



Greetings from Eleanore's Project! As 2014 begins we are pleased to review last year's work, and we are excited to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Eleanore's Project! It is hard to believe that we are at the ten year mark this year. Those ten years have led us to many places and wonderful people who, like us, share a goal of improving the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families. Here is what we did in the last year:

March 2013 found us in Lima and Arequipa, Peru, working with our colleagues at Yancana Huasy and Equip KIDS. There was lots of extra therapy and rehabilitation equipment to share, as we sent two 40-foot shipping containers filled to the brim with great stuff. It was fun to be able to fulfill specific needs for things like patient lifts and special mattresses for people with pressure sores – things we do not usually have access to or room to ship. While in Lima we taught a one-day workshop on 24-hour postural care and basic wheelchair positioning to therapists at the National Children's Hospital, in addition to demonstration wheelchair clinics for 7 days in Lima and 5 days in Arequipa.

All year round we collect outgrown and no longer needed wheelchairs and similar equipment in western Montana. When the collection is large enough, Hope Haven International Ministries arranges a truck to pick up the equipment and transport it to South Dakota where inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary and community volunteers with Hope Haven International Ministries refurbish it. Wonderful volunteers in the greater Boston area are now collecting equipment there on behalf of Eleanore's Project to augment our efforts. Our partnership with Hope Haven gives us a discount on the price we pay for the wheelchairs we send to Peru, while giving new life to used (but very usable) equipment and fortunate new owners in less resourced parts of the world.

In June 2013 the second South American Seating Symposium took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina – and for the second time, Eleanore's Project sponsored the attendance of Chris Ventura, occupational therapist at Yancana Huasy. Chris' enthusiasm for what she learned is contagious, and her gift for implementing and sharing information with her colleagues makes this a great investment in the future.

For the past year, Eleanore's Project has been involved in a partnership to explore designs for a project we're calling **the Canto Grande Stroller**. It is still in the design and planning stages, but we hope to have more news to share about it in the coming year. Our hope is to meet an identified need of families in Lima for a supportive but lightweight, compact and easy-to-fold stroller.

This banner welcomed us to Yancana Huasy in March 2013!



The children and youth who attend our demonstration clinics do well in the wheelchairs fitted for them, but there is still a big problem: public transportation. While the wheelchairs excel at supporting posture and providing mobility in homes and schools, it is often another story when parents must take a child to a medical appointment or other outing. Buses and taxis tend to drive right by individuals with wheelchairs because they are too bulky; even if they fold, it takes too much time. Imagine waiting as public transportation passes you by time after time. We have watched it happen, and admired the fortitude of people who just keep waiting and persevering. We hope that our stroller design will enable even more opportunities for wheelchair users to be out and about in their communities.

2014 promises good things:

- Our **Peru expeditions** will now happen in May instead of March – a time that will work better for our Peruvian colleagues as well as many of our volunteer team members.
- We now refer to our wheelchair provision as “**demonstration clinics**” because we focus not only on providing wheelchairs for individuals, but educating and mentoring as well. This approach is working well and promoting long term change toward responsible Peruvian wheelchair services.
- We are supporting a sustainable future with the **Canto Grande Stroller** which, if a suitable design is created, will be manufactured in Peru.
- Our **2014 venues** will be in Lima at Yancana Huasy and in Cusco with Equip KIDS. In Cusco we will teach a one day workshop on 24 hour postural care and wheelchair seating to healthcare professionals. This will be prior to 4 days of demonstration clinics, where we hope the workshop attendees will join us for some hands on learning.

We look forward to the future and thank you for your support of Eleanore's Project. Please **consider joining our email list** to help us save time and postage - we promise your inbox will not be flooded! We are **trimming our mailing list**, so if our cause is not your cause please tell us and we will be happy to remove your name. And if you feel drawn to our work with kids and families, **we welcome wheelchair sponsorships and donations of any size.** We guarantee that 100% of your gift will help individuals who are too often overlooked.

All the best,

Tamara Kittelson-Aldred & the Eleanore's Project Family



- Please detach this form, fill out completely and return to:
Eleanore's Project, Inc., 501 E. Central Avenue, Missoula, Montana, USA 59801
- **OR** give online through our secure web partners at **www.EleanoresProject.org**
- All sponsorships of \$300 or more will receive a card and story about a child the donation helped.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, ZIP code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Gift amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$300 wheelchair sponsorship Other: \$_____

Please tell me how I can become a sustaining monthly donor.

I want to help Eleanore's Project save money, time, and energy by joining the email list.

100% of all monetary donations are used for direct services for children with disabilities and their families.