

The Urubamba Foundation & the Willka T'ika Children's Fund (WTCF)
Semi-Annual Report
August 3, 2022



Last week, thanks to ongoing support from *The Urubamba Foundation*, the Willka T'ika Children's Fund (WTCF) returned to Q'eros with Don Benito, his son-in-law Don Ricardo, and brother Don Faustino. This time we took both our 4 wheel drive as well as a large Sprinter to carry the various supplies for Ccocha Mocco, Qolpa Q'uchu, and Munay T'ika. Here Don Benito and Don Ricardo are preparing to leave Willka T'ika at 4th AM on the July 26th Fortuner driven by Willka T'ika's Director, Terry Cumes.



It has been over a year since the WTCF was last able to visit Q'eros, although we were able to send 300 Christmas cakes and "chocolatada" in December 2021 as well as clothing and food with Don Benito after his monthly visits to Willka T'ika. The delay was mostly due to the difficulty of reaching Q'eros and the time and expense required to purchase and deliver supplies to these remote communities. As such, we had accumulated a long list of requests from Don Benito and Don Ricardo for their communities.

- 1) **Blankets.** Due to the frigid weather, blankets are always needed. Our goal was to bring one high quality blanket to each child in 3 Q'eros communities. Last week we delivered **60** blankets to Munay T'ika's and Qolpa Q'uchu's children and **75** blankets to the children of Cchocha Mocco. We also brought 5 blankets for teachers and 10 blankets for Don Benito's family. The total of **150** blankets filled up half of our large Sprinter van and the entire back of our Toyota Fortuner!



- 2) **Kitchen supplies.** During [our last visit](#) we brought kitchen supplies to Cchocha Mocco and donated them to the school. This visit we wanted to do the same for Munay T'ika. So, in response to Don Ricardo's request, we brought a new 2 burner stove, a full set of cooking pots, 3 dozen plates, cups, and soup spoons. We also brought 2 full propane tanks for Munay T'ika and 1 for Cchocha Mocco. Below, Don Ricardo, Terry and Tristen Cumes and the children of Munay T'ika sit in front of their new supplies.



- 3) **Bedding for teachers.** One of Don Ricardo's most pressing requests was to provide beds and mattresses for the 4 teachers who teach at Munay T'ika. This school serves the children who live in Munay T'ika and its surrounding communities, which include Q'uchu where Don Ricardo's family lives. Here you can see us unloading the 4 beds and mattresses from our Sprinter van in Ccocha Mocco to then be transported to the Munay T'ika school by smaller vehicle. The road to Munay T'ika has improved but is still very challenging and could only be accessed by our 4x4 vehicle.



- 4) **Clothing & School Supplies.** The WTCF continues to collect clothing and school supplies from the many groups who visit Willka T'ika. Over the last few years, we have accumulated a large amount of donations from guests and took advantage of the Sprinter van to bring them all to Q'eros. Below, we inventory everything at Willka T'ika with Don Benito and Don Ricardo and our new local volunteer coordinator, Karina.



In total we brought 6 boxes and 2 duffel bags of clothing and school supplies which were left with Don Modesto, the President of Ccocha Mocco's primary school, along with the 75 blankets, one for each child.

Don Modesto also showed us how the fencing wiring that was [delivered in November 2021](#) been used to keep the alpacas out of the school yard. He has requested an additional 200 meters of fencing to completely close off the school.



Updates from Don Benito's home

We were pleased to see that our collective support has also made a material difference in the quality of life for Don Benito, his family, and his extended community of Ccocha Mocco. Don Benito has been able to build a new house which is much warmer than his ancient stone home and more importantly allows for proper ventilation of the cooking area. Thus, his wife is no longer afflicted by constant smoke from the wood-burning stove and her pulmonary ailments and sore eyes are finally improving.



Here we see Don Benito chewing coca leaves in his new home. His improved stove and new green house. For the first time, his family now enjoys fresh green with their potato soup!



Before our van driver Erick returned to Cusco with Don Ricardo, we enjoyed a a *maté de* and warm *chuño* potatoes in Don Benito's new house with his wife, his granddaughters Irene and Esmeralda, and our translator/guide Silverio. After this meal, Silverio, Tristen, Terry, and Karina spent the night with Don Benito and his family. The following morning, we all walked together to "Old Q'eros" to participate in the yearly gathering for all the communities of Cuzco. After a beautiful day together, we departed at 3PM.



One goal that we did not accomplish on this visit was to bring medical supplies to Q'eros. We did, however, do a fair amount of research into what is required to partner with local hospitals and clinics to ensure that we purchase the most needed supplies, and more importantly that we collaborate with Quechua-speaking health care workers to administer the medicine and educate the Q'ero community about how, when, and why to use them. As our Quechua guide Silverio explained, most Q'ero elders prefer to use their natural remedies and rarely seek medical attention from doctors or nurses. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Karina was able to speak to the nursing staff in nearby Paucartambo about a future partnership whereby the WTCCF would provide for the transport of nurses and medical supplies in return for their support with community building and education. Willka T'ika's Director Terry Cumes also met with the O2 Health Center in the Sacred Valley about a similar partnership. These relationships take time to cultivate and if there is continued interest from our donors, we can continue to pursue them.

Once again, behalf of the children of Q'eros, we remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of *The Urubamba Foundation* over the years, especially during such challenging times for Peru and the rest of the world.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Cumes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Terry Cumes

Willka T'ika, Peru

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