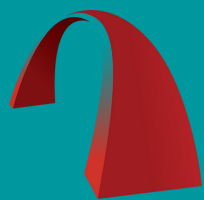


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HEALTH BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL



THE BRIDGE

End of Summer 2025 | Vol 07

A MESSAGE FROM our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, our team at HBI has been deeply engaged in refining and sharpening our focus on what truly sets us apart as an NGO.

We proudly stand at the intersection of academic research, child advocacy, and the continuous development of knowledge and skills for health professionals—all in service to the diverse and evolving needs of children living outside of parental care. Every day brings its unique challenges and opportunities.

While some days are tougher than others, our commitment remains unwavering: we exist to provide a better life for children and families facing difficult circumstances.

In the coming month, we'll be updating our website to help you better connect with the Mission and Vision that drive our work. Thank you for your ongoing support, generosity, and trust—it is invaluable to us.

All the best, wayne



Felizes Fiestas Patrias!



On July 28th, Perú celebrated its 204th anniversary of independence from Spain. Both of our children's homes, Casa Girasoles Urubamba and Casa Girasoles Arequipa, celebrated with traditional dances, songs, and poetry recitations representing all three regions of Perú: the coast, mountains, and jungle. These celebrations allow the children and staff to take a pause and recognize the beautiful cultural heritage they possess. We, as HBI, also want to acknowledge

The incredible privilege it is to work in a country that has so much to offer in showing the world what it means to put our children first. It was said best by our HBI Perú President, Dr. Roberto Tarazona:

“Dear HBI family, today we celebrate one more day of the liberation of our homeland. Many people gave their lives, as we are now offering it for our children and adolescents. We must have the deep conviction that every child with health, purpose, home, and hope is a living stone in a new Perú, and that we are contributing to that future. Cheers to each of you and your families. Together, we build a new humanity.”

At HBI, we are committed to offering a wide range of experiences that open new perspectives for the boys in our care. In August, we provided several opportunities for the boys to participate in community activities, helping them see the world in different and enriching ways.

Two teenagers from our home in Arequipa proudly participated in their school's futsal selection, securing third place in the city-wide inter-school championship in the District of Cayma. As a special recognition for their outstanding participation, they were invited to the Mall Aventura Plaza and enjoyed a movie outing.

Meanwhile, at Casa Girasoles, baking and community cooking activities remain a favorite. In August, our boys got the chance to unleash their creativity with a special cookie-making day and pizza-making event. The cookies were a big hit—some enjoyed them a little more than others! 😊 Through these varied activities, we strive to nurture curiosity, teamwork, and joy in every boy's journey.

SUNFLOWER CORNER



Employee Interview - Sr. Crisol:

Many of you have a longterm relationship with HBI and our work. For some, you are just getting introduced. To help ensure all of our HBI family are fully aware of our efforts - we are including a feature in the newsletter that introduces you to our amazing staff. Sr. Crisol Quispe Callecondo is the director of our childrens home in Arequipa. Trained as a clinical psychologist, Sr. Crisol has dedicated his professional life to working with children living in the experience of abandonment.

How many years have you been involved in child welfare, and what led you to dedicate your time to children separated from their families?

I have been working directly with this vulnerable population for 28 years. At first, it was basically to explore fields of work and gain experience in child welfare. But later, I became involved in the children's lives, their emotions, needs, suffering, despair, fears, as well as their ability to adapt and their potential to move forward, break the cycle, change their ways of thinking, and develop the skills necessary to integrate into society.

Please describe the responsibilities involved in being the director of a children's home.

I believe it is leading the group by example, motivating the group to innovate, encouraging them to receive training, communicating positively and non-critically, acting within clear limits under internal norms or the law, having the patience to listen, sharing moments of relaxation, trusting each other, and planning and organizing activities.

How do you connect with the children of the Aldea?

Through playing around with the kids, talking about their needs and interests, telling stories, listening to what the child wants to talk about, valuing and praising what the child or teenager shows you, asking questions about the results of what makes them feel good, thanking them for their help, even if it is something minimal.

Could you describe some of the unique aspects of Arequipeñan culture that you most love?

Being a regionalist means valuing what Arequipa has to offer: its food, dances, stories, and legends; its different customs, such as anniversary celebrations and festivities like Holy Week, carnivals, and others; the different ancient sites specific to Arequipa such as museums, libraries, and buildings like the Incan terraces, the use of sillar stone, the impressive natural landscapes such as the Colca Canyon, the friendliness of the people, and our wonderfully clean city.

In July, our Board President, Mr. Dean Boyer, visited Perú, spending time at both of our homes in Urubamba and Arequipa, seeing the staff's immense dedication in Perú to the advancement of purpose and healing in the lives of the children they care for daily. Here are his reflections on his time in Perú:

“My recent visit to our homes and staff in Peru's Sacred Valley and Arequipa was genuinely inspiring. I was deeply moved by the boys' resilience and the incredible work our staff does daily. Celebrating Perú's Independence Day with the boys at the Aldea home in Arequipa, witnessing their talent, was a highlight. Pizza night at Casa Girasoles in the Sacred Valley also brought immense joy and smiles, and it was special to be part of. This visit reaffirmed the vital importance of HBI's work and the significant impact of our donors and supporters. I encourage you all to visit soon and thank you for your support.”

Program Update: Newborn Resuscitation Training

Under the expert direction of Dr. Bob Gehringer and Dr. Mary Boyer, our team continues to make remarkable progress with the Newborn Resuscitation Training Program. The team is diligently laying the groundwork to establish a model program that can be adopted by professional associations to enhance the skills of their medical professionals.



Looking ahead, we are excited to announce an additional series of trainings scheduled for October. This next phase is part of our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, impactful education in newborn resuscitation. We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of everyone involved as we work toward our goal of advancing lifesaving skills in neonatal care.



Upcoming Events

Join us for our annual A Bridge to Change fundraiser on Wednesday, September 17, at the renowned Andina Restaurant. This elegant evening will feature a luxurious five-course wine-paired meal, inspiring updates on the transformative work you make possible through HBI, raffle for a vacation stay on the Emerald Coast of Florida, and a silent auction filled with handpicked artisanal items carefully curated for the event.

It's a night to connect, celebrate, and make a difference. If you are unable to attend in person, we will also be offering bidding options for the silent auction and raffle virtually. Don't miss this unforgettable experience!

For more information or to sign up for the auction and purchase raffle tickets, visit this link: [**https://ourfundraiser.events/Andina2025**](https://ourfundraiser.events/Andina2025)



Connect with HBI in 2025: Gravel Cycling Camp in the Sacred Valley of Cusco

Mark your calendars for the **2025 HBI Gravel Cycling Camp from November 2 to 8!** This six-day adventure in the stunning Sacred Valley of Cusco offers participants the chance to ride hundreds of kilometers of quiet gravel roads, laugh, and connect with the boys and staff of HBI. Beyond the scenic rides, participants will lead bike maintenance workshops, training sessions, and other engaging activities to help the boys develop practical skills. Plus, extend your stay to visit the iconic Machu Picchu and tick off that bucket list! Don't miss this incredible opportunity to combine adventure, connection, and service. Learn more and sign up at [**https://hbint.org/gravel-camp/**](https://hbint.org/gravel-camp/)