

Dear Friends,

We will leading our last organized trip to Bolivia in March, 2008. It is time to formally close the program. We will ensure that everything in Bolivia is set up to be self-sustaining, follow-up on Rotary programs, and say goodbye to our many friends. The logistics and planning are becoming more difficult every year and the needs less critical. Our accomplishments over the 20+ years have been quite impressive. Some of them are:

Dental Education - We have conducted continuing dental education programs for most of the public and private dental schools in Cochabamba (CBB) and in several other cities. Through the support of the 3M Company we educated hundreds of dental students on the use of current high tech dental products. Many of the students we taught over the years are now practicing state of the art dentistry.

Dental Clinics - When we first traveled to Bolivia, the Amanecer dental clinic was a wooden chair and a sewing machine-driven dental drill. Now there are six modern clinics with new or excellent equipment to serve the 1,200+ children in the Amanecer program. Thanks to Dr. Ron Frost and others who made this all possible. Bolivian dentists are employed in these clinics when our group is not there.

Dental Health - The oral health of children in the Amanecer program has been much improved. Restorative and preventative programs are now in place.

Dental Hygiene Program - Thanks to Sandy Kemper, Bolivia now has its first certified program to train dental hygienists. These women help to promote modern dentistry.

Programs to Create World Peace - Dr. Sherwin Shinn's Smile Power and Ann Miletich's Hearts and Hands ACROSS the Americas have connected U.S. students and children in Bolivia. Their work is ongoing.

Rotary Humanitarian Projects - Many small and large projects have been facilitated by Rotary clubs across the country from new playground equipment to major community clean water systems. Some have been completed and others are ongoing. Countrywide salt fluoridation was a Rotary project in our early years.

If anyone is interested in participating this last year we invite you to contact us or Linda at Chippewa Valley Travel as soon as possible. Airline seats are at a premium and visa and passport applications take time.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you the hundreds of volunteers and numerous Rotary Clubs that have given their time and money to make all of this possible.

Sincerely,

David D. Crane, DDS