



Five years ago, Children of the Andes was established in a garage in Dorking. What started as an appeal just for Jaime Jaramillo's *Fundación Niños de los Andes* has now grown to become a source of funding for many other organisations, all working to change the lives of Colombia's most vulnerable children. With your support, *Fundación Niños de los Andes* has become a significant charity, with a dedicated and professional staff and a growing roll of former street children equipped with the skills and training needed to earn a living. On our 5th birthday, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, fundraisers and volunteers whose generosity and practical help have transformed the lives of many hundreds of Colombian children through the work of all the organisations we support.

## News from Colombia

*A report by Sarah Allen of Children of the Andes*

At the end of last year I travelled to Colombia and saw for myself the results of Children of the Andes' work in this beautiful but troubled country. Meeting the children who are being helped was unforgettable. As the social director, Dr Maria Cecilia Castro, of the *Fundación Niños de los Andes* said to me, "These children have a thing or two to teach us about courage." They have suffered so much in their short lives and it is all the more rewarding to meet children who have left the streets and are settled in a home receiving education and training. Their vitality, affection and enjoyment of life are wonderful to see. The commitment of the Colombian men and women running the projects also made a deep impression on me. Your support through Children of the Andes has been invaluable to them and I promised to pass on their thanks to you.



*Jaime Jaramillo with a happy group of former street children in the care of the Fundación Niños de los Andes*

## The Rescue Patrols - Saving Young Lives

The street rescue patrols of the *Fundación* are running regularly in the cities of Bogotá and Manizales, taking food and medical care to children living on the streets. I accompanied a patrol which went out from their office in Bogotá. Walking around the city centre the children are quite visible, sleeping on the pavements, begging, hanging around in groups. At night they can be seen huddled in doorways, sniffing glue. When they are being harassed they will take refuge under bridges and in the storm drains that run through the city or else group together on waste ground.



*One of an estimated 5,000 street children sleeping rough on the streets of Bogotá*

As we drove we saw one young boy, aged about twelve, who looked as though he had been on the street for some time. He was filthy, with matted hair and torn and dirty clothing. He was curled up on the pavement alongside a busy road. The patrol leader, Adonías, woke him up being careful not to alarm him and started chatting to him. He was shivering, but smiled at us. "Someone nicked my shirt" he said, "have you got any food?" He had clearly been sniffing glue, although he wasn't using it in front of us. Adonías explained who we were and started talking about the *Fundación's* home outside Bogotá. "Oh, I've been in Homes" the boy said, "I didn't like it." Adonías explained that he would be free to leave the *Fundación* at any time if he wanted to. He told him about going to school, about getting a training, about getting regular meals. "What do you want to do when you grow up?" The boy shrugged. "Do you want to end up like the old men you see wandering around out of their minds on

drugs?" The boy shook his head. "You know they envy you because you're still young. You can still change your life." By now the boy was looking at him. He was visibly thinking. We gave him a number to call if he wanted to talk to Adonías again, and arranged to meet the next week in the same place.

This conversation must have happened a thousand times since the *Fundación* started its work. Hundreds of children have left the street because of the work of the rescue patrols. The *Fundación* is well-known to street children who will sometimes make their own way to the office in Bogotá. While I was there a young boy came in, put two bags of glue down on the desk and said "I want to be rehabilitated." He was taken in the same night to the main home at Subachoque.

There can be no more worthwhile cause than saving a child from the degradation and fear of street life. It costs around £50 to run one rescue patrol. With your help more children will be given the chance of a life worth living.

## Prevention - Keeping Families Together

Reducing the number of children taking to the streets in the first place is clearly of vital importance. In 1995 Children of the Andes continued to support a Youth Arts and Training Centre in a shanty town of Bogotá, one of the preventative projects which is doing just that. Here children have to grow up very quickly and bear the brunt of their family's problems. Some end up taking to the streets as a result of abuse or neglect. The violence which is so deep-rooted in Colombian society adds a sinister dimension to their lives. In this shanty town, as in so many others, children and young people hanging around on street corners have been shot at and killed by gunmen in unmarked cars because they were suspected of belonging to a gang. The youth gangs are themselves usually armed and involved in violent crime and their conflicts also tragically claim many young lives.



Day-care centres protect children otherwise left alone while parents work

The Centre is a life-line to the children and young people in the area.

Some come through the doors early in the morning and don't want to leave at night. There is a pre-school, a health clinic, an after-school club and workshops offering a huge range of activities, including music, dance, theatre and art. It offers a protected space where the children can learn and play. Young people work as volunteers, helping the younger children with their studies, and are eventually trained as youth workers. Families are reached through the participation of their children. The Centre holds open days and festivals for the community. The organisers were very pleased recently to see that young people known to belong to gangs had approached them and asked to take part in the festival.

Thanks to your support Children of the Andes has been able to provide grants for workshop materials and nominal salaries for the youth workers. They have made a small amount of money go a very long way. The young people I met were working with great energy and enthusiasm to improve the lives of children in their area and to foster peace in their community. The workshops materials cost £170 per month and the centre benefits around 600 children. With our help they can continue their work and extend it to other communities.

## Where your donations went in 1995

For the *Fundación Niños de los Andes* grants were given to cover most of the operating costs of the rescue patrols and rehabilitation homes in Bogotá and Manizales; also to pay for a four-wheel drive bus; **Smaller grants were given to** a self-governing home for street children in Bogotá; a day-care centre in Barrancabermeja for refugee children from regions of armed conflict; a pre-school centre for children from poor families in Bogotá; workshop materials for a Youth Arts and Training Centre; equipment for a nutrition course for mothers in a shanty area of Bogotá; a minibus for a home for abandoned children with disabilities; equipment for a home for children suffering from leukaemia; mother and baby medical equipment for a health clinic in a shanty town, and a blindness prevention programme for children in remote rural areas.



Young leukaemia patients in a home supported by Children of the Andes which provides total care for children from poor rural families during their stay in the capital for treatment

## Special Thanks



Patron Virginia McKenna gives a helping hand as John Lyon School Head, the Rev'd Timothy Wright is pilloried for Children of the Andes

Among the many individuals and groups who contributed so generously in 1995 and 1996 to Children of the Andes' work in Colombia, we would particularly like to single out the boys and staff of John Lyon School, Harrow, for their magnificent fundraising gift of £7,250; Jo van Driessche for his Christmas concert in Belgium which raised £2,250; Stephen Quirke for his intrepid walk of 150 miles across Ireland which raised £820 (fuelled, he told us by 130 pints of Guinness!) and the Engineers' and Managers' Association for their invaluable help with accommodation and publicity. Substantial sums have also been raised or donated by Beckenham Methodist Church; Holy Trinity Church, Jesmond; St John's Church, Locks Heath; St Joseph's RC Parish Church, Gerrards Cross; St John's UR Church, Northwood; the Rotary Club of Ewell; David S Smith (Holdings) PLC; Digital Equipment Co Ltd; Cooper Gay Charitable Trust; The Besom Foundation; Sun 1991 Settlement; The Tanner Trust; Margaret McEwen Trust; our covenant donors and area organisers.

## Walk the Andes!

This is our first nationwide fundraising initiative. In June and July Children of the Andes supporters across the country will be walking to raise funds. We aim collectively to walk the length of the Colombian Andes - 1,000 kilometres! Will you join us?

*See separate poster for more details.*

## London Meeting

30 Children of the Andes fundraisers attended our special London Fundraisers' Meeting in March. The day was very enjoyable, with time for fundraisers to learn more about our work in Colombia and meet the Children of the Andes staff, Trustees and fellow supporters. Most importantly, we came up with many valuable fundraising ideas ranging from musical concerts and salsa evenings, to sponsored events, auctions, cheese and wine lunches and non-uniform days. Several of the fundraisers are already organising their events, while others are introducing the charity to schools, groups and churches. We hope to hold similar meetings around the country in the future, so please let us know if you are interested in joining us.

## Can you help us reach new supporters?

Over three-quarters of Children of the Andes' work is funded by donations from individuals, without whose generosity we would be unable to brighten so many young lives in Colombia. The rest of our support comes from various fundraising events. Do let us know if we can supply materials or give an illustrated talk to groups who would like to fundraise for the charity.

**At work:** Do your employers have a charitable-giving scheme? Would they match your donations? Would your colleagues take part in a fundraising effort?

**At school:** Do you know any teachers or pupils of a local school? Would they like to learn about Children of the Andes? Would they like to fundraise?

**At church:** Do you belong to a church or another religious group? Could we make a visit to talk about Children of the Andes and hold an appeal?

**At leisure:** Do you belong to a Rotary/Lions/Ladies' social club? Would your group like to have a speaker? If you belong to an orchestra, dramatic society, sports club, why not hold an event in aid of Children of the Andes?

You are our means of reaching more supporters, and we hope that you may be able to introduce Children of the Andes to others.

## Making your gifts go further

In the last two years the charity has gained almost £20,000 in reclaimed tax from donations - income which would have been lost if these donations had not been made by Deed of Covenant or Gift Aid. Please consider making your gift worth almost a third more to us by choosing one of these tax effective schemes - e.g. if you give us £25, we actually receive £32.89. Simply fill in the form overleaf or call our office for a Gift Aid certificate.

If you wish to make regular donations, paying by standing order also helps us by reducing the administration involved in processing your donations.



## Materials

Children of the Andes offers an updated range of fundraising materials including:

- \* Promotional leaflets (see enclosed copy)
- \* Large black and white posters
- \* Black and white flyers
- \* Children's packs (including a map, fact sheet and fundraising ideas)
- \* Slide sets with full notes for speakers (on loan)
- \* Photo books for fundraisers contacting schools, groups and churches in their area (on loan)
- \* *Fallen Angels*, a compelling collection of short stories about street children (£5)
- \* Collection boxes

Do call us with any fundraising ideas you have - we are always pleased to hear from supporters.

*Please tick the appropriate boxes on the reply coupon if you would like to order materials.*

Please consider making your gift to Children of the Andes worth almost a third more to us by taking out a covenant.

## DEED OF COVENANT

(Tax recovery form to be returned to Children of the Andes)

I (CAPITALS PLEASE) ..... (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss), 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 basic rate income tax, will be:

£ ..... each month/quarter/year (*delete as necessary*) from ..... / ..... / 19.....

Signed (in the presence of a witness, who should not be a member of your family) .....

Witnessed by (CAPITALS PLEASE) ..... of .....  
..... Postcode .....

Signature of Witness ..... Date .....

*It eases our administrative work if covenanted donations can be paid by Banker's Order.*

## BANKER'S ORDER FORM

(for use with a covenanted donation, or separately if you wish to make regular payments)

To the Manager (Bank/Bldg Soc.) ..... Address .....  
..... Postcode .....

Sort Code ..... My Account No .....

Please pay to the credit of CHILDREN OF THE ANDES (a/c no 00243213) at Barclays Bank (20-97-58), Town Gate House, Church Street, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1HE the sum of:

£ ..... (..... in words) starting on ..... / ..... / 19.....

and the same sum monthly/quarterly/yearly until ..... payments have been made, or until further notice.

Name (CAPITALS PLEASE) ..... (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss) Address .....  
..... Postcode .....

Signed ..... Date .....

*Please return to Children of the Andes. We will send this form to your bank.*

## REPLY COUPON

Please send me information on (tick as required):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> how to take part in 'Walk the Andes'              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Aid (for donations of £250 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising at work                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Deposited Covenant                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising at school                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll giving                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising at church                             | <input type="checkbox"/> leaving a legacy                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising other ( <i>please specify</i> ) ..... |   |

**Materials** (please specify quantity): ..... promotional leaflets\*, ..... flyers, ..... posters, ..... children's packs

\* Please call us on 0171-928 1878 for orders over ten, and also if you would like a slide set, photo book or collecting box.

I would like to make a donation of £ ..... (postal orders/cheques made payable to Children of the Andes)

Please tick for receipt

Title ..... Name (CAPITALS PLEASE) .....

Address.....

..... Postcode ..... Telephone .....