

November 2007 Post Visit of Malingua Pamba ECUADOR Newsletter featuring:

♥ Pam -
Founder of
Centro Educativo La Minga.

♥ Jill Sare - (3rd
time as) translator &
chauffeur

5 EWBs (group's 3rd visit):
♥ Debbie Hathaway &
♥ Brad Davidson (returnees)
♥ Mark Richards (returnee)
♥ Joel Haggard
♥ Florian Freymuth

♥ Lowell & Ellen Satre -
volunteers extraordinaire
♥ Jim & Nancy Wesorick -
new expats to EC
♥ Brett Sargant -
Aussie, translator & cook

♥ Eden Recor -
Rotarian Asst. Gov.
♥ Sanne -
Dutch medical intern
♥ Family Sacatoro -
Paulino, president et al.



Concise summary – expanded stories with photo documentation on subsequent pages

♥ **EWB** (with help of Mingas, of course! and our volunteers):

- ♦ built protective concrete box around spring to prevent surface water contamination
- ♦ built pressure break/sediment concrete tank and tied this into a 1300 liter plastic tank
- ♦ added/repaired 300 m of 40 mm PVC – to Colegio, shower, pila, several houses.
- ♦ more student environmental education
- ♦ updating of mapping of primary potable water lines & identified various problem areas
- ♦ AND fixed school shower – which was the focus of my first PPT to EWB in June, 2006!



♥ **Rotary Club**

- ♦ Eden met with the Latacunga RC and they have agreed to do their part on the International Matching Grant. Now, Eden and his committee along with the technical advice of EWB needs to complete and submit it.
- ♦ Eden is VERY committed to helping the Malinguans and area in a multitude of ways. He has SO MANY BIG ideas that he simply needs to write his own newsletter.

♥ **Some Enrichment Activities**

- ♦ Sanne, the Dutch medical intern, gave several lectures on Family Planning
- ♦ Brett, the Aussie volunteer working as our cook and interpreter, gave a lecture on nutrition.
- ♦ *First ever* Games and Puzzles: croquet, badminton, rummikub (a board game), and the first ever puzzles (they call rompecabezas – break the head).

♥ Educational Accomplishments

- ◆ We met with La Dirección de Educación and they gave us the forms to apply to change from private to public school. If granted, this means that the government will start supporting the school, i.e. paying for teachers, texts, etc. instead of Centro Educativo La Minga, Inc.
- ◆ We hired 3 new FABULOUS Colegio (our jr-sr high) teachers. So we now have 4 teachers with <70 students ages 11 on up.
- ◆ For the 0 – 11 year olds, we have **now** have 3 *separations*:
ages 0 – 5 in a *cleaner* kindergarten with supervisors;
ages 5-6 in pre-school;
ages 6 – 11 unfortunately all 50 with one teacher.



Rodrigo, age 23 has enrolled with our Novenos (~ 12-13 yr olds) to improve his education as he was successfully voted in as Treasurer of Malingua Pamba. He's the tall one in **blue cap.** ↓



♥ Planting the Seed of Microfinance

- ◆ With help of Kathie A. who spent one day in M.P. teaching handicrafts a few days before we arrived, and got 7 boxes of fabric donated; hence, we planted the idea of starting their own businesses.
- ◆ Gabriel and his wife applied & received the FIRST loan to start making clothing. He couldn't write up his own contract, but got Lautaro, one of my guaguas, to help him.
- ◆ With the addition of our latest sewing machine, Ellen helped Willian make this shirt. ↓



First Micro-Finance Loan
Nov. 2007



In spite of the fact that they had NO idea how to do a puzzle, they would not stop until it was completed. It took 4.5 hours & totally deserved the Spanish name “rompecabeza – break the head - or at least it wanted to break mine! I was in tears at my pride and amazement at their commitment to complete a task regardless of the hurdles. Brett observed that these people are so accustomed to pushing through the pain (aka suffering) that it didn't occur to them to give up until they completed the task at hand. No wonder I love these people!



Even the smallest of children showing the same tenacity with getting the ball through the wickets of croquet. ⇒

All of our 150+ students (including Brad?!!) are required to wash their lunch dishes... note: no soap is used. Yes, we still have a lot of hygiene related work to do. ↓



←Brett. our cook. gets a hua from Huanan

This amazing early 60s couple from Youngstown, OH whom I met while in Croatia '05 when we both were doing a self-contained bike tour – Lowell and Ellen on their tandem! They simply jumped in and cut rebar for the tank forms, taught the kids how to do a puzzle, cut the ice when things got tense, and much more. They are SO SPECIAL!



Speaking of Special, how can one say who contributes more, who makes things really work???

I can say that the unselfish spirit of our new EWBs, Joel and Florian was overwhelming. They had scheduled an extra week in Ecuador to enjoy the country, but after only 2 days of R & R, they returned to Malingua Pamba (not a small feat!) to complete some very important projects, like getting the shower working! Here you can see them in action – one of their business meetings. Florian was suffering from an incredible neck injury occurred prior to this visit and yet he worked tirelessly.



Last, but not least, the unwaveringly exuberance and foresightedness of our Jill/Julia – translator and chauffeur and much more.

⇐ Helping with the 4th semiannual Sourdough Pancake Breakfast!

Without Jill's help we would not be as far along in this project. Muchas gracias mi amiguita!

The tireless efforts of the people of Malingua Pamba especially their President Paulino Sacatoro (on the right) and his older brother Alcides (on left) are instrumental in making everything happen! We are such a good team! Oh, and me, pam in the middle.



Mingas in Action – participants: Malinguans, EWBs, & Volunteers! And YOU???

We can use you, regardless of your perceived skill level in so, so many ways. My current schedule is to visit Ecuador twice a year – ~April & November. You are welcome to join me, travel there on your own, or be an arm-chair participant and send your *tax-deductible* contribution to:

Centro Educativo La Minga, Inc.
c/o Pam Gilbert
415 S. 45th St.
Boulder, CO 80305-6047.

Come be part of our Minga!

P.S. We still need about 20 more sponsors for our guaguas at \$60/year. You'll get their photo & a t.y.note.



↑ Mark Richards, Water Quality EWB leading his group.

← Debbie Hathaway leading her Ambiental Group, the group of Colegio students taking water measurements ⇒ using a GPS, receiving special training, and more.



We worked into the night. The men mixed the cement, sand, rock, and ⇒ water with their hoes, the women lined up shoulder to shoulder and ⇒ created a bucket brigade (along with the children strapped to their backs), then young men lifted the buckets of concrete into the forms; the children ran back with the empty buckets. Quite a sight to behold in the flickering candlelight; all the while people were laughing and teasing.



Hope to hear from you soon! Abracitos, pam