. They are expected to develop and implement guidelines for managing their fish farms and to learn about commercialization channels. A production plant for young fish will be built. QBL-UK support: \$10,736.

**Titicani Sehuencani Water** -- 43 families will have access to water and apply information that they have learned to improve their health. They will attend project workshops and will improve their habits concerning hygiene, health and water usage. They will be trained in the operation, administration and sustainability of the system. QBL-UK support: \$12,402

**Carabuco Tarwi** --The aim is to improve gross income for the 60 families involved by ten percent, by providing certified seed, applying the Pest Management Infestation program and developing a cooperative of producers. QBL-UK support: \$9,262

**Qhotia Camelids** --This project's aims for the 60 families involved: improve the genetic quality of their llama and alpaca herd through new breeding stock. Stabilize birth and mortality rates and increase fertility rates. Increase fiber production. Increase carcass weight.  
QBL-UK support: \$9,767

**Huancollo Irrigation** -- This community of 53 families will have a new irrigation system and receive training in the management and maintenance of the system. The expectation is that these families will be able to increase their agricultural production by 15% as a result.  
QBL-US support: \$16,118, with partner organization PRADERA.

**Evaluation of 2004-2005 Projects** -- We recognize the importance of evaluating projects implemented in earlier years, in order to learn from the past, improve the proposals that communities bring to QBL for consideration, and continuously improve the activities of Quaker Bolivia Link. This evaluation is co-financed with our QBL-UK office.  
QBL-US and QBL-UK support: \$3,923.10.



## Why Bolivia?

Sixty five percent of Bolivians are indigenous Andean people. They are poor and marginalized in their own country. They face many obstacles including poor soil, a short growing season and a lack of safe water for drinking and irrigation. There is widespread malnutrition.

The international community often overlooks Bolivia because its problems are not the result of natural disasters, violent conflict, or terrorism. The plight of the indigenous Bolivians remains largely ignored.

QBL funds projects are generated by these communities. We do not impose our ideas, but work with the populace to meet their self-defined goals. QBL provides skilled planning, supervised construction, maintenance and management training, and long-term evaluation.

### QBL-US Mission Statement

Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) is an international, non-sectarian development organization guided by Quaker principles and dedicated to reducing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. We fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects to secure food sources, promote better health, and generate income.

The following principles guide our actions:

- QBL works to raise awareness of Bolivian culture and society.
- QBL seeks to include men and women equally in the planning and leadership of projects.
- QBL does not fund projects that have a religious purpose and neither includes nor excludes communities because of their religious beliefs.

### Six reasons to support Quaker Bolivia Link

1. We respect the people in our project communities and include women in all phases of development. We listen, consult, and work as partners. QBL avoids western paternalism.
2. Our four university-trained technicians in La Paz are all native Bolivians. By working with QBL they are giving back to their people.
3. Every project is painstakingly assessed before it is submitted for financing. Donors can be confident that a QBL project is efficient and effective.
4. We monitor each project after completion. Our technicians periodically check on progress and address problems that may have arisen.
5. From time to time we work in partnership with other Bolivian organizations. We approve these projects before funding and monitor them carefully.
6. QBL projects do not create dependence on outside aid. They promote sustainability in communities by training people to fund, manage, and maintain QBL projects.



## Financial Summary for the Year Ending December 31, 2008

• **Total 2008 revenue:** \$ 92,987

- \$ 92,354 Contributions (1), (2)
  - \$76,154 from 312 individual donors, including
    - Securities donations of \$20,867
    - Rancho San Bernarndo Soroptimist Club gift of \$ 913
  - \$2,900 from 16 Quaker Meetings and Churches
  - \$13,300 from Foundation grants
    - Dickler Foundation \$9,300
    - Ghandian Foundation \$2,000
    - AMB Foundation \$2,000
- \$ 633 Other Net Income

**Functional Expenses:** \$136,985

- \$108,775 Program Services (2), (3)
- \$ 16,568 Support Services -- Management and General Activities
- \$ 11,642 Support Services -- Fundraising Activities (2)

**Net assets, End of Year:** \$171,885 (4), (5)

### Notes:

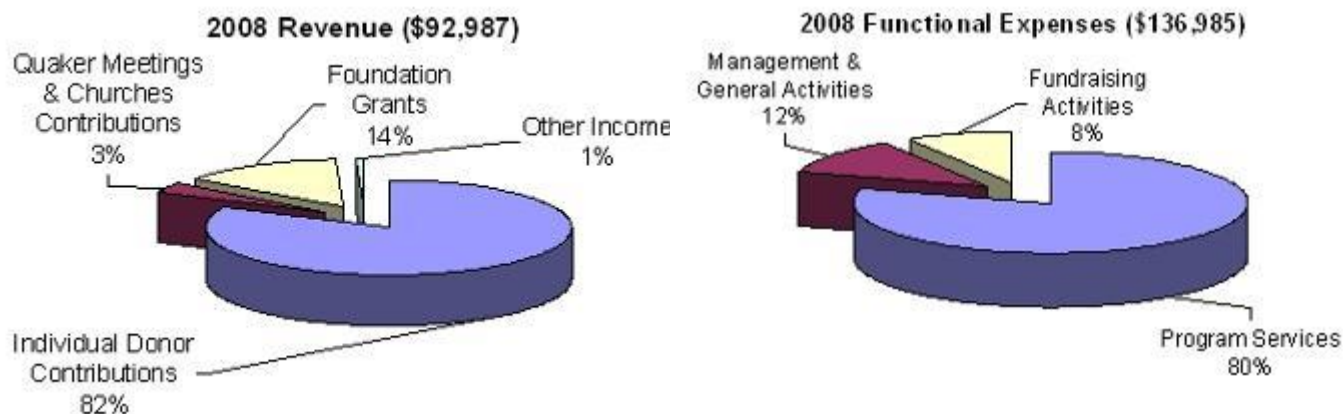
(1) Of contributions received in 2008, \$72,634 was unrestricted and \$19,720 was temporarily restricted.

(2) A QBL employee contributes his net salary as well as the employer's portion of health insurance to QBL. This contribution, which does not cover payroll taxes (employee and employer portions), is netted against expenses.

(3) Program Services include the following: Direct project costs in Bolivian communities (\$81,097), Administration of QBL-Bolivia (\$12,089), U.S project management of Bolivian projects (\$11,872), and U.S. awareness education (\$3,717).

(4) Of net assets at December 31, 2008, \$9,414 remains temporarily restricted and \$162,471 is unrestricted.

(5) Net assets were augmented significantly in 2006 as a result of a single donor making a generous gift of \$132,000, at which time the Board decided to expend this gift over subsequent years.



## Outreach

In 2008, news about QBL reached more people in 2008 than ever before.

- **QBL.org:** Our expanded website now includes regular updates on QBL activity, detailed information about individual projects, and the capacity to accept donations. We began sending e-newsletters to our supporters in 2008.
- **2008 Tours to Bolivia:** Fifteen California Rotary Club members visited QBL project sites in May. A Quaker Study Tour of British and American supporters visited in June.
- **QBL presentations:** Displays and talks were presented to many Quaker meetings and conferences during the year, as well as numerous community organizations.
- **Fundraising:** As we are all aware, we are in a worldwide financial crisis which began to affect us in the second half of the year. Charitable giving is arguably the first thing to suffer in an economic downturn. A sample of our supporters' novel fundraising approaches: • Santa Monica, CA Friends held a Fiesta Boliviana dinner, asking people to donate the price of a restaurant meal, and raised \$800 for QBL. • Two musically-gifted members of Mount Toby Friends Meeting (MA) gave a benefit concert that raised \$1,000 for QBL. • Chester OH Friends Meeting sponsored a Memorial Greenhouse Project to honor one of its members and raised money for *four* QBL greenhouses.

As we continue our work to help the indigenous poor in Bolivia, we ask you to help us invent new ways to spread the news about QBL. Colorful, informative posters and leaflets are available and our outreach director and other dedicated volunteers are available to give presentations. You, our loyal supporters, have made it possible for QBL to help thousands of Bolivians in the past dozen years, and we ask you to continue to be as generous as you can in these hard times.

### QBL-US Staff

**Robert Vincent** – Coordinator of Operations for QBL-US since 2002. Speaks fluent Spanish. Worked for three years in Lima, Peru with an international relief and development agency. Has attended Quaker Meetings since 2001. Currently lives in Peru.

**Ken Barratt** – Director of Outreach for QBL-US since 1998. Retired elementary school teacher. Worked five years with Amnesty International visiting victims of human rights abuses in Colombia and Ecuador. Joint founder of QBL in Britain in 1995. Moved to San Diego in 1998 and set up QBL-US. Has led eight groups to Bolivia to visit QBL project sites.

### QBL-US Board of Directors

**Patricia Close** (2008-present) Obstetrician/Gynecologist in Rye, NY and Greenwich, CT. Fluent in Spanish. Volunteer for Doctors of the Human Rights Clinics. Volunteered in 2007 at Amacari (Bolivia) Medical Clinic, a QBL Project. Board member of Project Hearts and Minds, 1994-2001. Attends Purchase NY Friends Meeting.

**Roger Conant** (2006-present) Retired electrical engineering professor at U of IL, Chicago and U of MA, Amherst. Webmaster for QBL. Participated in Quaker Study Tours to Bolivia, 1998 and 2006. Member of Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Leverett, MA. .

**Lois Hackney** (2004-present) Retired Elementary Teacher. Adjunct Education Professor, Wilmington College, OH. Presiding Clerk of Wilmington OH Yearly Meeting. Member of General Board of Friends United Meeting. Former member of the Quaker Hill Conference Center Board. Member of Chester Friends Meeting, Wilmington, OH.

**Tom Harvey** (2006-present) Retired owner of manufacturing business. Participated in 2005 Quaker Study Tour. Member of Sandy Spring MD Friends Meeting.

**Graham Johnson**, (2004 - present) QBL-US Clerk 2006-2008 Retired Federal Government financial manager and CPA. Former Board Member of Sandy Spring MD Friends School, and Board and Executive Committee of Friends Committee on National Legislation. Participated in 2004 Quaker Study Tour and 2006 Board visit to Bolivia. Speaks fluent Spanish. Member of Sandy Spring MD Friends Meeting.

**Dawn Kennedy** (2008-present) Business owner, providing lactation support and counseling. Studying theater, Spanish and psychology at U of MA, Amherst. Attends Mount Toby (MA) Friends Meeting where she teaches First Day School.

**Hans van der Noordaa** (2003-2008) Lecturer of physics at California State University, Fresno. Visited Bolivia several times, including the 2003 Quaker Study Tour. Co-author with Juan de Dios Yapita of *La Dinámica Aymara, conjugación de verbos*. Program committee member, Pan Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee. Member of Fresno CA Friends Meeting.

**Daniel Watson** (2004-present) Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia 1995-1997, working in Chuquisaca and Potosi on agricultural projects. Speaks fluent Spanish. Now employed by the City of Cincinnati OH as a tax accountant.

**Gretchen Woelfle, Recording Clerk** (2003-present) Award-winning children's author and teacher at UCLA Extension. Taught English in India and Micronesia. Participated in 2004 Quaker Study Tour to Bolivia. Attends Santa Monica, CA Friends Meeting.