

# CHILDREN OF THE ANDES Newsletter No 7 Summer 1994

to rescue, protect and rehabilitate the lost children of Colombia

Enterprise House,  
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Registered Charity No. 1002263

The past four months have been tremendously exciting for *Children of the Andes*. At the end of February BBC television broadcast a *Newsround Extra* programme about Jaime Jaramillo and his crusade to rescue the street children of Colombia. It carried the charity's name and address at the end of the programme and within minutes our 'phone was ringing. On the following Monday we received 400 letters in the mail. It took us some time simply to open them! Throughout that week and on into the months of March and April the flood of letters, calls and donations continued.

We feel we are extremely fortunate as a small charity to have twice had exposure on national television, first in 1991 with the Desmond Wilcox programme *The Visit: The Lost Children*, and then in February with the *Newsround Extra* documentary *Colombia's Sewer Children*. We are indebted to the *Newsround* team for giving us this second opportunity. The film clearly provoked the same passionate response from those who saw it as did *The Visit* and, in all, we received around 1150 letters asking for more information or sending donations. Just over a quarter of those who wrote have now given a donation or raised money and many others are planning events.

At the same time, we put out an Urgent Appeal following the appalling reports which we had received about the sharp rise in violence against the street children which, with the *Newsround* response, raised over £60,000. As well as this financial help we know that over 320 of our supporters wrote to their MPs or MEPs expressing their concern and alarm. The European Parliament responded with a resolution detailing its concern and commending the work of Jaime Jaramillo and his *Fundación Niños de los Andes*.

Meanwhile, in Westminster, in response to a letter from one of our supporters, Brian Donohoe MP tabled an Early Day Motion along similar lines to the European

resolution and, to date, 74 members of Parliament have signed it. Finally, on 29 March a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Street Children took place in the House of Commons, at which the *Newsround* film was shown and Richard Taylor, Director of *Children of the Andes* spoke.



Richard Taylor meets the Prime Minister at a Reception to launch the Consortium for Street Children at 10 Downing Street on 18 November 1993. Mr Major expressed personal support for Children of the Andes. On the Prime Minister's right is Baroness Flather, Chairman of the Consortium.

The mission statement of *Children of the Andes* reads: 'to rescue, protect and rehabilitate the lost children of Colombia'. The funds which *Newsround* and the Special Appeal have generated will help the work of rescue and rehabilitation, while the European Resolution and the Westminster Early Day Motion will, we hope, extend some protection to the children and to those, especially Jaime, who are striving to assist them.

As Ernesto Samper, the new President of Colombia, prepares to take office he will know that the plight of many of his young citizens has touched the hearts of thousands of people in Europe.

Without your support we would have no voice and no funds at all. Thank you.

## Extracts from children's letters after seeing 'Colombia's Sewer Children'.

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'I thought this programme was very sad, these children did not deserve to be treated in this terrible way, like being shot in their sleep...' *Katie, Surrey*

'I really felt sorry for the children who were forced to live in the sewers, and have to beg for money, or to steal. How can I help them?' *Hannah, Cheshire*

'I thought about if I was on the streets of Colombia too and no where to go and no money like the girl that had a baby I wish them good luck.' *Serina, 9, Birmingham*

'That day I saw *Newsround* I felt very sorry for those children.' *Waheeda, Birmingham*

'I hope you get out of the sewers soon. This is from a girl that cares about you. I hope that you have lots of drinks and food.' *Genevieve aged 5, Lancashire*

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## London Marathon

Congratulations to Alberto García, editor of *Colombia Activa*, who completed the 1994 London Marathon in the excellent time of 3.55 hours, raising £637 for the charity. He would like to form a *Children of the Andes* 'team' in 1995. Those interested, please contact Alberto at *Colombia Activa*, 75 Kennington Park Rd, London SE11, tel. 071-587 1728 by 1 September '94. Proposed run date, Sunday 2 April. Application forms can be obtained at major sports shops.

## FUND-RAISING UK

The response to *Newsround* was not only confined to children; the programme also created much interest from teachers and parents and brought us three new organisers whom we welcome: Marion Dunbar from Glasgow, Susan Chan from London and Kathy Ford from Gloucester. However, the response from children was particularly touching. They quickly turned their interest into immediate and practical help by raising funds: making and selling cakes, running beetle drives, donating pocket money, performing pop concerts and holding sponsored piano practices, while others produced dramas and assemblies to describe the plight of street children. Children at Dunipace Primary school responded imaginatively by sending us poems and posters, as well as raising £250 in sponsorship money from filling match-boxes!

However, income this year has certainly not been limited to the response to *Newsround* and to the Special Appeal. Support from individuals, groups, schools, churches and trusts continues to progress steadily. Especially welcome has been the interest from Rotary Clubs and we were delighted this year to be invited to exhibit at the International Conference and London Assembly.

In 1993, 97% of our funds came from individuals and groups - only 3% from companies or trusts and we do not as yet receive any Governmental aid. This is unusual for a charity and illustrates just how much we rely on our individual and group donors. To all of you, many still continuing to support us since our foundation, a heartfelt thank-you.



Form 8Y, Stratford-on-Avon Grammar School for Girls 'Top of the Pops' cast

## Organisers

*Children of the Andes* in the UK has eleven volunteer organisers in Fair Isle, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham, Cheshire, Dyfed, Gloucester, Wiltshire, Surrey and London. Their contribution in raising funds in a multitude of ways and enlisting new support has been vitally important and we are enormously indebted to them all. Many have raised funds in association with local church, school, college and social groups. For instance, organiser Angela Uribe de Kellett working with Holy Trinity Church, Jesmond, has raised over £5,000 since 1991. One of their recent successes was a Latin American Bazaar at Pentecost - the day devoted entirely to raising money for *Children of the Andes* - which brought in £1,200.

Other activities arranged by our organisers over the last eight months include three Colombian dances, one in central London attended by over 400 people, Cambridge University Rag Week collection and Bop, tango competition, bridge and canasta drives, numerous schools' talks, Waterloo Station collection, raffles and craft sales. These events alone raised more than £17,000.

All our organisers would like to hear from those who could help them plan an event. Please contact us if you would like to be put in touch or, indeed, establish a support group yourself.

## Getting started

There are as many ways of raising money as there are fund-raisers, and you don't need any special skills to do it! Can you interest a group, school, college, or church in adopting us? Could you sell Christmas cards to friends or colleagues? Or hold a coffee morning? Or persuade your local shop to take a collecting box? If you missed the *Newsround* documentary, or would like to show it to friends, we have videos for sale or on loan. At 14 minutes long it is particularly good to show to groups and for fund-raising! Please get in touch with us for other materials and ideas. We would be happy to talk to you and offer advice, if needed.

## Speakers please!

We would be glad to hear from anyone with speaking experience and, ideally, knowledge of Latin America who could give talks in their area. Slides and videos are available and we would provide a full briefing.

## Colombians in Britain

It is particularly important to us to have the active support of a large number of Colombians in Britain. Most notably, four of our successful area organisers, Gabriela Daniel, Angela Uribe de Kellett, Lucy Patterson and Alicia Jones, are Colombian-born and others, students and people from many different organisations and professions, give valuable assistance in the office and at events such as dances, charity fairs, and in selling raffle tickets. Colombian shops, clubs and restaurants have also been most generous in donating supplies, publicising events and taking collecting boxes.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND

Christine Thornton who runs *Children of the Andes'* flourishing branch in Dublin has raised nearly £100,000 since April 1992. Christine continues to develop strong support from schools and the media, and has successfully built a team of eight organisers in Dublin, Kildare, Wexford, Cork, Tipperary, Limerick, Galway and Fermanagh. Recent activities in Ireland include church gate and football match collections, fashion shows, parachute jumps, a 60's night, pub quiz, mini-marathon, sponsored school spell in Enniskillen (raising £940!) and garden openings. Forthcoming plans include a sponsored cycle ride - *Dublin to Kilkenny*, a Luxury Food & Drink Fair, and a Pony Auction at the Millstreet Show. Particular thanks to Dublin organiser, Brendan Flynn, who has raised more than £5,000 since January '93 from his *New 5p Appeal*. Brendan has now extended his collection to foreign notes and coins and confidently expects to reach £10,000 by the end of the year. If you would like to contact Christine, please write to: *Children of the Andes*, PO Box 3442, Dublin 14. Tel. Dublin 283 6161.

## HOPE CENTRE - SUBACHOQUE

Since the opening of *Hope Centre* at Subachoque in July 1993, seventeen children have come through this first stage home where the emphasis is on weaning them off drugs and stabilising them, with schooling and training taking second place until they reach Cajicá. *Children of the Andes'* supporters contributed an enormous amount towards making the Centre a reality and we are delighted that the programme is already making a difference to these children's lives. Below is a report by Judy Seall, a drama therapist from Reading, who is working as a volunteer at Subachoque.

### A LIFE IN THE DAY OF A VOLUNTEER

It's 6.45 am and the start of a very long day at Subachoque. I take a bus to meet the *Fundación's* jeep along with Francisco, Adonias, Nancy and any other volunteers. Francisco is the inspired director and leader of a young dynamic team based at a rehabilitation centre, specially built for ex-street children by the *Fundación Niños de los Andes*. Nancy, the teacher, has a clear understanding of her students, being a former street-child herself, and is much loved by them all. Adonias is officially the psychologist, but he also does a wonderful job of cutting the children's hair. Anyone working at the *Fundación* is expected to have several skills, plenty of patience and an ability to give unconditional love. It is demanding work.



*Judy with staff at Subachoque*

As we travel over unmade roads with huge piles of rubble (typical throughout Bogotá) individual children are discussed and home visits planned. An hour later we reach the *Fundación's* latest home, built on a hill overlooking the most beautiful scenery. It has only been open a year and is the first stage home for new arrivals from the street. As you can imagine it is a tough stage. Learning to live without your daily intake of glue-sniffing and coming to terms with what's happened to you before - which might include sexual, physical and mental abuse, often being kicked out of home - and then learning to trust strange adults in this new home all takes time.



We are greeted by twenty very special children, many of whom throw themselves at us intent on hugging us as tightly as possible. I call them my 'loving monsters'. After a cuddle, the struggle resumes: stones are thrown as a form of greeting, heads are butted and balls are kicked at windows. It's a little like living in a war zone. Things rarely calm down and ceasefires only last about five minutes - but individually the children are loving, funny and very respectful of the adults, especially the *mona extranjera* (blonde foreign woman). A few weeks after my first visit I inform them that I'm actually a pacifist in the hope of introducing them to an alternative approach to forming relationships. My statement is met with blank faces, and then after some explanation on my part they conclude that I'm completely mad and continue fighting. It is hardly surprising that such fights can take up so much of their day considering the violence they have lived with in the sewers and on the streets. Fourteen-year-old old Jairo had seen so many friends gunned down by the police before he came to live in the *Fundación* that he trained his dogs to warn him when they were approaching. Sofia is in hiding from the police because she witnessed two policemen killing several street children. And yet the children are surprisingly positive and have so much potential. Ten-year-old Jaime may not know how to do a puzzle yet but he knows how to survive on the streets of one of the most dangerous cities in the world.

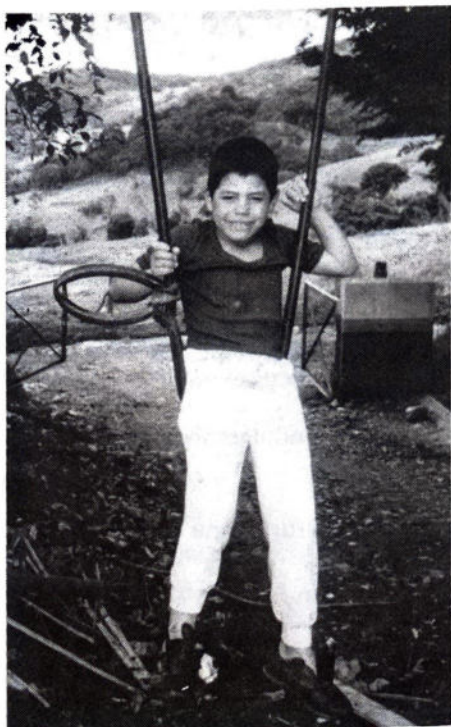
By the time we arrive the children have been up several hours - they have washed, cleaned through their dormitory, exercised, had breakfast and are out working. Physical labour is considered to be a very important part of their rehabilitation. This can include removing piles of disused bricks up to the all weather court, milking the cows, sorting out the laundry or planting potatoes. But everything is voluntary, although the children soon discover that it's more boring to do nothing! When the group of boys shoveling bricks notice that I have picked up a spade to help them they rush to me handing me a superior spade.

I have rarely met such tough children whose love and respect for the adults helping them is overwhelming. This extends into breaktime when we are all given a bar of chocolate, a packet of cheesy puffs, fruit and a drink. Once Jesus realises that I am a chocolate addict he shares half his Kit-Kat with me. A certain amount of swapping of food goes on, and for a moment you could be in any playground in the world. That is until you notice Dionel's pockets stuffed with stolen cheesy puffs and fruit - some things will never change!

Workshops begin at 11.00, and take place in a large shell-like building which resembles an aeroplane hanger. Francisco has divided it up into sections so several workshops can take place at the same time. Nancy is responsible for many of the workshops, which include mop-making, brush-making, the manufacture of plastic bags, and more recently the *panaderia* (bakery). The *Fundación* sells as many of these products as possible, and Francisco's dream is for the centre to become completely self-sufficient. One of the *Fundación's* priorities is to make the children self-sufficient too so they all have the opportunity to learn a particular trade. Many of the children have been given jobs by Jaime Jaramillo in the petroleum industry. The children will be offered support when they leave, but it is always on the understanding that they in turn will help another street child. In fact right from the beginning individuals are expected to help themselves - in order to come to Subachoque they must give up their bottles of glue and leave their knives on the street.



ph: Geraldine Murphy



photos above and left: Judy Seall

Lessons begin round about 2.30 pm. Life at Subachoque is flexible and timetables are disregarded if other needs arise. If a cow is giving birth we are all given the option of being present at the birth. And days out to visit friends at the other centre in Cajicá is very important. It has taken me time to understand these children and their appalling backgrounds. During my reading of *The Pied Piper*, nine-year-old Christofer doesn't know what a *bosque* (wood) is, yet this same child has known the sewer network in Bogotá most of his life.

Tea is at 4 o'clock. There is always plenty to eat at Subachoque, which of course has to be a priority for children who have gone for days without eating on the streets, and had younger brothers and sisters who have literally starved to death. When it is deemed that a child needs to be punished s/he is given an *ayuda* (chore), but their food is never removed. They are then free until supper and they usually watch television and carefully chosen videos (violent films are generally avoided). Bedtime is at 8 o'clock and apparently they sleep like *angelitos* (little angels). We are picked up around 6.30 pm. The children cling to the jeep as we drive away. Later catching my bus home I try to count the children living in the streets of this unfriendly city, but there are too many. The *angelitos* in Subachoque are the lucky ones.

## GALA OPERA NIGHT - 29 January 1995

A major fund-raising event in 1995 has been planned and developed by one of our Colombian supporters, **Julio Trebilcock**, Wardrobe Master of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. This splendid Gala Opera Night, which we hope will be in the presence of a member of the Royal Family, will feature a host of international opera stars in a programme of popular highlights from the great operas.

Artists taking part will include **Thomas Allen, Bruce Ford, Dennis O'Neill, Anne Sofie von Otter, Katia Ricciarelli** and **Giuseppe Sabbatini**, with the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**, conducted by **Sir Colin Davis** and **Paul Griffiths** - all the artists performing will be giving their services free.

The **Jerwood Foundation** has very generously agreed to become the principal benefactor and donations have also been received from **N M Rothschild & Sons** and **Cable and Wireless plc**. We still have to find further corporate sponsors to ensure the success of this event.

The Gala will take place at 7pm on **Sunday 29th January 1995** at the historic **Theatre Royal, Drury Lane**. All net proceeds from the evening will go directly to the Children of the Andes Fund and we are hoping to raise at least £100,000.

We would like to offer you, as a supporter of the Charity, the first opportunity to purchase tickets, but also enlist your help in selling tickets and spreading the word. The money raised will go directly towards the rescue and rehabilitation of street children and your help in achieving our goal will be much appreciated. We have applied for VAT exemption on tickets and expect the prices to be as follows:

Balcony	£10, £20, £30
Upper Circle	£30, £45, £55
Stalls	£30, £55, £65 (£65 tickets include glass of champagne)
Grand Circle	£100 (including interval champagne reception)

Booking for the concert will open in September, but if you would like to be sure of tickets, please complete and return the form below before 26 August. Confirmation of your booking will be sent to you with instructions for payment before public booking opens.

Do join us for this exciting Gala Opera Night if you can.

All details correct at the time of going to print.

To: Gala Opera Night, Children of the Andes, Enterprise House, 59-65 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PQ

Please reserve the following tickets for the Gala Opera Night at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on Sunday 29 January 1995. I understand my reservation will be given priority over general booking.

No of tickets ..... Price £ ..... Part of Theatre .....

*Please return this form by 26 August to be sure of your tickets.*

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Daytime Tel: .....

## Special thanks

Invaluable help continues to be given by professionals and businesses who freely give their expertise, services and supplies; our office operation and systems are heavily dependent upon their generosity - our thanks to you all. Also, our UK staff of three could not cope in the office or at outside fund-raising events without the practical support of a team of dedicated volunteers - we greatly value their whole-hearted contribution.

## 'Sale of the Century' - October '94

Leeds organiser, Irene Blanthorn, is planning an enormous sale of new and nearly new goods in the Corn Exchange, Leeds on Sunday, 23 October. If anyone, particularly around Leeds, has any unused and unwanted items, she would be delighted to receive them at 137 Stanhope Drive, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4LU - but please no bric-a-brac or second-hand clothes! Irene is also looking for outlets to sell quality, inexpensive, hand-made cushion covers, place mats, animal draught excluders etc, made from donated fabrics - all proceeds going to *Children of the Andes*. A catalogue is available and her work can be seen this autumn at London Earls Court Crafts Fair.

**Fallen Angels:** Canongate Press  
*Fallen Angels, Stories of Los Gaminés* by Robin Lloyd-Jones is a collection of short stories about street children, researched in the back streets of Bogotá. It is a compelling and disturbing insight into the lives of street children. The author has donated 600 hardback copies for us to sell at a discount price of £5 - all proceeds going to help the rescue work in Colombia.

## London-Mexico Car Rally '95

Rally Driver Peter Woodward, winner of the 1992 West African Safari and class winner in the 1993 London-Sydney Marathon, asks for help to find sponsors for the 1995 London-Mexico Rally. Peter has offered to promote *Children of the Andes* on his BMC 1800 car through 16 countries in Europe, South and Central America. Any suggestions please to Peter at: 253A Park Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1NT Tel. 0895 231349.

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**REPLY COUPON** please return to: *Children of the Andes*, Enterprise Hse, 59-65 Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PQ

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ..... Address .....

please print

Postcode ..... Tel .....

I would like to:

PLEASE TICK/DELETE

- fund-raise /assist with fund-raising - please send list of fund-raising materials and ideas
- be put in touch with my Area Organiser/or any supporters who live near me so that we can fund-raise together  
*you may give them my name and address/name and telephone number*
- buy Christmas cards/Greetings cards - please send details when available

Please send me:

- information on making a legacy to *Children of the Andes* / Gift Aid form / Deposited Covenant form
- collecting box (free) / schools' pack (11-13 yrs Geography/Pastoral) @ £5 / book *Fallen Angels* @ £5
- video *Newsround* @ £4 / video *The Visit & Newsround* @ £5

I enclose £ ..... in payment

I enclose £ ..... donation

Total £ ..... I do/do not require a receipt

- we can now take credit card donations and orders over the telephone - please call 071-928 1878
- please make cheques payable to *Children of the Andes*

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR DONATION

### BANKER'S ORDER

*Please send to Children of the Andes, not your bank.*

To (name and address of your bank): *Please print.*

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Bank Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to *Children of the Andes* the sum of

£ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly/quarterly/annually  
 starting \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please pay to:* Barclays Bank PLC, Town Gate Hse,  
 Church Street, Woking, Surrey GU21 1HE.  
*for the credit of:* Children of the Andes.  
 Account No 00243213.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DEED OF COVENANT

I \_\_\_\_\_  
 of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

undertake to pay *Children of the Andes* each year for  
 \_\_\_ years (four or more), or during my lifetime if  
 shorter, the sum that after the deduction of income  
 tax at the basic rate will be:

£ \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Signed & delivered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

*This form must be witnessed:*

Witness' signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witness' address \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete form/s and return to us  
 at Enterprise House*

### DEED OF COVENANT

This is a promise to the charity to make donations for at least four years. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or annually. When you make a donation in this way we are able to reclaim the income tax you have already paid thus increasing your gift by about one third at no extra cost to you.

### PAYROLL GIVING

If you receive a salary, and your firm operates this scheme, you can donate up to £75 a month. Apart from helping us, you will not be taxed on this money, so a gift of, say, £10 will only cost you £7.50. Please ask your employer for details or write to us.

### GIFT AID and DEPOSITED COVENANT

If you wish to give £250 or more in the course of the financial year as a single donation, the Charity can reclaim the income tax you have already paid. For instance, if you send £250 to *Children of the Andes* and you have already paid tax on this money, the Charity can reclaim this tax at the basic rate and your gift of £250 is then worth £333.33 at no extra cost to you. Please ask for a Gift Aid form and/or further details. For a single donation under £250 you may chose to make a Deposited Covenant, under which scheme we can also reclaim the tax you have already paid. Details and form available.

### BANKER'S ORDER

Even if you are not a taxpayer, regular donations by banker's order are very helpful to us as they enable us to plan ahead. Please complete the Banker's Order form above if you would like to do this.

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## WHAT YOUR MONEY CAN BUY

<p><b>£3</b></p> <p>workshop materials and tuition for one child for one month.</p>	<p><b>£5</b></p> <p>rubella vaccination for one child</p>	<p><b>£50</b></p> <p>one night's street rescue <i>patrol</i> in Bogotá</p>	<p><b>£100</b></p> <p>a meal a day for one year for a malnourished child.</p>	<p><b>£750</b></p> <p>average monthly cost of medical care and hospital fees for street children on outreach programme</p>
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**THANK YOU FOR HELPING CHILDREN OF THE ANDES**