

Diana Bowie and Renzo Peña
Miraflores, Lima, Peru

Favorite organization:

DB Peru, Inc. (501 c3 non-profit in USA)

ONG DB Peru (NGO in Peru)

Diana is President and Founder of both (Presidente)

Renzo is Vice President of both (VicePresidente)

Our primary mission is to improve health care access for the people in the communities in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest in Loreto.

Second favorite organization:

Hogar Asilo Resurreccion in Morropon, Peru

Our support to them is purely a labor of love. It is a small home for elderly poor, usually people in poor health with no family. It is a project of a nun from the Monasterio Paz de la Cruz in Morropon and they receive no church or government support. We had furniture built, brought them mattresses, fabric for sheets and towels, items for the garden and duck pen for their food, as well as clothing, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.

Our blessings/gifts come from seeing the people's response to our work and the improvement in their health. It makes all the work and occasional discomfort worth the effort.

Balancing demands from personal life with the work of the charity is not easy at times. Living apart from family is the most difficult issue. Sharing information and involving others who are close helps facilitate understanding of the work to be done.

(Diana) Inspiration for my path comes to me from trying to stay aware of things or people put in my path and what they might be telling or showing me. This is much more easy in Peru, but not easy at all in USA. If I seem to reach a stalling point, something will happen or someone will contact me and spur me on in a forward direction. Entiendes?

I have so many stories, but since I am in the business of health, I will share this one: I bring simple medicines to the people. I give them to a man called a promotor in each village - he is a lay health worker. We have been doing education for these men and they seem to respond. But sometimes I have wondered what information they retain and what they see as important.

One day when I was visiting a certain village, the promotor asked for a pair of scales - to weigh the children. I said of course, but what was his intent? He told me that he wanted to weigh the children so he could give the exact dosage of medicine to them since my instructions were dosages by weight. I was so pleased that a man without much health education would take this role of promotor so seriously, that he wanted to make sure that he did his best in calculating dosages. Then I knew that I was making an impact. This same village built a small medical hut, with no help or money from me, as a surprise to me. They couldnt wait until I showed up again to gain my approval of their labor for

their village. I was so touched that my efforts had caused them to make a positive change for their village.

These are simple stories, but tell a lot about the pride they now have about having some control (and seeing positive effects) over the health of their village. I guess we would call these baby steps.

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Other than my own and the asilo in Morropon, the only other one that I support is Heart to Heart International - www.hearttoheart.org. They help supply me with discount medicines and I have helped them with nursing manpower for the Katrina victims in New Orleans.

There is also a girls home in Lima for abused girls that we donate items to - Hogar de Acogida Caritas Felices. No web site. And we work with charities in US to help charities in Peru.