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c/o Tina Soli og Luca Roncoroni
Toftes gate 61a, 0552 Oslo, Norway
Phone: +47 93811863 / +47 93097574
E-mail: post@marcelino-norge.org
www.marcelino-norge.org
Enterprise: 988 191 302 NO
Bank account no.: 0539 36 94183
SWIFT code / BIC address: DNBANOKKXXX

TO ALL MEMBERS

Happy New Year! We hope you had a good time during Christmas holidays. In this first 2007 Newsletter we'll tell you about our visit at some of the children's homes.

DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE A MEMBER IN 2007?

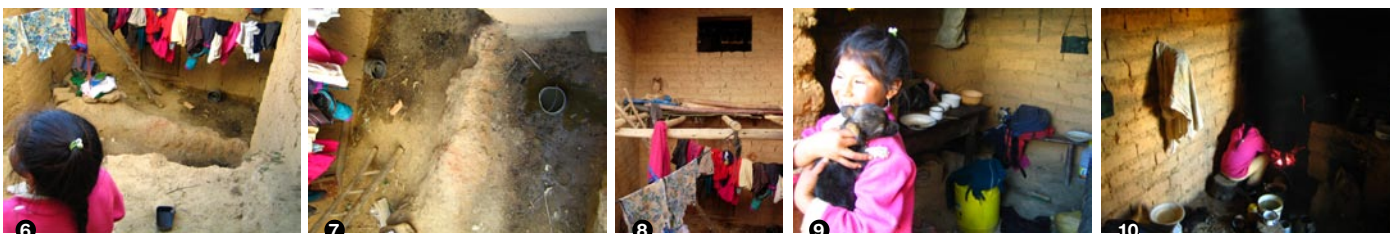
If you still want to support *Marcelino Norge*, or if you want to give the membership as present to someone you know, you can use the following bank account: **NO04 0539 3694 183** (SWIFT-code / BIC-adress: **DNBANOKKXXX**). The membership fee is **25€ for adults and 12€ for children**. Remember to write "*membership 2007*" and your e-mail adress (if we do not have already) in the payment-details-field. To all of you who already payed the 2007 membership: **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

THE CHILDRENS' HOMES

The teachers at *Proyecto Amigo – Casa Marcelino* have several tasks to fullfill, one of them is to visit the children at home and at their work, to verify and document that their rights are respected, at least to a certain point (we need to remember that the perspective is different here in Peru, and the "tolerance level" is not the same as back home). During each visit the teachers fill out forms on living- and working situation, which will then be saved in the children's file back at *Marcelino*. This helps the teachers to have a better understanding of the children's life and helps them to follow each child in a more "personal way". Every single child at *Marcelino* has to work in order to survive, they live in primitive conditions and it was very hard for us to see their homes and hear their stories. No child should be living in this conditions. We had to fight back both tears and anger.



Our visit at Jamer's, Zulma's an Amilcar's home. Jamer has one brother, Zulma and Amilcar (and two more siblings) are his cousins. In **picture 1**: Yesi, the Assistant Director of *Marcelino*, talk to the children and fills out the forms. **Picture 2**: of Amilcar (11). **Picture 3**: Jamer (8) and Zulma (8). **Picture 4**: Jamer and his mum in front of their house. **Picture 5**: Jamer's mum and his brother (also portraited in one of the cards we sell). Zulma and her family live in the house in the background (the roof is still missing). Zulma says she is scared to go to the toilet during the night, because she has to go alone in the forest behind her house...



Picture 6-8: here is where Zulma's family dry their clothes and gather for eating or talking. **Picture 9**: Zulma by the kitchen door. **Picture 10-11**: Zulma shows us how she makes food for her family. **Picture 12**: the puppy lives in the kitchen. **Picture 13-16**: Zulma's kitchen.



The children and their families did welcome us with big smiles, showing us around their homes, offering us food or drink and giving us the only chair they had. To see their smiles was fantastic! Some of the mothers we met even asked us if we wanted to take some of the kids with us, back to Norway, as a “present”. It was said as a joke, but they were also trying to give their children what they believe is a better life, a better future. As all parents, they also would like to give their children the best opportunities...

Most of the houses are made of adobe-bricks and mud, built right on the ground, without proper foundation and with no floor. Adobe are homemade sun-dried mud bricks, the cheapest constructions material in this area, but also the most vulnerable: during the rain season (November–April) many houses get severe damage and need extensive re-building. None of the childrens’ homes has a proper toilet (some have a hole in the ground, others go in the nearby forest), some few “lucky kids” have electricity and/or running water. This is not drinking water, because the “drainagesystem” ends in the river, but this does not stop people from drinking it. The result is dangerous stomach bacteria and severe illness for most of Huamachuco inhabitants. Hygiene standard at childrens’ homes is also very, very low.



Visiting Eduar (12). Eduar lives with one brother, four sisters, mum and dad. **Picture 1:** Marivel (teacher) writes down Eduar’s details. **Picture 2:** family photo with grandma. **Picture 3:** Rosa (14) shows us the kitchen, which is her responsibility (every day she makes food for the whole family and cleans at home, in addition to taking care of her younger siblings while mum and dad are working). **Picture 4:** younger sisters. **Picture 5:** grandma has chronic head and neck pain and needs medical care, but they can not afford it. **Picture 6:** beside the water spring there is a hole in the ground: this is the family’s toilet (the waste runs down to the river). Four of the children of this family goes to Marcelino.



Mariel is 9 years old and goes to *Marcelino*, she has seven siblings and they live with mum and grandma. **Picture 1:** Mariel and her sister. **Picture 2:** mommy (32) feeds Natali (2 months). **Picture 3,** mum with grandma and three of the children. **Picture 4-5:** siblings. **Picture 6:** the entrance. **Picture 7:** mum shows us their “bed”. **Picture 8:** inside the house. **Picture 9:** grandma. **Picture 10-11:** the oven in the backyard. **Picture 12:** kitchen. **Picture 13:** the family has running water, but it is not drinkable. Mum has no regular job, but sometimes she makes food at *Marcelino*, grandma sells potatoes at the local market. Father and grandfather are dead (Natali, grandma and one of the younger brother are portait in the calendar and in one of the cards we sell).

The forms the teachers fill out during the visits are very important in order to document the children’s situation and needs. *Marcelino* uses this feedback to give a more specific help to the children and to intervene in the most extreme situations. It was hard for us to hear the kids say that what they wish the most is food... Following are extract of some of the forms (names are omitted):

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 18.11.1994 (12 years old)

Sex: male

2. FAMILY

Siblings: 7

Who do you live with: parents and 7 siblings

Father’s job: mototaxi driver (3-wheels-motorcycle)

Mother’s job: sells vegetables at the local market

Problems at home: 1) fighting 2) sometimes we get beaten

What do you need at home: 1) more food 2) school equipment 3) water

3. HOUSE/ HOME

Number of rooms: 3, including outdoor-kitchen

Construction: adobe-bricks and mud

Who do you share bed/ sleeping place with:

share bed with 2 brothers

Toilet/ water/ electricity: toilet is a hole in the ground, no water, no electricity

4. WORK

Your job: sells ice cream at the market and by the main square

Working hours: 7:00- 16:00

Working days: Saturdays and Sundays

Salary: I get payed

What do you do with your salary: buy clothes and school equipment

Who decides how you should work: employer

Free-day (from work/school): Wednesdays

Difficulties in your job: if I do not sell anything

I do not get any money

5. SCHOOL (beside Marcelino)

Study year: 5th grade at “4 de Octubre”

Do you get breakfast or lunch at school: no

Who helps you with homework: two older sisters

What do you not like at school: 1) teachers beat us 2) too much noise, difficult to follow the lessons 3) teachers treat us bad, they yell at us

What makes it difficult to learn at school: 1) too much noise 2) teachers explain too fast

If you could be the school Director for one day, what would you do/ change: 1) not beat students

2) keep quite and order in the classroom

3) not yell at students

1.GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 29.12.1997 (9 years old)

Sex: male

2. FAMILY

Siblings: 1

Who do you live with: parents, brother, uncle, aunt and cousins

Father's job: miner

Mother's job: house work and works in the fields

Problems at home: 1) we do not have enough clothes 2) we do not have enough food 3) sometimes I get beaten

What do you need at home: 1) money 2) work 3) proper house

3. HOUSE/ HOME

Number of rooms: 1

Construction: adobe-bricks

Who do you share bed/ sleeping place with: nobody

Toilett/ water/ electricity: no toilet, has water (not drinkable), has electricity

4. WORK

Your job: in the fields (farmer)

Working hours: 8:00- 17:00

Working days: Mondays to Saturdays

Salary: no money, get food

What do you do with your salary: ---

Who decides how you should work: parents

Free-day (from work and school): Sundays

Difficulties in your job: I am not strong enough and it is hard to work in the fields

5. SCHOOL (beside Marcelino)

Study year: 2nd grade at "Leoncio Prado"

Do you get breakfast or lunch at school: no

Who helps you with homework: nobody

What do you not like at school: 1) how teachers explain things, too fast and difficult 2) teachers treat us bad, they yell at us 3) teachers beat us

What makes it difficult to learn at school: 1) teachers explain too fast 2) I'm afraid to be beaten

If you could be the school Director for one day, what would you do/ change: 1) all children should get the possibility to study 2) teachers should explain in a better way, so that we all can understand 3) teachers should not yell or beat students.

OBSERVATIONS (teachers notes after home visit)

- many persons live in the same room
- bad hygiene/ sanitary conditions at home

1.GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: about 8 years old

Sex: female

2. FAMILY

Siblings: 5

Who do you live with: parents, siblings and aunt

Father's job: makes bricks (irregular)

Mother's job: streets seller

Problems at home: 1) dad is often without job 2) mum beats me 3) I have to work to buy food

What do you need at home: 1) we do not have water, we have to go very far to get water 2) food

3. HOUSE/ HOME

Number of rooms: 2

Construction: adobe-bricks

Who do you share bed/ sleeping place with: older sister

Toilett/ water/ electricity: no toilet, no water, no electricity

4. WORK

Your job: makes food, wash clothes and takes care of goats

Working hours: "irregular"

Working days: Saturdays and Sundays

Salary: I get payed

What do you do with your salary: I buy fruit

Who decides how you should work: mum

Free-day (from work and school): Wednesdays

Difficulties in your job: 1) I get very cold when I wash clothes (in the river) 2) have no light 3) I come often very late home with food for the family

5. SCHOOL (beside Marcelino)

Study year: 3rd grade at "Leoncio Prado"

Do you get breakfast or lunch at school: no

Who helps you with homework: "aunt Joba" at Marcelino

What do you not like at school: 1) too much homework 2) teacher beat us 3) I do not understand what teachers say

What makes it difficult to learn at school: 1) I am always very cold (because of my job) 2) teachers use too difficult words, which I do not understand

If you could be the school Director for one day, what would you do/ change: 1) give more time to the students, do not yell or beat them 2) I would talk to the students, I would use easier words, so they could understand and learn more 3) I would show more respect for childrens' parents (parents are embarrassed because they are illiterates, and teachers treat them badly because of this).

1.GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: don't know (about 8 years old)

Sex: female

2. FAMILY

Siblings: 7

Who do you live with: mum, grandma and 7 siblings

Father's job: father is dead

Mother's job: makes food for other

Problems at home: 1) we do not have enough money for food, 2) no money for clothes, 3) not enough job

What do you need at home: 1) food, 2) clothes

3. HOUSE/ HOME

Number of rooms: 1

Construction: earth/ mud

Who do you share bed/ sleeping place with: sister

Toilett/ water/ electricity: no toilet, no water, no electricity

4. WORK

Your job: did not answer

5. SCHOOL (beside Marcelino)

No school

LATEST NEWS AT MARCELINO

Judith, one of the girls who comes to *Marcelino* has been elected as a board member in a nearby village. This is a huge news for the *Marcelino* and the children! This is the proof that it helps to get an education, to go to school. This is the proof that *Marcelino* is doing good and that our help is important. But most of all this is important for the children at *Marcelino*: they can look up to their friend and get inspired, and she can be “the children voice” in the society. She can get the chance to do something for all children in the area. Because of the strong patriarchal culture in this part of Peru, Judith will have to work hard to be heard, but this is a great opportunity for her and many other girls, who will have the chance to change the future society. And it is inspiring that Judith accepts this challenge.

Judith has been chosen as a board member in the village of Chugay, which has more than 11000 inhabitants. She is 20 years old, she is studying in the 4th grade of the “middle school” at *Marcelino* (which is about 9th grade in Europe). Judith lives with her parents, who are farmers, and she has 8 siblings: Wilson (24), Cecilia (22), Dalila (15), Dilma (13), Sabina (10), Rosa (8), Pamela (5) and Fiorela (3). Judith is working for a family, she is baby-sitting, making food and cleaning the house. She works from 2:00 at night to 10:00 in the morning and her salary is about 25€/month. She does want to continue studying at *Marcelino* and she'll try to combine work, school and her new challenge as a board member in her village. She wants to work with education and poverty in her village.

Congratulations and good luck Judith!

2007 CALENDAR AND CARDS

Vi still sell 2007 calendars and cards! Calendar: € 7,50 Cards: € 1,50

PACKAGE (1 calendar + 5 cards): € 12,50

Phone: Tina +47 93 81 18 63 or Luca +47 93 09 75 74

E-mail: post@marcelino-norge.org



Judith



IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

...we'll write about our visit to the places where children work and the condition there.

If you do have questions or suggestions, please write to us.

Thanks a lot!

Tina Soli and Luca Roncoroni

MARCELINO NORGE



Eduardo, 4 years old, (his feet and shoes are pictured on our calendar and card) and Eduardo's sister (19) and her daughter (1).