



CEDEPAS Celebrates 24 Years!



On September 18, 2008, the CEDEPAS office in Huancayo, Peru was quiet. No one was working, no one was talking, no one was there. The people who work in the office were together in the countryside playing volleyball, laughing, eating and celebrating the 24th anniversary of the NGO.

While the day in the country was great fun, this was actually the last day of their celebration. The first night, the office held a worship service in gratitude of another year of operation. The second day, they welcomed Chilean Pastor Paola Pardo Jaramillo who spoke about the importance of working ecumenically as an organization. Next, each of the CEDEPAS departments presented projects from the year, with successes and difficulties alike.

There are four areas that the CEDEPAS office addresses. They are Productive Development, Local Development and Governability, Human Promotion, and Education (Andean Seminary). The CEDEPAS website states their mission is to “promote the development of sustainable farming, to promote human rights with farming communities, organized farming producers, local governments, groups connected with the church, and families in situation of risk; thus contributing to the social and cultural development of the central zone of Peru.

CEDEPAS, which stands for the Ecumenical Center for Promotion and Social Action, was started in 1984 to address issues of human rights in the city of Huancayo and it's surrounding communities. Since then, it has grown to encompass cities as far away as Yaoli in Huancavelica province.

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<http://www.manosperu.org>

<http://fairtradeperu.com>

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<http://www.savelaoroya.org>

Partners for Just Trade:

<http://partnersforjusttrade.com>

YAV of the Month! - *Meet Sean Kerr*



Name: Sean Ellis Kerr

Nickname: Scene

Age: 23

Degree: BA in Spanish and Theology

School: Valparaiso University

YAV Placement/ Job: CEDEPAS, Huancayo, Peru.

Future Aspirations: I want to be a high school teacher.

Major inclinations: Running, Reading, Playing Sports and the Guitar

Favorite thing about Peru: Slower pace of life and the common use of natural remedies.

Favorite Food: Lomo soltado

Favorite Quote: “The problem isn’t that Christians don’t care about the poor, it’s that they don’t know the poor.” - Shane Claiborne

One thing you miss about home: Being able to eat food from any part of the world.

Partners for Just Trade

Partners for Just Trade is the state side store for the Peru fair trade project called Bridge of Hope. Bridge of Hope works with around 25 artisan groups in the Lima, Huancavelica and Huancayo provinces. All of the products available can be viewed and ordered at <http://partnersforjusttrade.com>





News From La Oroya...

Actually, news from the United States...

For the first time since 1978, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been changed in regards to airborne lead. 1978 was also the year that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned lead based

paint. On October 15, 2008 the EPA reduced the allowable emissions of airborne lead by ten percent. Now, the American standard of the maximum permissible limit (LMP) is only .15 micrograms per cubic meter. This standard was approved to prevent irreparable damage to health, especially the health of children. Once designated, around 16,000 smelters, metal mines and waste incinerators will be required to reduce their emissions within five years.

According to MSNBC, a group of activists in the community of Herculaneum, Missouri (where The Doe Run Company operates a smelting plant at the border of the Mississippi river) brought suit against the EPA in 2004 as they had not

reviewed the environmental standards for lead in the past thirty years. Currently, the law requires the environmental standard to be reviewed every five years. Renco Group, the owner of The Doe Run Company, is also the owner of the metallurgical complex Doe Run Peru in LaOroya, Peru, whose lead, arsenic, and cadmium emissions drastically exceeds those of their brother company in Herculaneum, MO according to a report of the civil Association.

However, at the same time the EPA lowered the LMP standard, they also decreased the number of facilities that would be monitored. They originally proposed that any facility that emitted more than half a ton of lead per year would need a monitor. After receiving emails from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the EPA changed this standard to state that only facilities that emit more than one ton of lead per year would need to be monitored. When the EPA changed the standard of permissible lead emissions, 211 currently monitored facilities will no longer need to be monitored.

And don't forget to mark your calendars!

Planet in Peril: Battlelines, Dec 11 on CNN

Responsible Consumerism in a Struggling Economy

Editorial by Katie Rains

Before I left home to live and work in Peru, the word Green started being used to describe people, places, and energy. It was always tied with being a responsible consumer. I thought I would contribute to the movement and bought four reusable grocery bags.

It wasn't until I reached YAV orientation that I saw a shirt which brought the idea of being a responsible consumer just a little bit farther for me. It read, "I know who made my shirt, do you?" And all I could think was "No, I don't".

But it wasn't until I spoke with artisans Daniel and Rosa in Huancayo that what being a responsible consumer meant really sunk in. Daniel asked me what

he is doing wrong in his trade because orders for his gourds have dropped off and he doesn't know what to do. I heard similar statements from Amelia and Bertha, members of artisan group Mana. We explored more utilitarian uses for the gourds that Llamcay Tuki dry and burn designs into, and brainstormed other types of bags for Mana to make, but I think the problem may be greater than the products they are making.

As consumers, we vote with our dollars. We tell our government and our economy what is important by the products and services we buy everyday. When we buy cheap, foreign made products, we support free trade agreements with our dollars. We encourage corporations to move factories over seas in search of cheap labor, taking jobs away from our fellow Americans.

Last Christmas, a friend of mine decided not to buy any gifts. Instead, her family and friends received homemade recycled gifts and cards. I thought this was a great idea that fought consumerism with much



Rosa of Fair Trade Artisan Group Llamcay Tuki.

gusto. However, now, I don't know if this is the answer.

I believe that to be a responsible consumer, we not only have to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, but we must also be aware of where and from

whom we are buying products.

This Christmas, I challenge you to find out who made the gifts you are buying. If you can't find out, don't buy it. Be a responsible consumer, not only by recycling and reusing, but by supporting Fair Trade products from around the world. I know this challenge comes at a hard time due to our unstable economy. It would be very easy not to care. For me, now that I know Daniel and Rosa, and Bertha and Amelia, there is no way that I can't care about who made my t-shirt.



Bertha and Amelia are members of Fair Trade Artisan Group Mana located in Lima, Peru.