

# Peruvian Journal

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

On a personal note, we are in the middle of the school year and thought you might like to know what the four of us are doing. Sister Yuli is teaching the pre-school children in the Callao school, Santa Angela Merici. Towards the end of August, she gave a class regarding the Montessori Method of Teaching Children to grade-school teachers in Tarma (central Peru).

While Sister Carol was with her Ursuline community in Toledo, Ohio and visiting with family; the group of women practitioners who work with her in energy medicine in Carmen de la Legua, continue to bring this holistic approach of healing for the well-being of many patients.

Sister Sue continues to facilitate meetings for other religious communities, attended our own community meetings during Community Days in Louisville and visited with family and friends.

## Rehabilitation Center Is Curing the Cultural Stigma of Being Disabled

Presently in Peru, a nation-wide medical strike by the



Before Surgery



After Surgery

doctors and nurses is finally being resolved. This strike is very alarming at this time due to the outbreak of AH1N1 Flu, sometimes called the "Swine Flu." According to the Ministry of Health, there have been 32 deaths and 546 severe cases. Families are trying to take precautions against the further spreading of this illness,

especially for the children.

As I write my thoughts regarding the service of the Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Persons in San Miguel, Cajamarca, an eleven-year-old boy comes to my mind, and I have the urge to start with the words, "Once upon a time." Juan is a "walking success story with a smile on his face," and I must add that his mother now radiates more maturity and confidence in herself

as a person. How did this happen? With the help of a compassionate mayor in Peru, who made it possible for Juan to have the necessary surgery at Children's Hospital in Lima last summer. Yet this mayor and his understanding council did not do this alone. With the help of families and institutions INSIDE AND OUTSIDE of Peru, Juan's mother (who traveled to Lima for the first time) had funds for fares, lodging and meals, and even had the use of a new wheelchair to take Juan long distances as she accompanied her son in his surgery to remove the congenital tumor on



Three Language and Physical Therapists from Trujillo



One Physical Therapist from Lima

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his forehead. Formerly he needed assistance to stand and walk on his own. After therapy in Lima, he now moves about freely with encouragement from family and friends.

Of course, Juan and so many others, continue to need therapy (physical and language therapy as well as family counseling). The distance to Lima from Cajamarca is over 350 miles (rough travel over land). Trujillo, with a little less distance, is the nearest city to San Miguel that has the possibility of therapy. But both cities require much effort and funds for the families involved. Thus, the Support Group for Special Needs Individuals, with the help of many friends and organizations, are finishing the construction of second floor of The Rehabilitation Center for Special Needs Persons, so that the patients with their families will be able to have these therapies in San Miguel. The Group has had three Therapy Campaigns announced by radio to the people in the towns of the province of San Miguel for the patients and families of special needs individuals for physical and language therapy. In all three sessions, the response has been overwhelming. We now have the good fortune to have an official agreement with

the University Alas Peruanas, who are preparing to send students in their practicing years to our Center for Rehabilitation.

On August 8th and 9th of this year, two members of the professional team of La Clinica San Juan de Dios,

Lima (under the supervision of Brother William Pintado Saavedra of the congregation Hermanos Hospitalarios) came to San Miguel for meetings with the Support Group.



*Three Physical Therapists from the University "Alas Peruanas" Trujillo (a supervisor and two students)*

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Brother gave orientation and suggestions regarding the Rehabilitation Center and its best service to the people of the province. He also met with the families of the special needs persons and older patients in order that they could express their needs and opinions as well.

## Soup Kitchen

The parish soup kitchen for school children in San Miguel is functioning very well, thanks to the enthusiasm of pastor Padre Juan Ruiz Peña; the mothers who cook; the volunteers who graciously help each day; the 115 students who participate; and of course the many good people who help to financially support this Corporate Work of Mercy for needy families. From Monday through Friday grade school and some high school students enjoy a hot meal between 11.30 am for the smaller children and 1.30 pm for the older students. Many of our visitors smile as they see the students making the Sign of the Cross and praying the prayers before

and after meals. The “charge” for their meal each day is a piece of firewood, so that the six mothers on the team that week are able to cook the meal.

As I close this article I am reminded of a small phrase in our Book of Celebrations for the rural catechists: Jesus simply “walked through this life doing good.” This is what we all try to do.

Our prayers join yours always,  
*Sue, Kathy, Yuli and Carol*



## Support is a Parish Thing!

For the past 4 years, parishioners of St. Agnes Parish in Louisville, KY, have supported the Center for Rehabilitation for Handicapped Persons as part of their outreach efforts. The funds granted keep pushing the project forward to benefit the poor and marginalized.

“The goal of the St. Agnes Outreach Committee is to reach out with our stewardship gifts to support those groups working to help the less fortunate. The Rehabilitation Center in San Miguel is a wonderful example of the Ursuline Sisters’ seeing a need and addressing it. In reaching out to those least able to help themselves, the Center serves the whole community. We are happy to share in this ministry.”

*Anne Sansbury  
Chair, St. Agnes Parish Outreach Committee*



*The Rehabilitation Center with second floor addition started*