



## DEAR DONORS,

A lot of great things have happened in the past 6 months. The Niños projects in Cusco are developing at a fast pace. Meanwhile, my two 'right hands' Yoryet and Alfredo are well oriented in their new positions. Under their wings, a group of well-motivated employees are doing great work for our foundation. I am very grateful for their support, as this gives me more time to thoroughly analyze our Niños mission as well as to think about new steps for the future of Niños. From the first moment, our goal

ted, on their shoulders. They have to take care of their younger brothers and sisters and make sure that their little bellies are full at the end of the day. They constantly have to be on guard for humiliation and violence, which, unfortunately, they can not always avoid. When school time starts, they have to obey the strict school rules, which are only focused on obeying and performing. In other words, the children in our program are not naturally familiar with the playfulness that is normally a regular part of being a child. As a result, they develop a blockage of this behavior, which leads to a repeating cycle of neglect when they become parents

freedom during their own youth. Playing and moving around in a safe and free environment has always been an essential part of our activities and will remain an important focus for the future.

Via the online newsletter that we sent last September, you could read about our new painting project that we started last October. Maybe you have followed the virtual journey and enjoyed the daily mailings about the paintings of our children. For those of you who didn't have the chance to follow the project in October, we will give a short update on this project in this newsletter. I am very proud that Dutch artist Lies Goemans has traveled all the way to Cusco to work with 80 young children and 6 motivated youngsters, giving them the opportunity to find joy in drawing and exploring their creativity.

Our youth program runs successfully as well. The youngsters enjoy their own 'home' and the chance to stay under the safe wings of the Niños project until they reach their eighteenth birthday.

Board member Karen van Holst Pellekaan has visited Niños in October for three weeks and gives a personal review of her trip and her experience at Niños in this newsletter.

After 19 years, I am still eternally grateful for your endless support and dedication. Next year we reach our 20-year anniversary. Needless to say, we will celebrate this in style. How and when will remain a little secret for now.

I wish you happy reading. And a wonderful Christmas and start of 2016! Best regards and wishes from Cusco, where we enjoy our start of the summer..

*Jolanda van den Berg*



was to create a space for poor and neglected children, a safe harbor where they can be children again. The act of playing has an important role in the development of every human being. Our children don't have this luxury and become adults before they have been a child. To survive in their harsh environment, they have to act like a grown up from a very young age. Each day they carry the life, that they have involuntary inheri-

of their own children. Niños hopes to break this cycle by offering a safe shelter, where children can play unhindered and free.

Fortunately, we have achieved great success with this contribution over the last 20 years; our children from 'the first hour' often have children of their own now. They allow their children to play, because they experienced themselves how important it is to have this

# THE NEW PAINTING PROJECT

It had been a long-running wish of Jolanda to provide a chance for our children to learn how to paint. She didn't want to provide technical lessons, but rather wanted to focus on the realization of each child's natural talent and creativity. To set up a pilot project, Jolanda invited artist Lies Goemans to come to Cusco. The objective was to also create a plan for a long-term painting project with a local artist and teacher. The pilot project took place in October, and provided creative lessons for 80 young children of the age of 6 to 12 years and 6 motivated youngsters. To have a quiet and peaceful working space, they changed the judo space into an atelier. It became a space that would make many artists jealous: the atelier had a view on the top of the Andes' mountains, the light was perfect, and there was plenty of space to work 'big'.

Children in Cusco rarely get painting classes in their schools. Their regular classes are limited to coloring Disney figures. Jolanda's wish was to give the children the opportunity to break free from this traditional way of teaching painting. Lies turned out to be the ideal teacher for this mission: her own work is expressive, colorful and free. She knew how to stimulate the children to draw and paint as free as possible. The motto for her classes was: 'everything is good, there is no competition, and nobody is the best. What you create comes from within and therefore can never be wrong.'

To let the children have a feeling of being a real artist, Jolanda and Lies bought real



acrylic paint, good brushes, drawing paper, and one real canvas for each child. In particular, the canvas ignited real excitement within the children.

Niños could afford all of these materials because of the contribution of a group of donors, who virtually traveled with us throughout this project. They received a daily mail with a short story and photos from the children and their paintings. Lies received enthusiastic responses and appreciation for her morning mailings throughout the whole month.

The children all had three classes of two hours long. In the first class they were asked to draw a fantasy animal on a big paper. To



start this class they imagined the look of the fantasy animal during a meditation session. After some sketching with pencils and charcoal, they were allowed to start drawing with paint. The assignment was to use the whole paper for the drawing, to create an animal that does not exist, and to use as many colors as possible. It led to genius art! During the second class, the object was to create a portrait. Lies explained shortly how a face is proportioned and assigned the group to work in pairs and study each other's faces. That led of course to a lot of

giggling, but also to beautiful first steps on the path of a real portrait painter. After this assignment, they were asked to draw a face of someone they found very special. Another option was to use a painting from a famous artist, like Miró or Picasso, who were known to not take reality too seriously. It was amazing to see how some of the children interpreted the work of these artists. It led to paintings that many of you would want to have on your walls!



## THE TUTORAS AS WELL..

The children were so enthusiastic about the painting project, that they ignited the same enthusiasm within the tutoras (tutors). Of course the tutoras were eager to do a class with Lies as well. So we spontaneously decided to provide a canvas to each of the 22 tutoras, on which they created a free art work. They were very excited when they heard that they were allowed to take the canvas back home.

Unfortunately, Lies returned to the Netherlands at the end of October. The pilot painting project had turned out fantastically. And we are happy to announce that we found a Peruvian successor for Lies, who will provide these creative lessons from now on. Of course we will keep you updated about this project in our next newsletter.



# VISIT TO CUSCO

From our board member  
Karen van Holst Pellekaan

I visit Cusco on a regular basis. Not only because I am a board member of the foundation, but also because Jolanda is a good friend of mine. My last trip to Peru was in



the beginning of 2014. Every time I visit the Niños project, I am overwhelmed by how much is being realized in such a short period. The Niños building at the Calle Fierro has changed the most recently. Here, I was thrilled seeing the beautiful interior of the youth house. As you might know, a long cherished wish of everyone was to create a shelter at Niños for children between 12 and 18 years, next to the young children's program. Not long ago, we didn't have an extra space for this group. In 2013 we changed our plans and our dream of a youth house finally became reality. The youngsters have a beautiful space all for themselves now. The cozy interior has intimate little areas, where the youngsters can do their homework, enjoy their meal or simply relax. All the furniture is made of weathered wood, and coated with authentic Peruvian cloth. A staircase leads to the computer room, which provides 8 computers for computer classes. As I was walking around in the youth house,



I immediately felt a positive and open atmosphere. The youngsters were laughing and seemed very much at ease. There was no 'sitting up straight' because a Dutch woman was visiting.

On the roof of the same building, Jolanda decided to create a special space, where the weekly circle conversations are taking place. During these conversations, each child has the chance to speak about his or her concerns and wishes, which leads to openness and mutual respect. As you might know, the children love to be part of this ritual and participate voluntarily. The new space is beautiful, with a view on the Andes Mountains all around. The lovely room only contains twenty little pillows for the children to sit on. Simple and calming.



I also participated in the painting project, which I enjoyed very much. It is heartwarming to see how the children, and especially the very little ones, lose themselves in their creations. They are all in the moment. By doing so they can forget their misery for a while and see how a colorful new life is being created with their own hands. In my opinion, every child should experience the-



se moments!

I also visited the Niños Atelier, and I was overwhelmed how professional everything was organized. I encountered professional sewing machines, piles of beautiful, recycled cloth and the people I met were working with great competence and knowledge. It was great to see that through this atelier a group of Peruvians gained a new job. The products from the atelier are being sold in the hotels and in our international webshop. For the winter, they also produce warm training suits for all children from the Niños program. This turned out to be much cheaper and provides a better quality than the training suits they were buying externally.

I have to say that my visit was again very inspirational. The atmosphere of the Niños projects is warm and loving; the children constantly call me and jump on my neck, after which they showered me with many hugs and kisses.

I am completely recharged after my three weeks in Cusco. Again I realize how happy I am to be a board member of this program, and why the Niños projects are so important: the fact that so many children have a safe shelter, in which they get an opportunity to be a child again and develop themselves on their own pace, is really unique!

*"Lach, speel, geniet en leef!"*



## DENTIST

Thanks to a generous gift from the Netherlands all children can visit the dentist again. Of course this is not their favorite hobby, but we all know how important this is. We are very thankful for this help!



## UNIQUE PRESENTS FOR THE WINTER!

The holidays are approaching. We would like to remind you that we have beautiful bags, scarfs, plaids and pillows for sale in our webshop. All products are handmade in our Niños Atelier (see the article 'Visit to Cusco'). The authentic Peruvian cloths are colorful, soft and unique in pattern and style. The scarfs and plaids are from soft Alpaca wool. The Niños products are great gifts during the dark and cold winter days!

Visit: [webshop.stichtingninos.com](http://webshop.stichtingninos.com)



## GOODBYE TO JAN TOPS



Jan Tops, donor from the first hour and a board member for some years, always had a warm heart for Niños. With his altruistic personality he was a great help for the foundation. Per January 1st 2016, Jan will step back from his position. We are very thankful for all he has done for Niños and wish him all the best.



## MESSAGES FROM OUR SECRETARIAT

### DIRECT DEBIT

More than 1200 donors have authorized us to automatically cash their donation. This is for you as well as for us an easy way to pay your contribution and it saves us a lot of administrative work. Many others transfer the money themselves straight to our bank account. If you should wish to have your contribution sent to us automatically, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: [info@stichtingninos.com](mailto:info@stichtingninos.com). We will send you the necessary form.

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