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Eleanore's Project, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit private operating foundation.

Welcome!

Eleanore's Project is now in its fourth year; in some ways it seems only yesterday we began, but by other measures we are far ahead of where we started in 2004. This summer we completed our second expedition to Jordan in June/July - in this issue read about Rosanne Rechlin's

experience with a little boy named Souhaib. We also traveled to Peru in August to present at the 3rd International AAC Conference - Latin America; while in Peru we met with several partners and visited new programs (read on for more details). Both trips gave us insights into ways

that we might contribute to improving the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families in Peru and Jordan as we enter 2008. We appreciate the encouragement of all those friends who choose to support us in these endeavors.

~ Tamara

Rosanne Rechlin Shares About Jordan Expedition



After participating in projects such as the Peace Corps and Eleanore's project, I am asked, "Was it worth it?" or "Did you make a difference?" You

decide. Souhaib is a 9 year old young man who came to see us in Irbid, the last stop of our venture. Souhaib arrived in a pram with a broken wheel. Because Souhaib was really too long for the carriage, he was in the pram with

his legs in tailor style. Mom, who was not much bigger than Souhaib was quite skillful at transferring and positioning him.

Lying in the pram, Souhaib was quite lethargic and uninvolved with the world. Uninvolved that is,

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3rd International Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference - Latin America

Tamara and Rick traveled to Lima on August 15, the day after Peru was struck with a major earthquake that devastated the area around Pisco and Ica. Hundreds died and thousands were left

homeless. In Lima there was some structural damage, but other than a few fatalities related to shock the population was unscathed. In Cusco the tremors were mild and caused no damage. Do-

nation sites sprang up overnight in plazas around Lima and Cusco as Peruvians donated relief supplies to those in the disaster area. In one of the poorest communi-

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Who Are We?

Eleanore's Project, Inc. began in 2004 in memory of Eleanore Kittelson-Aldred as a legacy from her family.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families, through provision of mobility equipment, education

and related activities in collaboration with like-minded organizations in the U.S. and other countries.

Expedition Updates

Jordan Expedition

Our second expedition to Jordan was rewarding, although customs delays required significant re-scheduling. We traveled to 6 communities after teaching a one day workshop in Amman to 25 occupational and physical therapists from around the country. A number were returnees from last year and several volunteered to work with us in settings other than their own, to gain experience and provide future follow-up. By the end of the expedition we assessed and fitted about 120 children and 35 adults, and left 40 more chairs in the hands of our OT/PT colleagues for fitting.

Next year's agenda will include a

training seminar for community based rehabilitation (CBR) workers, at the request of therapists and the National Institute for Community Based Rehabilitation. CBR workers generally see children in villages much more frequently than OTs or PTs. By giving them basic training in positioning principles, wheelchair adjustment and troubleshooting, we will be able to promote more practical long-term follow-up for kids served by Eleanore's Project.

Our wonderful team consisted of Arwen, Carolyn Kelly (OT), Eva Ma (OT), Larry (PT) and Rosanne (RN) Rechlin, Tamara (OT), Rick, Richard Parnell (tech), Rizan Al-

Kurdi and Robert Kelly (tech). An essential member of the team was our bus driver, Abu Hamd, who quickly developed wonderful skill as a tech and was a great help in teaching parents how to transport and use their children's wheelchairs. We are also grateful for our many Jordanian partners, especially Aya Centre for Special Education (sponsor for our seminar) and the Hashemite Society. Finally, special thanks go to Norma Shalhoub of the Amman Lions Club, for her tireless efforts on behalf of Eleanore's Project.

Upcoming Events

Our **3rd Joyous Party** will occur on December 7, 2007 from 4-7:30 PM at A Carousel for Missoula. It will be a fun event for all ages, with holiday refreshments and carousel rides, pictures with Santa Claus, displays and slideshows of our work in the past year and opportunities to help sponsor wheelchairs for children who are waiting. **This year all funds raised from the Joyous Party are earmarked for Peru in light of the August earthquake, since we will be working in the area that was most affected.** If you live in the Missoula area, please join us!

Peru 2008

Our next trip to Peru is planned for March 5-19. We will work in Cusco, Lima and the Ica area, holding wheelchair clinics in all three regions. A wheelchair seating seminar will be held at Yancana Huasy in Lima. Several team members from March 2007 plan to return, which makes us very happy.

Jordan 2008

Our next expedition is in the works, with our Jordan coordinator Rizan Al-Kurdi, colleagues in different communities and Peace Corps volunteers taking referrals for children we will see next summer. We will be collaborating with the Hashemite Society for Soldiers with Special Needs, our new partner. They have agreed to be our customs consignee for shipments into Jordan and will help us in other ways. As part of this arrangement we will provide 20 wheelchairs for their disabled veterans and police officers.

Thank you from Hogar La Paz

Many thanks to all those who were generous in donating to our tool

project in the summer. Thanks to funds and tools donated, we supplied the therapists at Mother Teresa's home in Lima with hand and power tools to adjust, repair

and maintain wheelchairs belonging to their children. Juan (PT) and Ruth (OT) were excited to receive these gifts and will put the tools to good use!

Do you want to hear from us again?

We know that our cause may not be your cause. We want to send this newsletter only to those who want to receive it. Please tell us if you want your name removed from our list – we will not be offended! Call us at 406-370-4717 or email us at info@eleanoresproject.org if you wish to be removed, or use the form on the reverse of this page to indicate your mailing preference. Thank you!

(Rosanne Shares, continued from page 1) unless his uncle appeared. With the sight of his uncle, Souhaib got the biggest grin on his face and his eyes with eyelashes that would not stop twinkled. They had non-verbal communication between them that was clearly from the heart.

Souhaib was fitted in a wheelchair which provided him an opportunity to see the world from a vertical position. His neck muscles were so weakened from non-use; he had difficulty holding his head up. Although Mom's natural inclination was to raise her son's head,

we explained to her that it would be better to allow Souhaib to lift his head himself, and when he was interested in his surroundings, he would raise his head and look. Mom and Uncle very gratefully left with Souhaib. Surely Mom's life would be easier having a working chair that fit Souhaib.

We were fortunate to see Souhaib the next day. There was Souhaib, with those long beautiful eyelashes and sparking eyes looking at the world straight on. He held his head up the entire time that I saw him, and appeared to be inter-

ested and attempting to engage in his surroundings. Souhaib reflected the essence of Eleanore's project.

My personal goal in life is to transform the world one relationship at a time. Did I participate in transforming the life of Souhaib, I think so, I hope so. But the greatest consequence of my participation in Eleanore's project was that in witnessing such change, I too was transformed.

~ Rosanne Rechlin, RN

(3rd Annual, Continued from page 1) ties we saw donations of used clothing. A friend in Lima was proud to tell us that this was the first Peruvian disaster in which relief efforts from fellow Peruvians began before any outside aid arrived.

We spent most of our time in Cusco, with four days in Lima to attend meetings and see friends. We met with Dr. Roberto Tarazona, medical director of Caritas del Peru, and agreed to work together in the future. This means that Caritas will be our customs consignee for shipments and will help us in other ways. As part of this arrangement Dr. Tarazona requested our help in another needy area of Peru, Ica Department (a state or province) which includes Ica, Pisco and Nazca and was the epicenter of the August earthquake. We agreed to hold a wheelchair seating clinic in Nazca for 25 children in March

2008. We also visited Casita de Caridad, Hellen Keller Foundation, La Alegría en el Señor, Yancana Huasy and the Wheelchair Project. Our March educational seminar will take place at Yancana Huasy, and the Wheelchair Project has offered to collaborate with planning and organization.

The AAC conference was sponsored by Equip KIDS and was a wonderful experience. We renewed friendships from 2005, and met new people from different countries. Our presentations included a conference session on "Postural Stability as the Foundation for Communication and other Functional Activities", a demonstration workshop on seating and positioning, a family workshop called "A Communication System for Eleanore: One Family's Journey" and a poster demonstrating functional outcomes following seating interventions with children in Peru and

Jordan. Conversations with fellow presenters and our partners at Equip KIDS led to new ideas about promoting alternative communication options for non-speaking children at our wheelchair clinics, and a focus on the crucial role of wheelchairs with proper seating in opening doors of opportunity and social change for children with disabilities.

We spent much of our time in Peru with Ceri (OT), who has continued on as a volunteer in Peru since last March. She assisted with a workshop at the conference, has assessed a number of children on the list for our next clinics, and mentored therapists at two sites in Lima. Ceri will return home to Wales for Christmas, but is hoping to fly out to Peru again in March to be part of our Peru 2008 team. We are grateful for her amazing skills and hard work!

Our Spending Policy

100% of all donations made to Eleanore's Project are spent on direct services for children in Peru and Jordan unless designated otherwise. Donors may stipulate their

support for work in Peru or in Jordan; if there is no designation the funds will be spent where most needed. No donations are ever spent for operating expenses unless designated for that purpose.

We want you to know that your donations will be spent where they will count in the lives of children with disabilities and their families.

Faces from Jordan

As ever, Eleanore's Project is so grateful to our friends and supporters who made the March expedition possible. We love to share stories and smiles from our travels!



Souhaib, mentioned in Rosanne's article, before (below) and after (left) receiving his new wheelchair. Proper seating makes such a huge difference in a child's life!



Top right: Yousef and Carolyn, who spent most of a day creating his very special seating system.

Middle right: Amal exploring on his own in his first wheelchair!



Below: Rahma, her twin sister and Robert smile for the camera!



"The world is full of suffering and full of the overcoming of it."

~Helen Keller

These children and many others in Peru and Jordan received rehabilitation services through Eleanore's Project wheelchair clinics in 2007. Many of them are sitting up, leaving their houses and even going to school for the first time. Their families were trained in proper positioning to enhance the children's growth and development, as well as basic wheelchair maintenance and adjustments. Professionals working with the children attended Eleanore's Project seminars on wheelchair seating, mobility and related rehabilitation topics, and they worked with our volunteer teams gaining skills to provide follow-up as the children grow.

Your support helped make all these activities possible in the past year. As the year end approaches, please remember these children and the thousands like them who lack rehabilitation services and equipment and need your support.



Your gifts to Eleanore's Project transform lives. 100% of all donations (unless otherwise designated) are spent on direct services for children and their families.



Thank you



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Yes! Keep me informed about what's new with Eleanore's Project by sending me newsletters!

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Please tell me how I can become a monthly donor.

I cannot make a monetary donation now, but please tell me other ways I can be involved!

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