



May 2015

## High water – a theme throughout our 5 trips this year!



### Greetings to all,

Our year has started with some very amazing work with some very amazing volunteers. We would like to recognize that everything that we have accomplished has been with people who have generously given of their time and talents to be with us to help improve the health conditions for the people of the lower Napo River.

Since February we have had 67 volunteers on our 5 jungle trips - from Australia, England, USA, Peru and Canada, with another 10 volunteers working on project work in Lima - all working in some of the highest river waters we have seen for years (not in Lima). A huge thank you to each one!

We would also like to recognize the young professionals with us who have been completing internships and clinical rotations. All participated in teaching our health worker class in April - 20 health promotors attended from 18 villages in this 2-day class. In addition they all were surveyors in our Women's Project.

- Adam Pearce, University of Warwick Medical School, England and Laura Frost, environmental consultant on climate change
- Rachael McGrath, Sean Bulstrode, Ashley Burge of Leicester Medical School, England
- Amy Pape, Heather Leck, Devon Johnson, Christina Nocito, Erin Kinney, Robyn Mohr with instructor Pam Chandler of Denver School of Nursing, Denver, CO
- Chris Upton MD and Sara Warzecki MD with Huy Li, MD who have just completed their residencies in Family Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, CO

## “Caring for the teeth”



Kindness in Action was back again this year with 2 great groups of dental professionals. They performed cleanings, restorations and extractions, as well as education with toothbrushes in 8 villages. They set up in a new village every day so patients would not have to travel to them.

Our new dental chair was purchased with a grant from the diplomatic organization ACDAP in Lima. Although not a portable chair, it was light-weight enough for us to transport it for the dentists from KIA to use, which they said was quite an improvement over small tables.

And a big thank you to the daughter of Lucrecia Forsythe in Lima for her creative idea for her birthday party. She asked that her friends bring toothbrushes and toothpaste instead of gifts, to donate to DB Peru for the children in the jungle. The biggest surprise?

She collected over **800 toothbrushes**. They were distributed in 15 villages, with some left over for our next trips.

**Like to Volunteer? Check [www.dbperuong.com](http://www.dbperuong.com) for Sept. and Oct.**

## **“Sometimes healthcare is not enough”**

Due to high waters as early as February this year, many villages in the islands of the river have been underwater for months, as well as their farms. Crops are rotting and the people literally have only fish and bananas to eat – with fish being more difficult to catch in high water. For the first time in the 13 years that we have been working in this area, we took up a collection from the volunteers for food. With the help of Pam Bucor and the Explorama Lodges cargo boats to transport the rice to us, we delivered five 50-kilo bags of rice to 2 villages in dire need.

In addition, many volunteers bought vitamins to donate. In total we had more than 10,000 tablets of multiple vitamins that were distributed as a month’s supply to every adult and child who presented at our clinics.



## **Our lodge in San Pedro – “Home away from home”**

Due to fundraising from our board in the USA, we have been able to remodel and stock the lodge to accommodate 12 people, using local labor from the village. In April the research group for the Women’s Project was able to stay comfortably, although without a water pump, they were quite good sports about bathing in basins or the river. Our dental chair will reside in one of the rooms, and we hope to use the lodge for educational classes, and promote our fish farm and chicken houses.



**Our Women's Project**  
***The Amazon Community-Based Participation***  
***Cervical Cancer Screen and Treat – ABCS Project***



For the first phase of our formal project, in April, a group of 10 researchers – 5 physicians, 4 medical students and an environmental consultant collected data in 6 villages on demographics, general health, and women's health. This hard-working group of volunteers completed surveys with 119 women. This project has been well-received overall, and many women welcomed the opportunity to discuss health issues with the volunteers.

Dr. Geordan Shannon will be presenting once again in an international conference in June. We have been invited by the National Institutes of Health in USA to speak at their conference - 2015 International Cancer Screening Network (ICSN) in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

In July we will have in-depth educational sessions in these same villages about cervical cancer and HPV. This trip is closed.

In October we will begin the clinical work of screening and treatment for cervical cancer in the villages, with vaccinations for girls for HPV. Volunteers are welcome to contact us at [dbperuong@aol.com](mailto:dbperuong@aol.com).



We are quite proud to announce the receipt of a grant of \$49,162 for this project from Dining for Women. On behalf of the women of the lower Napo River villages, we thank them for helping to make this project a reality.

## Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual DB Peru Gala August 29

Save the Date for a wonderful evening of food, music and dancing with an Egyptian flair. We want to thank Ambassador Ahmad Salama and Mrs. Iman Shoukry for opening up their home for our event. Please join us for an evening of celebration.

Details on website [www.dbperuong.com](http://www.dbperuong.com) and in a future invitation announcement.



### Special recognition and thanks

**The Guardian newspaper (London) and reporter Ann Morgan** – for publishing an interview with Diana Bowie *Before you travel: pointers for new NGOs* – Knowledge of local legal systems, customs, and security risks are indispensable for NGOs planning to operate in developing countries. April 9, 2015

**Peru Ethnic Alpaca Factory** in Lima – DB Peru was the recipient of 10% the proceeds of their outing April 25. Amy Powell and Ned Riley represented DB Peru at the event. Besides a tour of the factory and discounted prices on alpaca clothing, there were shows of traditional Peruvian dancing and the horses Caballo de Paso.

**St. Isidore's Catholic Church** in Michigan– we have received a grant for our project *Amazon Outreach: Infant Wellness & Maternal Health*. We have received numerous grants from them for many years for vaccinations, midwife classes, and equipment for a local clinic.

**The First Christian Church in Geary, OK** – we have received continuous annual support from this generous congregation for many years.

**Photographer Karl Ault and Wim Bouden, and DB Peru Director Sharon Blackburn** - for their amazing photography in this newsletter and in our publicity.

**Lauris Burns** – for her brilliant management of Facebook DBPERU ORG [www.facebook.com/dbperuong](http://www.facebook.com/dbperuong) and Twitter@DBPeruONG, in addition to our gmail account [reservasdbperu@gmail.com](mailto:reservasdbperu@gmail.com).