

Huch Uy Runa, Help the Children Association Making A Future for Street Kids in Cuzco, Perú



Two boys show off plants they grew in their horticulture workshop (left) and kids relaxing after music class (right).



Today 5,000 children live on the streets in Cuzco, a small city in the Andean highlands of Peru. In Cuzco, the gateway to famous Machu Picchu, you can find the ancient treasures of the Incan Empire alongside extreme poverty and exploitation, especially of the city's children. Twenty-five years ago children did not live and earn a livelihood -- meager as it may be -- in the streets of Cuzco. This is a recently-lived human tragedy, one that reflects larger trends in Peruvian society, although one that can be addressed.

Huch Uy Runa is a non-governmental organization that since 1983 has taken kids ages 5-17 off the street, offered them food and shelter, and along with a lot of love and affection, has given them the opportunity to get an education and learn a trade. Huch Uy Runa is Quechua (ancient Incan language still spoken by many in the Andean highlands) for "small important person". The name undergirds the philosophy of this organization that from a Christian perspective believes that inside every "little one" there is someone very "big" and important that is yet to be... but will be.

Every weekday 190 kids come through the doors of Huch Uy Runa for a meal, primary education and training in carpentry, metalurgy, ceramics, music, drawing and painting, dance, baking, and gardening and horticulture. Some are already there, having slept in one of beds in Casa Huch Uy Runa. Services are not provided in a vacuum, rather Huch Uy Runa has a psychologist, dentist, teachers, dietician and a nurse that provide necessary support services to these at-risk kids. *These services are provided at very low cost in terms of the United States. However, they are necessary and cannot be continued without support from caring people outside of Peru.*



Here's how your support can help the street kids served by Huch Uy Runa:

- ♥ For \$50 Huch Uy Runa can provide three meals a day to five children for an entire month.
- ♥ Health and dental care can be provided to a child for a year for \$11.
- ♥ For \$16 a child can attend workshops in carpentry, metalurgy and horticulture for 3 months.

Please make checks payable to the "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" and write "Huch Uy Runa Level II" in the memo line. Please include a letter with your name and address, the gift amount, and indicate that the funds are designated for "Huch Uy Runa". Please send your donation to The Rev. David Lerseth, Director for Global Mission Support, ELCA Global Mission, 8765 Higgins Road, Chicago, IL, 60631. Phone: (773) 380-2641, E-mail: dlerseth@elca.org. **100% of the gift will go toward the project.**