



Looking to the 90s

The last quarter of the year is upon us with all its urgent demands magnified by the realization that another decade will move off the calendar and retreat into history. We will remember the companionship, the good work and the people because they have made an impression upon our hearts. For the first eight years, the Alliance for Communities in Action has worked quietly, without fanfare or media hype, to promote the self-help development of communities in action to rise above the deplorable conditions that oppress the human spirit. With clear objectives, modest resources and the dedicated services of many volunteers, the Alliance has channelled your donations directly to small communities of people that are struggling to survive against the overwhelming forces that are generated by underdevelopment and poverty---hunger, homelessness, sickness, illiteracy and joblessness.

Our program assistance has made a significant difference in the lives of many good people. Unfortunately, it seems likely that our expectations

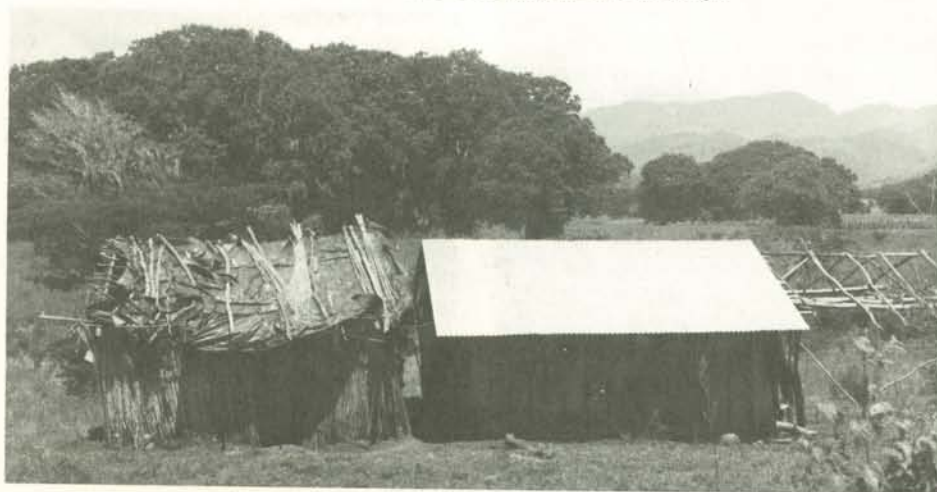
for available program funds for the year will fall somewhat short of our planned program needs unless a miracle happens in the fourth quarter. However, our spirits are high and our expectations for the next decade are creatively alive.

Our programs for 1990 will continue to expand their services to more families in need of shelter, food, pure water and health. Our ability to accomplish this humanitarian and developmental task will be dependent upon your willingness to share generously with others in need from your own goodness and abundance. Rest assured that we will be good and faithful stewards of your bountiful gifts.

Our major programs in food production and shelter housing for Nicaraguans are progressing very well. Many people are participating with enthusiasm and hope for the future. Local leadership is being formed to organize the self-help efforts and to manage the administrative tasks that are necessary for an efficient operation of

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The dwelling on the left was recently replaced with a more permanent home for a family of eight near Jinotega



"Bicycle + Cart = Water"

An alliance implies collaboration of two or more to accomplish an objective. Recently, Alianza Boliviana (Alliance for Communities in Action in Bolivia), collaborating with several groups, developed a transport equipment system at one-tenth of the cost if made in the U.S. This equipment will help rural villages acquire pure drinking water in place of present contaminated sources.

Until now, two-man drilling teams from the Water Drillers Training School (PRODEA), hand-carried materials and tools up to 12 miles, to manually install low-cost plastic pipe water wells (\$120) for rural families, schools and clinics. Available trailers in Santa Cruz are drawn by auto, truck or motorcycle and cost up to \$1,500---an unaffordable price for drillers.

To get water to the rural poor, they needed a simple, very low-cost, durable transport system---but quickly.

Bringing potable water to rural regions outside Santa Cruz is a monumental break-through for health, hygiene and longevity. In simple terms, water will stop short the cycle of death and help to keep many alive. Poor health, hygiene and malnutrition kills one out of three children before the age of ten years---even today in 1989!

Alliance, with its volunteer engineers, teamed up with the Catholic Church's outreach program, SEAPAS, and developed a simple technology that manually drills wells to 70 foot depths, in two days time, using low cost, plastic PVC pipe. A Water Drillers Training School was built. After 20 months of classroom and field well-drilling experience, the rural students return to their

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"Our Place Called Home" Brings New Hope

Until Padre Fabretto, a warm and dedicated missionary priest from Italy, started rescuing abandoned and orphaned youth from the streets of Nicaragua's cities, these youngsters had no place called home, no hope. His network of Boys' Towns started to evolve over thirty years ago. Permanent shelter, food, education, vocational training and emotional nurturing are given to children who need a home. The civil war has joined forces with the ravages of poverty as more and more children are left without homes and families. Familia Padre Fabretto, as the network organization is called, has been busy trying to build new permanent shelters for these children.

Recently, Padre Fabretto has taken in 18 girls ages 3-18 and founded the first home for girls in Somoto, named Casa Mama Margarita.

Home for these girls is the second floor of a house still under construction. The roof is on but funds are quickly needed to complete the first floor, including the

exterior walls, doors, windows and to equip the home with beds, linens, dining table and chairs, medicines and educational materials.

Though they have been traumatized by the loss of their families and scarred by the war, the girls find hope with their new family in Casa Mama Margarita. Under the supervision of their housemother, Reyna, a local school-teacher, the girls clean, bake bread daily, attend public school and care for one another.

Padre Fabretto's homes for girls are part of the Alliance building program geared to the needs of abandoned and orphaned youngsters -- "Our Place Called Home."

The children need your love and your help. Your funds will be directed to the construction and equipping of these permanent homes. Additional funding will be directed to counseling for these children whose lives have been shredded by the civil war, the loss of family, and poverty.

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the projects. The most needy families in many localities are being given the necessary resources to improve their quality of life.

The Food For Families program is half way through its second year. To date, 434 families have worked to grow basic food staples to feed over four thousand persons. Although the first years' harvests were greatly reduced by Hurricane Joan in October 1988, our challenge for the rest of this year is to obtain foundation grants to enable the program to continue into the third year. An education program will be introduced as a major component, which will provide technified farming methods to the rural communities, leadership training and administrative skills for volunteer workers in each of the six regions of the program.

The TECHO Roof Tops program has built 34 one room basic shelters in Jinotega to resettle families whose homes were destroyed by the war. Working with the municipality and a coalition of religious in Rama, 40 families received new roofs to

replace those that were destroyed by the hurricane.

In Managua, a Roof Tops program is underway through a well-organized base community group which determined that the recipients would be disabled members of a sewing cooperative and women without husbands who have lost sons in the war. The organization works in 24 poor neighborhoods of the city where the need is greatest. We intend to make this an ongoing program to service these needs in the poorest of the marginalized neighborhoods. Grants and private donations are needed to continue this program which has provided new roof structures for 125 families.

Our water institute, Agua Pura, recently donated a large well drilling rig which was shipped to Bolivia via Catholic Relief Services. An Agua Pura team went to Santa Cruz, Bolivia to supervise the installation of the rig for PRODEA, a Bolivian water institute that trains teams to provide pure water systems for rural communities and marginalized neighborhoods. Ed Dohler, an anthropologist and Alliance project



Angelica, 4, waits patiently for the completion of her new home

In assisting in the construction and maintenance of permanent children's homes, Alliance's program "Our Place Called Home" helps abandoned and orphaned youngsters to build better lives--full of hope for the future.

For \$12,000, we can build and furnish a simple house that ten lonely but beautiful young girls can call "Our Place Called Home."

coordinator living in Bolivia, reported that the installation of the rig was a great success and very much appreciated.

In Nicaragua, a water distribution system is presently being installed for two agricultural cooperatives near Jinotega. This system will bring pure drinking water to seven sites.

This year several delegations have traveled to Nicaragua to know the country, visit some of our projects and meet the people involved. We invite our friends and supporters interested in making such a trip to contact us. Our program coordinator, Bill Weaver, and his lovely wife, Connie, will be there to welcome you. Bill is very busy these days monitoring the programs and supervising increased project activities.

My personal thanks and gratitude goes out to all those who have supported our humanitarian work with their donations, both large and small.

The Milagro Project and the 50/50 Project donors receive our special thanks for their continued support.

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"Technified Farming" Comes to Cusmapa

Awakening before the sun had risen, the air still crisp with the sound of roosters crowing nearby, I crawled out of the blanket that sheltered me from the cold morning wind rushing across the rocky mountain tops that pierced the cloudy sky. Alfredo was waiting for us to join him for coffee before we departed on our journey to the fields. We met with him over some of the best coffee I have ever tasted and planned our inspection tour of the crops for the morning. Shortly, we were on horseback traveling down the steep mountain slopes outside the small town of San José de Cusmapa.

Within 30 minutes we arrived at the first bean field he planned to show us. The soil looked very rich and the crop abundant in some areas, while very spotty in others. As we dismounted, 15 to 20 other members of the Association of United Workers of Cusmapa (ATUC) approached on foot. They came seeking Alfredo's advice on how to improve the conditions for their future harvest.

We all entered the bean field, first directing our attention to the spotty, less abundant areas. Alfredo explained to the ATUC members that there were ants eating away at the bean plants. He demonstrated how the ants worked, from where they attacked and then explained what measures were needed to rid their beans of ants. The farmers listened with intent to Alfredo's words, asking many questions to better their knowledge of "technified farming." Alfredo explained that certain fertilizers were used only on part of the field, as the fertilizer had run out for the rest. This fertilizer is normally mixed with an insecticide and added to the soil before planting to keep out the ants. However, they may be able to save some of the spotty crop by applying a different insecticide now, but the yields would never be as good as the other side of the field. The lesson to Alfredo's people was to seek the technical assistance early on and take the necessary measures to insure a good production so they could feed their families adequately.

Seminarians Visit Nicaragua

The Alliance organized and conducted a field trip to Nicaragua for the seminarians at the Washington Theological Union (WTU). The group spent two weeks studying various aspects of life in present day Nicaragua. They met with church and religious leaders, and visited parishes in both urban and rural areas. They were fortunate to attend various liturgical and public events with the local people who participated in their traditional ways.

The group had many discussions

with specialists in the fields of theology, economics, history and politics, in addition to personal contact with persons active in the grass roots development projects of the Alliance, base communities and parish life. The seminarians will receive academic credits for this work and study program, which was designed by the Alliance and accredited by WTU. It is anticipated that the program, designed for WTU students and other interested persons, will be offered during the last two weeks of May 1990.

Before the Alliance brought the Food For Families program to this area, the farmlands were very non-productive, and many families starved. The local members have requested that the Alliance continue its Food For Families program in their area so that one day they might be able to produce an adequate harvest on their own. The Alliance's program was designed to provide the technical assistance, seed, fertilizers and tools needed, along with some basic education on how to set up and maintain a revolving fund for a future self-sustained food production system.

We looked at many other fields where ATUC had planted crops

such as corn, potatoes, sorghum and numerous varieties of garden vegetables, while Alfredo advised the farmers of what measures were needed to realize the best possible harvest for the season. Although Alfredo is not an agronomist, he has been studying new technologies of food production and the Alliance has provided an agronomist to advise him and his people. The people listen to Alfredo since he has proven to them that new technified farming procedures will bring them enough food to feed their families and help fight the vast undernourishment that strikes so hard in many rural areas such as San José de Cusmapa.



Men, women and children work together to feed their families. The participants are the key to the success of our Food For Families program.

Hurricane Victims Express New Hopes for the Future

When we think about getting a new house, seldom do we consider that only a new roof would be enough to make a profound change in one's lifestyle. However, in the aftermath of Hurricane Joan thousands of families in Nicaragua were in dire need of a roof over their heads before the heavy tropical rainy season began.

The Alliance came to the rescue of many victimized families of the

hurricane with its Roof Tops program. With the collaboration of Bishop Schmitz and the local social action commission of the Rama area, our first Roof Tops project was rapidly and successfully completed. We extend our gratitude to all those contributors who made the project possible by their generosity. The following letter is directed to you by those who benefitted from your donation:

To Alliance for Communities in Action, U.S.A.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings. It is our fervent hope that this letter encounter you and all your family with health, faith, and love. At the same time we pray for peace and union in your work and community.

We would like to tell you about the successful distribution of the roofing materials in the neighborhood of Primavera, city of Rama. Forty families benefitted by receiving fifteen sheets of zinc each. The beneficiaries of this donation were extremely thankful. Here are the exact words of one of them:

It was a great help in this moment. We had not yet had any roofs over our heads. We now feel happy, content...we send thanks to God for the help that has blessed us in this crisis that we are all living under - the damage caused by the wind, even more so the flooding that came from the rivers and the ocean.

This help has encouraged us to construct our homes. The sheets of zinc have enabled us to protect ourselves against the heavy rains that come to us during this time of the year. The zinc that we had before were only small bits and pieces. Now, with this donation, we can continue to better our situation.

We thank you for the friendship and cooperation you have shown the people of Rama in our difficulties. We are hopeful that the help we have received can continue on into the future as we go forward in the construction of our homes.

For our part, we have promised to repay this friendship by setting up a rotating fund to help the whole community. We are setting aside 500 pounds of beans and 1000 pounds of corn from our harvest to be used in the future - another form of development.

Once again, we thank you for your help.

The Community of Primavera
Rama, Zelaya, Nicaragua

We are currently responding to the need for new roofs to shelter hundreds of families by expanding the Roof Tops program to many neighborhoods around Managua. Our thanks to Gary and Nancy Carlston

and the Brøderbund Foundation for their grant which will allow us to continue with the next phase of the program. Your help will allow us to extend this program to many, many more families.

Georgetown Volunteers on the Road

Twelve anxious graduates cautiously deplaned at Managua airport loaded down with an assortment of travel gear, packages and duffel bags---almost everything that could be imagined was accounted for. Prepared they were for a long year's stay. The tropical heat and steamy air could have dampened their enthusiasm as they ended their arduous journey from Washington, DC with its many delays and diversions.

Since their arrival, the Georgetown University graduates and volunteers began experiencing significant cultural transitions from the exhilaration of their academic careers, graduation, family celebrations, program orientation and preparations for the trip.

After six weeks of language training at Central American University (UCA), the volunteers felt more at home but were still anxious to get to their placements, to start their work assignments and to come to meet the families with whom they will be staying.

The Alliance has been working closely with the Jesuits at the Central American University for many years. When the Georgetown University Volunteer and Public Service Center decided to send this year's group to Nicaragua, the Alliance agreed to collaborate with them in working out placements and integrating the volunteers into various aspects of the existing Alliance projects.

In early August, the volunteers in groups of two or three, headed out in all directions to arrive at their work sites in various towns, cities and rural communities. They will be working with many of the programs already mentioned in this newsletter. Their work and dedication will be of great service to the people and the projects that are being developed to help the poorest of the poor to survive.

We all extend our thanks to the volunteers and wish them a successful year full of friendship and meaningful experiences.

"Small Miracle in Palmasola"

Like most of Bolivia's poor, Luz Maria Acosta knew only a life of abject poverty and misery--slums, a one-room, 8-foot square shack for all the family, no water, no electricity, no toilet, or even a latrine. She also knew abundance--lots of rain coming through the grass roof, plenty of sickness to go around and filth everywhere. The one big reason--lack of water to keep things clean.

After marrying Jose, life improved --a little. With the birth of Daniela and Fabiola, new hope and joy entered their lives. Struggling to make ends meet on part-time jobs, they managed to save a few pesos and bought a small lot in the new community of Palmasola, five miles from the city of Santa Cruz. For Luz Maria, escaping the crushing grip of the slum was a small miracle. For a while they lived in a makeshift tent. But at night and weekends, Jose started to build a house. Adding a few bricks each day, he built a simple one-room house with a tin roof to keep out the tropical downpours.

Still, they had no water to drink, cook or wash. One year later they accumulated \$80 in savings, a sum that got them a water well dug on their lot. But soon afterwards, due to poor construction, the shallow, nine-foot deep well became dirty, contaminated and useless. Again the Acostas were without water. And worse -- they had no money to dig a new, deeper well.

Then, another small miracle happened. Parish friends told Luz Maria to seek help from PRODEA, a water development institute sponsored by SEAPAS, the community outreach arm of the Catholic Church in Santa Cruz. PRODEA trains young people in hydrology and skills needed for drilling water wells to provide pure drinking water. Their training requires them to install the manually dug wells for families who pay \$120 to cover the cost of plastic pipes used. Wells go down 60 feet if required, to the purest water aquifer. PRODEA trainees have installed hundreds of these wells already.



Luz Maria Acosta and her two daughters, Daniela and Fabiola, are happy to have clean drinking water from their new well

And now, the events leading to a small miracle for the Acostas.

Sister Frances, SND at Trinity College in Washington, DC 5,000 miles away, read the newsletter story of how the Alliance for Communities in Action helped develop these simple wells that are installed in two days using local

PVC plastic pipe--fast access to drinking water for the poor--an idea so good that the Catholic Church sponsored PRODEA, in collaboration with Alianza Boliviana (Alliance in Bolivia). Sister Frances also read that half of Bolivia's poor do not have decent housing, potable water or sewers! Coupled with chronic hunger and malnutrition, it quickly leads to contagious disease, intestinal parasites, debilitation and a loss of immunity--giving Bolivia the highest mortality rate in Latin America (one-third of the children die before age 10).

Moved by genuine Christian love of neighbor, Sister Frances decided to forego her yearly sending of Christmas cards and gifts and donated \$120 to the Alliance. She instructed that we find a poor, needy family without water or money and "install a well for them--free."

Alliance representatives in Santa Cruz immediately contacted SEAPAS, then PRODEA. The Acosta family was selected, told that the well was made possible by the love and generosity of another Christian--far away in distance but close in spirit.

That's the "small miracle in Palmasola" for the Acosta family. But there are many thousands of families in Bolivia living like the Acostas--no water, no money, no hope.

Maybe somebody else will read about them, and help.

Food For Families Update

It is harvest time for many farm worker families. The months of hard work and caring for the fields is coming to a hopeful end. A rich and bountiful harvest is expected to help replenish the food supplies that were greatly reduced by the drought and the hurricane of last year. However, some locations experienced no rainfall in May and June which delayed the planting by six weeks. Other locations, like the high mountains around Cusmapa, received only sparse rainfall after the seeds were planted, which will affect the size and yield of the corn and other crops that were planted early in the season.

In spite of this, the expectations are high and many are looking forward to a good harvest this year.

The Food For Families program Phase II is working in 50 small rural communities where about 250 families are planting their own food supply. This means that about 1,500 persons in these families are being fed and 1,000 more will be directly benefitted. In actual terms, the cost is less than \$20 for each person that is fed by the program. Your donation of \$100 can help provide food for a new family of five for three months and more until the next crop is harvested.

"People to People"

Lima, Peru generates huge amounts of garbage and "El Monton," its dump site, is several hundred feet high and covers many acres.

Like Dante's "Inferno," fire, acrid smoke and stench rise continuously while scavengers dig and pick recyclable trash to earn a living. Most have cardboard shacks on "El Monton"--a permanent family setting. Viewing the ugliness, an American missionary was asked: "Father, these poor people were born, live and probably will die in this poverty and misery. You and I will return to a clean house and meals. Does God care less for these than for others?" His answer: "These suffering poor are already saved. But God gave us everything, including the opportunity to care for the less fortunate of this world."

The fulfillment of this challenge is what motivates the Alliance for Communities in Action, unifying people and programs to improve health, education and housing for the least of our brothers and sisters.

Recently, the Archdiocese of Newark, Department of Human Concerns, in collaboration with the Alliance, presented a lecture in Bayonne, New Jersey. Pat Natali, Director of Human Concerns, focused on the Scriptural mandate to help

Alliance agricultural projects grow basic food for marginalized families who have little land and are barely surviving.

the poor by hands-on works producing physical improvements in people's lives. Equal in importance is the need to change unjust social and economic structures which oppress and exploit the poor and compromise human dignity. Together with Leila O'Conner, a Social Concerns facilitator, they emphasized the Alliance role as a catalyst for change, implementing Christian teachings and realizing life-improving projects for Latin America's needy.

Programs of the past eight years were shown on video-tape and discussed by Alliance volunteers from Nicaragua and Bolivia. The video on



Carrying the burden together helps to make this man's daily work a little easier

Nicaragua showed the devastation caused by Hurricane Joan in October 1988. It was a frightening scene. The havoc to the economy and the people surpassed the damage of the 1972 earthquake, the revolution of 1979 and eight years of the contra war combined.

Disaster aid was provided by some but humanitarian aid from the U.S. was noticeably absent, dealing another blow to the suffering poor, caught in a political crossfire not of their making.

Alliance agricultural projects grow basic food for marginalized families who have little land and are barely surviving. Other projects are helping people put a simple tin roof over their heads while they struggle with inflation and shortages of all kinds.

The Bolivia program director stressed the fact that the Alliance has no political interest in any country. We are "people-to-people" oriented, linking groups by literally "yoking" the strong with the weak to carry the burden together. Alliance has "yoked" many people from around the U.S. with Bolivian communities in different ways.

Alliance directors and members visit barrios and groups to provide professional and technical assistance in health, education, housing, cottage industries and other areas. Our projects are self-help and emphasize organization, participation and sustainability so that the groups learn

to solve their own problems.

Members visiting Bolivia have included a civil engineer, epidemiologist, child care specialist, geologist, medical equipment engineer, biologist, housing specialist, Third World educator and an anthropologist. Interestingly, no member or staff receives any money or compensation for their time or services. "They even pay for their own travel and living expenses," said the Bolivian director.

Other members unable to travel to the projects, become involved by choice, with moral, material or financial support according to their means and circumstances.

Ed Dohler, anthropologist and project coordinator, lives and works with people of Plan Tres Mil barrio near Santa Cruz. Some 98% of the 40,000 persons living there have no water, electricity, roads or sewers. Together with Dr. José Luis Quiroga, a medical doctor and program director, Ed works daily on projects including: adult education, water cooperative formation, health care, a mothers' group forming a day care center, workshop for unemployed carpenters, a bakery and noodle shop. He also helps campesinos in the Andes Mountains near Cochabamba develop a 100-house project and water system. Ed has recently returned to Bolivia to continue his volunteer work for the Alliance.

"It's my neighbor's fault."

The Alliance for Communities in Action first asked me to join its Health Program in Spring of 1983. Massive flooding in eastern Bolivia had caused many deaths and severe population displacement in one of the poorest barrios in the Santa Cruz area. With my background in disaster epidemiology and experience living and working in Latin America, the Alliance thought I would be able to help assess immediate health needs and design a health program for the disaster refugee population.

What I found was a community of some 15,000 people living in tents approximately eight kilometers outside of Santa Cruz on a plot of land that had no running water, no year-round road, no schools, clinics, or other infrastructure. Food was being provided largely by the Argentine Red Cross and Scandinavian aid organizations, and the Bolivian Red Cross was providing on-site manpower and organization.

I did a small health survey of about 100 families and perhaps 200 pre-school aged children, measuring nutritional status in the children and infectious disease prevalence in the families. While I am sure the health conditions were not great prior to

Infection and gangrene have taken over Señora Garcia's leg--- and her life



the flooding, they were horrible in this newly constructed tent community. More than 50% of the children had moderate to severe malnutrition, and infectious diseases made the lives of everyone difficult, if not dangerous.

On one of the afternoons of the survey work, some local children came to me in a group, saying "Doctor, you have to see Señora Garcia." When I asked what her problem was, all they could tell me was "her leg," and "come quickly." A short distance away, I found Señora Garcia with a severe limp and oozing dirty rags wrapped around her lower right leg.

When I removed the rags I found a roughly 10 inch gash in the front of the leg, surrounded by blackened, bubbling, gangrenous tissue. From the streaks going up to the knee and beyond, I could tell that the infection was spreading, and that if it were not stopped soon, Señora Garcia would soon be dead. I told Señora Garcia, "You have a severe wound infection. If it is not treated by a doctor immediately, you will soon die." I did not tell her that the leg would likely need to be amputated.

She responded "If I die, it will be my neighbor's fault." She proceeded to tell me that a neighbor had caused her to fall off a truck (no buses available) and injure her leg. Because the leg hurt, she went to a 'curandero' (witch doctor), who cut it open to let the 'bad spirits' out. The curandero's cut, of course, had caused the infection, but Señora Garcia did not know that. Furthermore, she said, it would be the neighbor's responsibility to cure her leg. I pointed out that it would be Señora Garcia who died if the leg were not treated, not the neighbor. I set up an appointment for some of the neighborhood boys to carry Señora Garcia to a truck and into town the next morning, where she could be treated at a public hospital. Insisting, I am sure, that the responsibility was not hers, Señora Garcia never showed up at the hospital, and probably died within the next few weeks.

The whole incident drove home to me once again one of the basic causes of unnecessary physical suffering in this population: profound basic ignorance of human biology and health practices. Based on this realization, I worked with the Alliance in designing and implementing a community-wide program for teaching health promotion as an ongoing community activity. We helped build and stock a local clinic, but for long-term benefit for this community, we emphasized health education taught to the community by community members.

There is nothing conceptually new or earth-shaking about this approach. It has been tried and proven in many poor areas of the world. However, in order to be successful, it has to be supported by a long-term commitment, such as the Alliance makes. This approach has become central to the Alliance's health programs in Latin America, allowing it to be effective working with well-chosen local people over the long-run, building local skills and encouraging local independence. We cannot reach as many people as the well-funded government programs, but our local presence and long-term commitment allow us to improve lives in a way few government programs could imagine.

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A cordial welcome goes to the new staff volunteers who are working to backstop specific programs that recently have been started. Sharon Richler, an anthropologist, is volunteering three days a week to work with "Our Place Called Home," a program for orphaned street children. Dan Francis, a third year seminarian at Washington Theological Union, will work with our Parish to Parish program for a year to fulfill his supervised ministry requirements. Theresa Barlow is at the computer many hours during the week providing a most valuable service to everyone. We thank them for their skills and dedication but mostly because they are great people and good friends to be with.

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communities to install pipe wells while earning a decent living. Now--how was the transport system developed?

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy gave the Alliance a sturdy all-terrain bicycle. Project Concern International received it in La Paz and shipped it to Santa Cruz. Ed Dohler, an Alliance project coordinator working in Bolivia, together with an Alliance director studied the feasibility of making a custom-built cart to be pulled by a bicycle. The director, a structural engineer, quickly designed a simple, efficient system that could be produced with local materials at a small price.

Lucho, a Bolivian businessman and close friend of the Alliance, agreed to modify the bicycle and fabricate the cart in his welding shop. With a quick sketch, two small bicycle wheels and some light steel angles, Lucho created the "Alliance Bicycle-Cart Transporter." Light enough to be lifted "with two fingers," the cart will carry 400 pounds of pipe, tools and supplies. The total cost to produce it---\$150!

Funds for a financing plan are being sought to build additional bicycle-cart transporters to help



These young men are preparing to make a delivery with their new bicycle-cart transporter

future drillers meet the country-wide need for water over the next decade. Under the plan, drillers will be given credit to buy a bicycle-cart transporter and repay their loan over two years from part of their earnings from drilling wells. A rotating fund is being created to insure continuous production of transporters and a self-supporting arrangement for the future.

The transporters greatly multiply the driller's effectiveness. He extends himself further, saves time and energy, reduces costs and reaches more rural groups being ravaged by disease from contaminated water sources.

Your contribution to build more transporters is a significant way to touch the lives of those in need.

The staff and co-workers at the Alliance want to express their deep feeling of gratitude to all those concerned and generous persons who have supported the work of the Alliance during the year. We hope to have your continued support in the coming months. Our programs are expanding to meet the personal needs and self-help efforts of many participants in our projects, in food production for marginalized farm families, in shelter housing for displaced persons, in group homes for orphaned girls and in other health, nutrition and pure water projects. These projects help many people to survive the effects of poverty that dehumanize those who are caught in its grasp. Hope is rekindled in the human spirit when human dignity and quality of life are respected.

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

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The Alliance is a non-profit organization that links groups and individuals for self-help projects in economically disadvantaged communities primarily in Latin America. The Alliance assists these communities by securing funds and appropriate technology for projects in shelter housing, agriculture, potable water, health, cooperatives and micro-enterprise.

All contributions to Alliance for Communities in Action are tax deductible.

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