ANNUAL REPORT 2014

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

IN NORTHERN PERU
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*Photo credit: Kara Flanagan, Juliane Ziegler*
We are very pleased with the progress Otra Cosa Network has made in 2014, building on our experience, expanding our projects and having a positive impact on the life of many people in Northern Peru. We are trying to make a difference in people’s lives and step by step we are doing that. We have also forged stronger partnerships with our donors, as well as with existing and new institutional partners.

We are proud that this year we have achieved significant progress with our Girls’ LitClub group, improving girls’ access to quality reading and celebrating events such as World Read Aloud Day with our great partner LitWorld. This partnership has also enabled us to start up a new Boys’ LitClub this year, making these opportunities available to even more children in the area. Furthermore, we have made a great impact with the women’s group and continue with our sewing classes as well as with a variety of other workshops. Otra Cosa Network is now in a unique position to help these girls, boys and women further.
We also connected with ‘Dress a Girl Around the World’ and, mainly thanks to Coten End Sewing group in Warwick, were able to take over 230 dresses to Peru that were distributed in and around Huanchaco, and even in the highlands of Yanasara. We also enabled the Yanasara Primary graduation group to do a tour and see the ocean for the first time.

This year we produced a series of videos about OCN, including one which focuses more specifically on some of the structural development issues in some of the areas where we work. We work hard to respond to the changing needs of the people in the communities where we operate and we are committed to continue learning and going from strength to strength.

We managed to grow our income in 2014 particularly thanks to an increased grant from LitWorld for the literacy projects mentioned above and, at the very end of the year, a new one-off grant from LUSH to enable our HELP Environment project to be expanded in 2015. The LUSH grant will enable us to increase our local staff from two to three for next year.

In Peru, with so much growing economic pressure and inequality, we also plan to develop OCN further as a local, national and international network. Otra Cosa Network is linking with people across the world and to this end we will continue to take into account the diversity, cost-effectiveness and accountability of all of our actions.

We are very blessed to have not only fantastic and committed staff, who identify with the cause of OCN, but also dedicated trustees and great volunteers from all over the world, whose generosity has enabled us along the years to continue achieving the successes presented in this report.

We really thank you for your continued support, for helping us break the barriers of inequality and for helping to make life better for the girls and boys, women and men that we work with in Northern Peru.

With gratitude,

Peter Murphy
Director

Juany Murphy
Director of International Relations
Otra Cosa Volunteer Agency began in September 2004 as a small, low-cost volunteering agency providing volunteers to a few, mainly local, projects. It was founded by Peter den Hond and Janneke Smeulders and run from their vegetarian restaurant. The couple developed their volunteer agency over the next two and a half years until they decided to return to the Netherlands in April 2007 to live and pursue the development of their fair trade photography project. Peter and Juany Murphy, a British-Peruvian couple who lived in Huanchaco and had already been working with the organisation on a voluntary basis since August 2005, agreed to take it over and became the owners and managers in April 2007. From April 2007 to September 2009, Peter and Juany ran Otra Cosa Volunteer Agency alone, growing and developing it by adding many more partner projects and attracting more volunteers to help out at these projects.

In 2009 and 2010 respectively, Peter and Juany succeeded in getting the organisation legally registered as a Peruvian non-profit NGO with the APCI (Peruvian Association for International Cooperation) and a UK Charity, becoming the directors of the organisation. During this process the organisation underwent a change of name from Otra Cosa Volunteer Agency to Otra Cosa Network (OCN) in order to reflect the network of people and projects that we work with.

While development in Peru has been improving substantially, the vast majority of this development has mainly been concentrated in Lima and Cusco. Therefore, Juany and Peter had a vision of bringing more development and opportunities to Northern Peru through international volunteerism, with a special focus on the underserved areas within Huanchaco and Trujillo. Since 2009, OCN has continued to successfully expand and develop significantly, in 2014 supporting over 25 local partner projects while also managing 5 of our own projects that address some of the most pressing issues affecting development in Peru. These projects are known as our Huanchaco Education & Learning Programmes (HELP), and you will find much more information regarding these projects in our project descriptions.
Now in 2014 Juany and Peter are still deeply involved in OCN and based in the UK from where they oversee the organisation on a part-time basis – developing the organisation, networking within the UK, Europe and elsewhere and providing general guidance to staff in Peru. In Huanchaco, Peru, OCN is still going strong and was led by Operations Manager, Jaci Braga and Assistant Manager, Jenny Kehoe, both working full time and usually supporting between 15 to 30 different volunteers.

We are proud of how far OCN has evolved over the past years and we are looking forward to what we can accomplish in the future.
The District of Huanchaco is part of the Trujillo province in La Libertad region, Northern Peru. The district capital is Huanchaco town, a quiet, easy-going place that still retains its fishing-village ambience. Over the last three millennia, locals have stuck to traditional ways of fishing, going out on their caballitos de totora (traditional reed fishing boats), and using their nets to gather their catch for the day. The district is home to Chan Chan, the largest pre-Columbian city in South America and Huanchaco town is a known surf destination. The argument that surfing derived from the pre-Incan caballito fishing traditions is so strong, that in 2013 Huanchaco was designated as a World Surfing Reserve.

In recent decades the District of Huanchaco has expanded exponentially due to migration from the highlands and the jungle by those looking for a better standard of living or forced from their homes by natural disasters such as the El Niño phenomenon in 1997/98. Many of these incomers live in the shanty towns surrounding Huanchaco and their daily reality is very different from many of those living just a ten minute walk away in the centre of the town. Unlike the town centre, these communities lack infrastructure – there are no paved roads, most households don’t have a sewage system and there is limited access to running water. Furthermore, having migrated from even poorer parts of the country, parents in these areas have often had limited access to education, and poverty and social problems are rife. All of this means that children growing up in these neighbourhoods are at a disadvantage from the outset and do not have access to the same educational opportunities as their more privileged counterparts.
« Having migrants from even poorer parts of the country, parents in these areas have often had limited access to education, and poverty and social problems are rife. »

Huanchaco by Numbers
District of Huanchaco 2012 population..59,001
District of Huanchaco 1993 population..19,935

Population living in poverty*………………………………………23%
Population living in extreme poverty*..............................3%
Illiteracy rate among men†...........................................2%
Illiteracy rate among women†.................................7%
Children under the age of 5 who are chronically malnourished*.................................17%

Houses without access to running water†............................40%
Houses without access to sewage system/latrine†...........7%
Houses without electricity†.............................................20%
Houses with earth floors†.............................................53%
Houses with an internet connection†...............................4%

Source: La Libertad Compendio Estadístico 2012, INEI
(*data from 2009; †data from 2007)
"Supporting development in Northern Peru by connecting dedicated volunteers with local community projects."

"Equal opportunities in Peru for everyone to succeed and thrive."
Otra Cosa Network is led by husband and wife team, Peter and Juany Murphy, who both work part-time from the UK. Our Director, Peter, oversees the overall operations of the organisation and supervises the staff. Juany, a native of Trujillo, Peru, is our Director of International Relations who helps to recruit new volunteers from Europe to support our work in Peru. In Peru, Jaci Braga is the Operations Manager, who works full-time managing the organisation, with support from Jenny Kehoe, the Assistant Operations Manager, who is also a vital asset to the overall operations of the organisation and the management and supervision of the volunteers. The Board of Trustees has overall control of the charity, and is responsible for making sure that Otra Cosa Network is doing what it has been set up to do: supporting development in Northern Peru by connecting dedicated volunteers with local community projects.

Volunteers also help us with a variety of roles here in the Otra Cosa Network office. In 2014 our office volunteers assisted with marketing, accounts and volunteer management, as well as general office support. Not only do these roles provide volunteers with a fantastic insight into how a small NGO is run, but our office volunteers are also an invaluable source of support for OCN. Often the work of these volunteers does not take the form of any one-off success; rather their daily dedication to OCN is one of those vital endeavours that allow us to continue making a difference in the communities where we serve. Be it inducting new volunteers, helping to keep our admin in order or maintaining social media, our office volunteers are instrumental to the work we achieve.
**Peter Murphy** - Director, Otra Cosa Network, UK

Peter is an Englishman who has lived and worked in Brazil, Germany and Peru as well as the UK. Originally a mathematician and an accountant; he took an MBA and became Business Planning Manager and Financial Controller at Land Rover. After 29 years working in the automotive industry, in 2005 he came to live with Juany and their three boys here in Huanchaco. He was a part-time English teacher and volunteer for Otra Cosa Network before starting to jointly run OCN.

**Juany Murphy** - Director of International Relations, Otra Cosa Network, UK

Juany worked for Otra Cosa Network for five years on a voluntary basis while living in Peru, then moved to England in 2010 and now works two days a week in her role as Director of International Relations. In this role she promotes Otra Cosa Network, building links with Universities and other partner organisations in the UK, across Europe and around the world. Juany has a background in education and started the OCN literacy programme with women in Northern Peru. She has participated in several development projects in the area. She is also the mother of three boys.
**Jaci Braga** - Operations Manager, Otra Cosa Network, Peru

Jaci was born and raised in upstate NY, then moved to Denver Colorado to pursue a dual Masters in Social Work (MSW) and in International Studies (MA - with a dual concentration in Global Health and International Development). Jaci then settled down in Denver and dedicated most of her career focusing on community development and grassroots organisations that support human rights, social justice, immigrant rights and improved access to quality education and health care. Jaci also spent almost two years in Washington DC, leading an immigration campaign for two national organisations and then spent one year in Nicaragua, where she received her Yoga Alliance Teacher Training Certificate and spent several months volunteering in support of the sugarcane workers (and families) who are sick and dying from a crisis epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease. Jaci now works as Operations Manager for the Otra Cosa Network, managing the NGO and coordinating with our many partners in Huanchaco, Peru.

**Jenny Kehoe** - Assistant Operations Manager, Otra Cosa Network, Peru

Originally from Scotland, but pretty well travelled, this is Jenny’s second time living in Peru, having previously spent time in Lima. She studied International Law at the University of Glasgow and has recently completed a Masters in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where she specialised in gender issues. Her Masters dissertation focused on social protection in Peru and its impact on women. In previous roles she has worked for a large UK international development charity, managing volunteers on the British Government’s international youth volunteering programme. She is delighted to be back in Peru, working together with both international volunteers and the local community.
Board of Trustees

Peter and Junay Murphy, the directors of OCN, both also sit on the board of trustees. They are accompanied by Peter Reynolds, Emma Platt and Maribel Cancino to fill our 5 seats.

**Peter Reynolds** is a qualified solicitor based in London. He volunteered with OCN several years ago and agreed to be one of our founding independent Trustees when we registered with the UK Charity Commission in 2010. He helps ensure we meet all UK Charity Commission guidelines and provides any UK based legal advice we need.

**Emma Platt** is an International Development worker, currently based in Kenya, who also volunteered with Otra Cosa Network several years ago. Emma has completed her MA in International Development and provides useful advice and guidance on a range of development issues.

**Maribel Cancino** is a Senior Teacher at a School for Disabled children in Trujillo, Peru that we have worked with for many years. She has hands on experience working in a project we partner with and has seen how our volunteers can really help. She provides practical and realistic insight into using volunteers to help some of the most disadvantaged children.
Thanks to fundraising efforts at the end of 2013, our HELP English programme was able to begin the new school year in March with new resource books for our volunteer teachers.

This year we also created an online database of lesson plans, meaning that our volunteer teachers now have a much wider range of resources available to them.

In 2014 our HELP Environment programme really took off and we held our first ‘Yo Cuido Mi Playa’ beach clean-up campaign. At these events we educate and support the youth of Huanchaco to become young environmental leaders and spread the word about caring for our beaches to their families and friends. Through the year we held four beach clean-up events.

In March we worked together with the community in Cerrito de la Virgen to renovate their local community centre. Local children helped our volunteers to paint the space, whilst the mums prepared a delicious lunch to help keep everyone’s energy up.

In April through our HELP Women project, we held a day focussed on legal support and health advice for women at the local library. This session was open to all interested women in the local area and was a real success.

Following on from the success of our Girls’ LitClub in Cerrito de La Virgen, that focuses on reading, writing and literacy for girls, we received a second year of funding, which, in addition to continuing with our original LitClub, has allowed us to open a second LitClub, this time for boys in Las Lomas. Boys’ LitClub Las Lomas opened its doors at the end of April.
In May our volunteers built a second half-pipe ramp at the skate ramp. This was built thanks to funds raised by a volunteer-led music night in March. This new, slightly smaller ramp is not only more accessible to the smaller children and less confident skaters, but means that more children can skate at any one time.

In July, our Director of International Relations, Juany Murphy, brought 230 dresses with her from the UK to be distributed throughout the community. These dresses came from a community initiative organised by Helen Smith in memory of her daughter Evelyn, in conjunction with Dress a Girl Around the World charity.

In August, our Operations Manager, Jaci, held a fundraiser party for her birthday to raise money for our HELP Environment project. The event involved music and food and was a great success, raising S/.1900 for the project.

In October, OCN and our assistant manager, Jenny, once again received an award from the regional government of La Libertad in recognition of our hard work and dedication to combat youth delinquency and support youth development. This was truly an honour and a testament to the quality of work we are now achieving. Through the same partnership, we also participated in the United Nations forum on Alternative Measures to Incarceration.

We raised a great deal of money organising many small local events in 2014, and the vast majority of these funds went directly to our projects and to our partner projects.

At the end of the year, we also got the good news that we have been awarded a grant by LUSH Cosmetics to fund our HELP Environment project in 2015!
Huanchaco Education and Learning Programmes (HELP) are dedicated to advancing the education possibilities and resources for lower-income children and adults in Huanchaco and the surrounding shanty towns, as well as a number of remote locations in northern Peru. There are five HELP projects, each with a different focus, although all of them centre around local community development and many community members benefit from activities offered by more than one project. Our five projects are:

- HELP Women
- HELP English
- HELP Literacy
- HELP Youth: Skate Ramp
- HELP Environment
HELP Women - OCN's Women’s Empowerment Project

In 2011 OCN ran our first women’s empowerment project known as our Huanchaco Education and Learning Programme (HELP) Women Project, which took place in El Trópico, a shanty town area just outside of Huanchaco. This project taught values, family planning and gave legal advice while also encouraging entrepreneurship. The target group was initially teenage mothers and pregnant young women, but soon became a general women’s empowerment group.

In 2012 OCN began to develop a women’s empowerment project in Cerrito de la Virgen. Due to the high cost of buying school uniforms, and the barriers this created when the children could not attend school without one, we decided to hire a sewing teacher to teach the women to make the uniforms themselves. The women were thrilled with this opportunity and later began to sell some of the surplus uniforms, as a way to make an extra income. This not only helped some of the women to find work and allowed for many of their children to attend school, but it also allowed them greater economic independence as the uniforms they sold helped the women to provide for some of the basic needs of the family, including putting food on the table and accessing clean drinking water.

In 2013 and beginning of 2014, some of the women of Cerrito were still sewing uniforms, but they also began sewing dresses and started to learn how to knit and crochet as well. Our volunteers continued meeting with the women on a regular basis (often several times a week) and also organised several different events and workshops with the women. One of the workshops brought a social worker and a nurse from Huanchaquito health clinic up to Cerrito to answer questions and share information and resources regarding everything from health care services, to legal support, women’s rights, family planning and birth control.
In June of 2013, OCN also began working with a second women’s empowerment group at the Comedor in Huanchaco. The Comedor is a canteen where around 30 women from low-income backgrounds cook breakfast and lunch, Monday to Friday, on a rotating schedule in order to feed themselves and their children. The women all work together to support each other and their families.

OCN supports the women in running and facilitating meetings and support groups, and we also run different craft activities, including weekly sewing classes. This enabled the women to create Christmas cards to sell during the holiday season, to sew book bags that were sold to a local university and to sew and crochet clothes for themselves and their children. In addition, we organise volunteer lunches on a regular basis, where the women cook for our volunteers and then are able to save and invest the profits into their projects. We also began teaching English to some of the women and to their children. The English classes benefit both the women and the children, as well as helping to keep their kids busy in constructive ways so that the women can run their meetings and complete their projects without constant distractions.

Apart from the weekly activities, in April our volunteers arranged an afternoon full of workshops providing the women with legal aid, information on womens’ rights and help with family planning and health care, which was a great success. By June 2014, several similar opportunities besides the support of our organisation presented themselves for the women in Cerrito de la Virgen, and we decided to focus the full attention of our HELP Women efforts to support the group at the Comedor. During 2014, our HELP Women volunteers fundraised for and arranged three day trips for the women and children of the Comedor to nearby lakes and archeological sites, which they all enjoyed immensely.
During the course of the year we had three different HELP Women Coordinators, who put in over eight months of their time volunteering here in Peru to support both women’s groups. Meanwhile, we had seven other HELP Women volunteers who came to support the project. In total, our volunteers spent 2,262 hours working with over 40 different women from both women’s empowerment groups. In addition, through our fundraising efforts and with the great support of our volunteers, we raised funds and received donations totaling S/.2,286.80, that went directly to support the women. We also received in-kind donations from OCN supporters such as toothbrushes and materials for the sewing class. Overall, this project has had a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of the women, promoting new abilities like sewing, crochet and knitting, whilst also providing vital information about general healthcare, family planning and their legal and human rights.

« This is our safe haven that helps us keep going, fighting for our children and each other. »
-Marley,
HELP Women participant
HELP English - Improving Opportunities by Teaching English

Otra Cosa Network (OCN) began bringing English teaching volunteers into Peru over six years ago in an effort to help improve opportunities for low-income Peruvian children by teaching them English. This is very strategic here in Huanchaco because it is a tourist town and the majority of visitors speak English, so those Peruvians here that do speak English are much more likely to secure a job and income in the growing tourist market.

OCN has developed our own HELP English Programme to give our English teaching volunteers greater support while teaching English at the local public schools and partner projects. During the course of 2014 our HELP English coordinators – volunteers with greater teaching experience who are able to support, supervise and train our English teaching volunteers in this challenging position – created a new welcome packet and a teaching manual for all incoming teachers, as well as a new induction which is received by all English-teaching volunteers soon after their arrival into Peru. In addition, our coordinators developed and organised all types of resources, tools, books and activities for teachers to easily access and utilise.

“Having volunteers here has an impact on the children— not just through learning the language, but through learning about other cultures”

- Jose Miguel, Head teacher
Yanasara Secondary School
The coordinator also arranged for HELP English meetings held on a weekly basis to share successes, challenges, best practices and resources while also supporting each other in their work. This was a fantastic transformation as even those volunteers who were new to teaching were able to receive the training and resources necessary for professional development, to build confidence and become more creative and effective teachers in the classroom.

Our HELP English volunteers and OCN staff helped to raise S/.1,153.70 for our HELP English programme in 2014 so that we were able to buy many new books and materials for volunteers to use in the classroom. During the course of the year we had three volunteer HELP English Coordinators and 25 HELP English teachers that put in countless hours of their time preparing classes and teaching English to hundreds of Peruvian students in four different state schools and at five different community projects in Huanchaco, Las Lomas, Huanchaquito, Trujillo, Yanasara and Rodríguez de Mendoza.

Huanchaquito Alto

The Primary School that we support in Huanchaquito is about 5 to 10 minutes by bus from the volunteer house. The school has approximately 70-80 students spread across four year levels: Inicial (3-5 year olds), Year1-2, Year 3-4, and Year 5-6. Each classroom accommodates roughly 15-25 students. The school has a cement playground where students play football at recess. The classrooms are fairly bare, three with cement floors and one with a dirt ground. Often the school loses water, and it is situated in a very dry and dusty shanty town. Although there are limited resources students generally have stationary and writing materials. In 2014 OCN volunteers not only provided English classes to the students attending this school, but two volunteers also provided sports education classes as well.
Las Lomas

OCN also partners with a local state primary school in the shanty town of Las Lomas, which is located on the outskirts of Huanchaco (10 minute walk or 5 minute bus ride from the volunteer house). The school’s construction was supported by Caritas, and it has approximately 60 students over five grades: Inicial (3-4 year olds), 5 year olds, Year 1-2, Year 2-3 and Year 5-6. This school is in a notably poorer area than the primary school in Huanchaco, and it comes with some accompanying challenges. OCN had three different volunteers teaching English at Las Lomas in 2014, and all of them fell in love with the school and the children, despite the challenges.

The classrooms are concrete and have blackboards (and government supplies). The school budget is incredibly tight, and resources from the government are given without any communication of what the school needs. However, unfortunately, this never includes resources for teaching English, although students are expected to know at least basic English before beginning secondary school. Student behaviours can be quite challenging at this school, although most of the students are loving and appreciative of their English teachers and hugs are given out often.

Primary School Huanchaco

We support and partner with a state primary school situated in central Huanchaco, about 5 minutes walk from the OCN volunteer house. It is a large school of approximately 400 students, with two or three classes each year and a staff of 14. Each class has approximately 30 students in a standard-size classroom. The school budget supports operations and running costs of the schools, but cannot afford the extra costs of ESL teaching resources and teachers. The children that graduate from the this primary school will be attending a secondary school after year six, where they will be expected to know (at least) basic English. Without the English classes that have been provided by our volunteers, these students sadly start their secondary education already behind the children with more affluent backgrounds who attend a private primary school.
Yanasara

Yanasara is a remote mountain village, situated two hours from Huamachuco in the province of La Libertad. Three rivers and lovely mountains surround the village, although the main attraction is the thermal baths. Otra Cosa Network supports both the primary and secondary school in Yanasara, which doesn’t have enough money to employ many well-qualified teachers. Meanwhile, there is also a problem of finding teachers who are willing to work in remote areas in the mountains. As a result, the primary and secondary schools in the village are understaffed and the children do not receive much English language education. Therefore, Otra Cosa Network supports the school in Yanasara with volunteers, and they usually focus on teaching English, although volunteers can also teach arts, physical education, music or other subjects. The primary school has around 120 children and the secondary school has about 75 children. English is not only important for the children of Yanasara but also for some of the adults, who hope to be able to welcome tourists visiting the hot springs. While most of our volunteers have taught at the school, some have taken the opportunity to teach adults that are focused on improving their English and education to support the growing tourist market as well.

« Beyond the wonderful location, the true beauty of Yanasara, in my opinion, lies in the people you meet there. It is a true frame of Peruvian culture and you will get to discover and enjoy it in every aspect of life. »

-Martin Ruelle,
HELP English volunteer
HELP Literacy  Girl’s & Boys’ LitClubs

In 2013 we became the first organisation in Latin America to receive a grant from LitWorld, a US-based non-profit which funds reading groups known as LitClubs. LitWorld recognises that literacy provides access to history, knowledge, creativity and democracy and so aims to create social transformation at a grassroots level by funding LitClubs to improving literacy in the developing world.

The grant that we receive has allowed us to set up and manage two LitClubs in different parts of Huanchaco – one for girls and, more recently, one for boys. Our Girls’ LitClub is based in Cerrito de La Virgen, a shanty town on the outskirts of Huanchaco and classes began in February 2013. Our Boys’ LitClub takes place in another shanty town, Las Lomas, and started in April 2014. The money we receive also allows us to pay two local teachers, Carmen Díaz de Gonzáles for the Girls’ LitClub and Homer Cárdenas Angulo for the Boys’ LitClub. These two teachers, together with the support of our volunteers, plan

«It’s really great to be in LitClub because we meet altogether as sisters, we read nice stories and we write about values.»
Ericka Contreras Cruz,
LitClub Girl’s Participant
13 years old
and run the classes, which take place once a week. The groups are open to children in the area aged between 8-15 years old. Our Girls’ LitClub has been steadily expanding and has an average attendance of 18 girls each week, whilst our more recently founded Boys’ LitClub has an average attendance of nine boys.

The focus of LitClub is to help the children engage with and enjoy reading, writing and storytelling. Many of the parents in the areas where our LitClubs are based have not completed school and a few of the girls in particular have already been forced to drop out of school, in order to help with responsibilities at home – be that cooking, cleaning or looking after younger siblings. This means that for many of them, reading for pleasure is something completely new. The LitClub classes focus on reading (both silently to themselves and aloud to others), comprehension and creative writing to encourage the children to use their imaginations.

As single-sex environments, our LitClubs aim to provide the children with positive role models of their own gender, as well as to create a safe space where they can build their self-confidence. The LitClub curriculum is based around seven key strengths: Belonging, Friendship, Confidence, Curiosity, Courage, Kindness and Hope, which are designed to foster trust and mutual respect between the members of LitClub. In 2014, OCN recruited 11 volunteers to support the Girls’ LitClub project and three volunteers to support the Boys’ LitClub project. Since the projects each just run once a week, all of these volunteers also supported other projects.
HELP Youth - The Skate Ramp in Cerrito de la Virgin

Our skate ramp is based in Cerrito de la Virgen, one of the shanty towns outside of Huanchaco, which lacks not only some of the basics including running water and electricity, but also safe places for children to play and learn. Our volunteers saw potential there and decided to create a skate ramp, thanks to the cooperation of local businessman and surf champion, Juan Carlos Huarote, who gave us the long-term, rent-free use of his land. The skate ramp provides a safe and fun environment for children in an area where there is very little else for them to do.

Since the ramp was first built in 2010, it has developed from a basic play space with little equipment, to include monkey bars and a sheltered area with a table and benches that can be used for homework, drawing, playing with Lego®, making friendship bracelets and other activities. As such, the skate ramp also now acts as an after school club for girls and boys from 3-17 years old, many of whom don’t necessarily have an interest in skating, but welcome a safe place to play and learn. Whilst over 100 children come to use the ramp, in any one session, the average is around 23 children on a daily basis.

Over the years, the ramp has received several donations and has benefited from fundraising efforts both by OCN and by our volunteers. In 2014 this included donations of skateboards and other parts from volunteers. We also created a mural, with help from the kids, which helps to brighten up the space. However, our biggest development at the ramp this year was that thanks to local fundraising efforts by our volunteers in March, we were able to build a second, slightly smaller, half-pipe ramp which is not only more accessible to the smaller children and less confident skaters, but means that more children can skate at any one time.

In 2014 we had 16 volunteers helping out at the ramp and they act as positive role models for the children, making the ramp a place for healthy social development to occur. More recently we have begun focusing more deeply on
youth and leadership development at the ramp, and the children and teenagers have been learning more about some core values including respect, sharing and telling the truth. We have also been working to help them build more confidence in themselves and in their abilities at skating and other sports. In addition, the older teens have begun to take more of a leadership role at the ramp by helping to support the volunteers and the younger kids, while also being a role model in the community and to the other children at the project. Unfortunately, at the end of the year, our landlord needed his land back, meaning that we can no longer use that space. Thankfully our ramps are moveable, so we were able to easily relocate this project just down the street for the coming year!

« Kids are spared from drugs here. They would rather be here then out creating mischief »
Jose Junior Augurto,
15 years old
HELP Youth participant
HELP Environment: Yo Cuido Mi Playa

OCN’s HELP Environment project and the “Yo Cuido Mi Playa” campaign began towards the end of 2013, after we supported a community beach clean up. Noticing how quickly the beach was once again completely covered in garbage after our cleanup efforts, we soon realised that beach clean ups are simply not the solution to the problem of litter here in Peru. On the contrary, the problem is that throwing rubbish out of bus and car windows, leaving litter on the beach and even dumping garbage into the ocean is often culturally acceptable and commonplace here. In fact, every Sunday during the summer in Huanchaco, the beach is usually packed with people (mostly from Trujillo) who come to enjoy the beach, but by the afternoon the beach is completely covered in garbage by all of those who simply don’t bother to pick up after themselves before they go home.

Environmental Training and Activities

As a result, in November of 2013, OCN initiated our new HELP Environment project and our “Yo Cuido Mi Playa” (I Take Care of My Beach) campaign with the goal of creating cleaner communities in northern Peru, with a deep focus

“At the environmental project I learnt so much, in different ways – I learnt a lot about pollution. Doing the lessons was fun, because I’ve never taught before and working out the best way to get the information across in a fun way.”
Judith Jagers, HELP Environment Volunteer
on our oceans and beaches. Our main strategy is to educate youth to become environmental leaders who will lead our environmental conservation efforts and our “Yo Cuido Mi Playa” campaign into the future. We also began developing and implementing environmental trainings and educational activities on environmental conservation, pollution, and global climate change in several of our projects and partner projects serving youth. This aims to provide them with the tools and knowledge on how they can truly make a difference for the future of our beaches, our oceans and our planet. Within just two months of starting this initiative, we had managed to reach about 60 different youth from our partner projects in three different communities, teaching them about the importance of environmental conservation and ways to become young environmental leaders.

The 'Yo Cuido mi Playa' Campaign

Having started with some educational and interactive environmental trainings and workshops in 2013, our “Yo Cuido Mi Playa” campaign properly started off in 2014. Starting with our first beach clean-up event in January, we conducted several events during the year with a focus on getting as many of the youth of Huanchaco involved and interested in the local issues of littering habits and how it affects our beaches and ocean, and at our very first event alone we managed to gather hundreds of signatures from beach-goers committing to take care of their beach and not litter. “Yo Cuido Mi Playa” quickly became a catch-phrase at our partner projects that the children associated with taking responsibility and caring for our beach! This is a huge step in the right direction in the pursuit of our goal of nurturing and support the youth of Huanchaco to become young environmental leaders who will firstly lead by example, but also advocate and speak up about the local and global environmental issues that are affecting their community as a whole.

Transforming Perceptions and Values

One of the goals of this campaign is not only to encourage people to care for the environment by throwing out their garbage properly, but we also want to encourage people to leave everywhere they go a little better than how they found it. For example, anytime we go to the beach, if we see some garbage on the beach, we want to inspire and be inspired to pick up at least a few pieces, leaving every place we go a little better than we found it. Imagine the results if almost everyone here began to clean up a bit rather than leaving their garbage on the beach or throwing it in the streets. These are the kind habits and values that we are looking to promote in the youth of Huanchaco.
Educational Day Centre

The educational day centre is a type of community centre based in one of the poorest areas of Trujillo. In the shanty town of El Milagro exists the largest garbage dump for Trujillo and many make a living collecting recyclables out of the dump. This is a high-risk job that has resulted in the outbreak of cholera among many of the community members that are living around and working in the dump. Consequently, volunteers at this project strive to improve opportunities for the children and teenagers who live in such difficult conditions, offering them training and educational courses that will give them a better start in life. This is achieved through homework clubs, music, reading, sports and photography workshops as well as baking classes, many of which were supported by our volunteers in 2014. Additionally, the centre offers free legal advice and psychological care. All of this supports the young people of El Milagro to stay focused on education and maximise their opportunities later in life, with the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of poverty.

« At the project the teens have a place to come to talk about their problems as well as learning photography in order to make money. The students are all very close with each other and the volunteers; it is almost as if we have our own family at the project.»
Margaret Clemente,
Fair Trade Photography Volunteer
Health Clinics
In 2014 OCN health care volunteers worked at the health clinics in both Huanchaco and the neighbouring shanty town of Huanchaquito, as well as at a hospital in the neighbouring town of Moche. A lot of people in the area, especially those living in the shanty towns, are poorly educated in terms of how to care for their own health and many lack a basic understanding of healthy eating and good nutrition. Besides the lack of adequate infrastructure, these clinics are often badly under-staffed. In Huanchaquito for example, there is only one doctor, one nurse, one midwife and one technician, to serve a population of over 3,500 people; a vast imbalance that makes the contribution of our volunteers highly valued.

Fair Trade Photography Project
The fair trade photography project is a social enterprise, which produces fair trade photo products, mostly in the form of greeting cards. Peruvian teenagers, chosen from disadvantaged communities, take photo which are then turned into cards using cameras, computers and support provided by the project. Meanwhile, the young people involved in the photography training receive a medical fund and guidance in making their future plans, while the teenagers also receive 50% of the profits of the sale of their own photos to finance their housing and education. The other 50% is used for investments in the organization. Our volunteers’ work consists of preparing and giving photography lessons and other trainings that contribute to the personal and social development of the teenagers, their English language skills and their plans for the future.

Vegetarian Restaurant
Serving up healthy, organic and locally produced dishes to local and tourist clientele alike, volunteering at the vegetarian restaurant is a sociable and enriching position. In addition to being a restaurant, it also houses a small fair trade shop, a book exchange, a comfy chill out area to watch any of their large selection of DVDs, as well as two rooms for rent to the public. Volunteers working here receive a share of the restaurant tips and they are able to choose which other Otra Cosa Network projects receive these. In 2014 our volunteers helped out both serving in the restaurant and learning to make healthy and delicious dishes in the kitchen.
Music Conservatory
The music conservatory is the only public institution of its kind in Trujillo. Our volunteers work with children and young people, helping them to develop their music skills by offering additional support in the form of music classes, instrument workshops and seminars. This project requires volunteers to have a high level of classical training and this year we were fortunate enough to have the support of a cellist, who provided extra tuition and orchestral support.

Blind and Autistic School, Trujillo and the Special Needs School, La Esperanza
We work with two special needs schools in Trujillo: one in central Trujillo and one in La Esperanza, on the north side of the city. These schools are free to low income families (families with higher incomes pay a minimal annual fee) and whilst the state pays the staff salaries, both schools rely on external help for classroom support, which is where our volunteers are able to help. The two institutions focus on providing educational, vocational and social inclusion, strengthening the self-esteem of the students, providing them with equal opportunities and improving their quality of life.

« Otra Cosa Network volunteers have been coming here for a long time. We are very eager to have them, not only because of all the work that they do, but because of all the different cultures they bring, which is great for the students here to learn about… Having the volunteers here really helps the children to develop and advance. » Senora Milagros, Teacher at the Blind and Autistic School
Rodríguez de Mendoza
The Casa Hogar in Rodríguez de Mendoza is a residential project for children in the Amazonas region of Peru. It was founded 13 years ago as a means to provide accommodation to children who want to attend school but live too far away to commute every day. It currently accommodates 16 adolescents who attend high school in the town of Mendoza. Initially the Casa Hogar was only a lodging house, but over the years it has developed into more of a farming schoolhouse. It has a ranch where the children learn how to raise guinea pigs, pigs, chickens and pelibuey (an animal that’s a cross between a goat and a sheep), as well as an eco-garden where they grow various vegetables. Our volunteers give English classes to the children at the Casa Hogar and also at the local primary school.

Dog Shelter
Because of the large numbers of abandoned dogs in Peru, dog shelters provide an important service. During 2014 Otra Cosa Network worked with two dog shelters – one in Huanchaquito that is home to 40 dogs and that we have been supporting for several years now and a second, smaller shelter in an area called El Tablazo, which is halfway between Huanchaco and Cerrito de la Virgen. In 2014 we had seven volunteers who between them put in about 174 hours to help care for the dogs and provide a great support to both of these projects. These volunteers also raised money for the shelter and for the dogs, and as a result we were able to help supply the shelter with food, veterinary services and get some of the dogs sterilised. Additionally, thanks to donations from two former volunteers, we were able to help fix up the larger dog shelter with new kennels and help with other basic essentials.

Childrens Home
This children’s home in the shanty town of Huanchaquito provides a safe haven for some of the most at-risk children and teenagers in the area. It offers them the chance of a better future, by providing them with the values, skills and knowledge to promote healthy development and allow them to lead a dignified life in society. Our volunteers provide additional support in terms of homework and after-school activities as well as providing the boys with much deserved time, attention and positive role models. Meanwhile, several volunteers have come into this project with knowledge and experience in psychology and social work, allowing their contribution to be even more therapeutic, while supporting the emotional and mental health of the children. This year we had some incredibly dedicated and imaginative volunteers and their enthusiasm for the project was a real joy to witness.
Local Day Nurseries
This is a day nursery service for children aged from 6-36 months, funded by the Peruvian Government and run in poorer areas, to give low income women the opportunity to receive free childcare so that they can work outside of the home without having to leave their young children alone, without supervision. The programme focuses on improving the children’s health and development through the provision of good quality food in a safe and clean environment. Women from the local area receive employment to look after, feed and teach up to eight infants from their community, while volunteers support them and help with the daily tasks of caring for the children. The children get at least three meals per day (out of the five required for their age group) made with fresh, healthy food - this is especially important for those children who come from extreme poverty. The nurseries also offer various basic educational programmes to develop the children’s learning ability through social and physical activities, as well as providing a safe and comfortable environment where children can play and develop, as children should, without the risk of abuse or kidnapping.

“Immediately I fell in love with some of the dogs and knew this was going to be a wonderful experience! The dogs were so happy to see me and loved the attention.” Marjolein Bekkers
Dog Shelter Volunteer
The Restorative Juvenile Justice Programme
The Restorative Juvenile Justice Programme is run by the Public Prosecutor’s Office (Ministerio Público) and focuses on young first-time offenders (aged 14-17), who have committed minor offences. The programme offers an alternative to prison, working with the young people and their families to try and redirect them towards more positive life choices. Alongside educational and vocational training, community service and psychological elements, the young people participate in various workshops to broaden their perspectives. This is where our volunteers come in, and this year they taught a variety of classes from English to breakdancing.

The Surf Project
In 2014 we had seven different international volunteers that came to Peru to give local Peruvian kids the opportunity to learn how to surf using surfboards and wetsuits provided by local surf schools in Huanchaco. Many of the children that participated in this project were from the nearby children’s home, while several others were from the nearby shanty town, Cerrito de la Virgen, where we also have our HELP Youth: Skate Ramp project. Over 25 different children who would otherwise not be able to afford surf lessons were able to enjoy this fantastic sport whilst also working with international volunteers who served as role models and taught the children how to be safe, support each other and develop a deeper respect for the ocean and the environment.

Sícchezpampa
The inhabitants of Sícchezpampa are mainly focused on sugar cane and organic coffee production. The lifestyle there is based on an Incan socio-economic model of community strength, relying on solidarity and mutual cooperation between the members of the community. This means the entire community works on many different farms, each owned by another member of the community, on a rotating basis. The work there is far from easy, and so cooperation is essential for the labour on the farms. The farmers cannot afford employees and when you combine this with the hostile working conditions, you can see why the help provided by our volunteers can be so valuable. This year, they counted on the support of one volunteer for three months during the coffee harvest season, helping out at the farms and teaching English to the kids.
Otra Cosa Network has strategically partnered with many different local projects, schools and non-profit organisations that share the similar vision of offering education, training and/or services to support communities in need. The main way we support our partner projects is by recruiting and hosting dedicated volunteers with the right skills to devote their time, energy and expertise to these diverse and important projects. OCN staff usually keep in close contact with our volunteers and our partners to ensure that both are content with the work being done and the support that they are receiving. In addition, we organise annual meetings to bring all of our partners together to discuss and strategize the ways that we can continue to improve our partnerships and the broader goal of making a difference for the communities that we serve.

Otra Cosa Network mainly supports projects that focus on education and social services. For example, we partner with seven local schools in the Huanchaco/Trujillo area including the blind and autistic school, the school for special needs, the music conservatory, and several primary schools as well as three schools in the highlands. In our primary schools, our volunteers mainly teach English classes, but sometimes offer classes in arts, crafts and physical education as well. We have also developed different links with institutions including a home for at-risk children whose parents are not able to care for them, a project for children living in and around Trujillo’s largest garbage dump, and a programme to combat youth delinquency and support youth development within the judicial system of the regional government. We are also partners with an already established group of women to support empowerment, education and skills trainings, and these are just a few of many examples of our partnerships. Generally speaking, our goal has been to develop strong partnerships with a plethora of organisations and non-profits that share the same values based on mutual support and long-term commitment to work together.
In 2014 we organised many different events and activities to engage our volunteers as well as our project participants, beneficiaries, and the community at large including:

- **Weekly volunteer lunches in Huanchaco** as a means to bring volunteers together to connect and share experiences while also supporting local businesses in Huanchaco. In addition, we organised several of these lunches with the women at the Comedor where our HELP Women project is based, and with a local fishing family who shared the cultural significance of fishing in Huanchaco and then took us on tours of the *Caballito de Totoras* (reed fishing boats that have been in use for over 2500 years!)

- **Bilingual fortnightly Pub Quiz nights** were organised as a fun and interactive way to engage volunteers and locals alike while also raising money that went directly to our projects and our partner projects. The volunteers who organise each Pub Quiz are the ones to choose where and how the money will be spent to support their projects.
• OCN organised several project tours in 2014, where all of our volunteers (usually groups of 15 to 30) were able to visit several of our partner projects to really get a broader sense of the communities we work with and support in and around Huanchaco and Trujillo.

• Our HELP Environment project held several beach clean-ups in 2014. Since pollution is a real issue for Huanchaco’s beach, many of the young people from our projects joined us not only to help clean up, but also to raise awareness amongst the general public about environmental issues, such as pollution and recycling.

• In April our HELP Women project ran a special event for local women in Huanchaco library. The event was attended by around 20 local women and aimed to connect them with local resources, including family planning, medical support and legal consultations.

• OCN’s Assistant Operations Manager, Jenny, attended a Fiscalia event organised by the Regional Government of La Libertad to better understand youth delinquency and ways to promote juvenile justice and rehabilitation. Through the same partnership, we participated in a United Nations forum on strengthening mechanisms for alternative measures to incarceration.

• Through collaboration with a project by a group of mothers at Coten End School, Warwickshire, UK, who made around 230 dresses in memory of the young daughter of one of the women, we were able to distribute dresses to young girls at many of our projects around Huanchaco.

• In August, our Operations Manager, Jaci, turned her birthday celebrations into a local fundraiser party for our HELP Environment project, raising S/.1900.
- OCN’s Girls’ LitClub teacher, Carmen, along with the support of our Assistant Operations Manager, our LitClub Coordinators and several volunteers, organised a Stand up for Girls event and participated in World Read Aloud Day in Cerrito de la Virgen to engage the entire community in the great work the LitClub has achieved, as well as to build community support and awareness towards girls empowerment.

- HELP Youth: Skate Ramp held several skate competitions throughout 2014. Not only did these events provide the chance for the children and young people to practice their skate skills, it also allowed parents and other community members in Cerrito de la Virgen to see the progress being made by their children.

- Our Directors, Juany and Peter, organised a Latin American Evening in the UK where they served Peruvian food, held a salsa class, and listened to a musical performance and stories about OCN whilst also fundraising to help support core funding for our NGO.
Beyond our relationships and partnerships in Peru, we also focus on building relationships in the UK and around Europe in an effort to help recruit new volunteers to support our work. Our main focus has been building relationships and partnerships with many different universities in western Europe. OCN representatives often travel to universities to participate in volunteer and internship fairs, as well as to give presentations to students possibly interested volunteering or interning with us. In 2014 we visited both Leiden University in the Netherlands and HELMO University College in Belgium for the first time, allowing for deeper relationships to be built, so that students can feel confident when they make the exciting decision to leave home and dive into a new culture and language while volunteering to make a difference with our non-profit in Northern Peru. Other partner universities that we have thriving relationships with include the University of East London, the University of East Anglia, the University of Sheffield, the University of Warwick and Aston University, all of which are in the UK and Howest University College in Belgium. This year we have also established strong connections with several high schools, particularly Myton School and Solihull School in the UK and Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles in Canada.

In addition to liaising with educational institutions, OCN has received recognition from the European Voluntary Service, and partners with international organisations such as LitWorld, who make our HELP Literacy project possible. This August, our Director of International Relations and Operations Manager spoke at Omprakash and SKIP’s joint training and networking conference for NGOs and volunteers about connecting volunteers, classrooms and communities. Moreover we improved and strengthened our working relationships with the volunteer agencies HorizonCosmopolite in Canada and Commundo in the Netherlands.
In 2014 we had 124 volunteers and interns from 22 countries around the world, including six local Peruvian volunteers. Our volunteers ranged from 17 to 63 years old, although almost 90% fell into the 18 to 30 age bracket. Some volunteers and interns came as part of their university studies in modern languages, development studies, international relations or other similar subjects as part of their course studies to get experience and gain university credit, whilst others came independently.

Upon arrival in Huanchaco, our volunteers receive an induction and walking tour of the town to help them settle in. Our in-country staff are there to provide support and supervision throughout the volunteers’ stay, as well as arranging social activities to help bring our tight-knit volunteer community together and ensure that new volunteers feel at home.

Many of our volunteers choose to work in more than one position so that they can experience different areas, such as combining gaining experience in areas such as marketing in the OCN office, whilst working with one of our projects within the community, such as HELP Youth: Skate Ramp. Meanwhile others have combined their passions to work with two completely different projects, such as teaching breakdancing to young offenders and helping out at the blind and autistic school. We believe that this flexibility not only offers a unique opportunity to our volunteers, but also allows us to better serve the communities that we work with, as our volunteers develop a greater understanding of the local culture and way of life.

« Otra Cosa Network’s work and programmes are participatory- which meant I was working with the community who helped decide the nature of the organisation’s work, not something you often find with volunteering overseas. It was great because it meant that from day one we were warmly welcomed and felt part of the community and it immediately felt like home. I met some of the most amazing, open minded and welcoming people. The Otra Cosa Network’s support base was invaluable to my experience in Huanchaco, made up of a group of friendly volunteers and staff, it meant there was always someone to could talk to about anything»

Siân Parkinson- Research Intern 2014
2014 was a very successful year financially for Otra Cosa Network (OCN), enabling us to substantially increase our spending on local projects and to take on an additional staff member in Peru in 2015 to better serve local projects and to better support our volunteers doing their work locally.

Total Income, at £37,934, increased by £7,714 (26%) compared with 2013. This was primarily due to project specific grants and donations increasing by £8,039. LitWorld increased their grant to us after reviewing the impact of our work the previous year. We also received a one off grant from LUSH UK in December 2014 for spend in 2015 on our HELP Environment project in Huanchaco. This has enabled us to recruit a new Assistant Manager who is primarily coordinating this new project. Other than grants and donations, the rest of our income was down marginally (£325) (1%) as reductions in Fundraising event income (£911) and Housing income (£183) more than offset the slight increase in Volunteer payments £768.

Total Expenditure at £31,494 increased by £2,788 (10%) relative to 2013. This mainly reflected increased spend on Projects of £3,126 particularly from the increased LitWorld grant. The remainder of our expenditure was kept well under control with a small overall reduction of (£338). Specific category spend details are shown in our Consolidated Accounts, although care must be exercised when comparing line by line items as some expenditure has been re-categorised.

Our overall surplus for 2014 of £6,440 compared with £1,514 for 2013 is clearly a healthy result, providing a robust start to 2015. However, the majority of this reflects the LUSH grant received in late 2014 to be spent in 2015 and is classified as restricted funds, not available to support day to day expenditure. Nevertheless, allowing for this, OCN controlled its administrative costs well, leaving increased funds available to support both a substantial increase in spend on our local projects and an increase in reserves carried forward. This provides a solid base for further progress in 2015.
## 2014 Consolidated Accounts

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