

Annual Report 2010/ 2011





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Letter from the Director



People are constantly asking me why I do this. Why do I dedicate my life to trying to improve a situation that is beyond my control?

I tell them this: Why should children suffer just because they were born into a family living in abject poverty? Why should children miss out on things such as access to clean drinking water, educational opportunities, nutritious and substantial food, and freedom to choose what they want from life? Why should children miss out on the opportunity to reach their full potential? It's not okay that 600 million children in the world live in poverty (UNICEF). It's not okay that approximately 50% of children in Bolivia live in poverty. That's over 2.5 million children in Bolivia alone. It's not okay. No one should sit back and allow this to happen. We are all global citizens. If we look past religion, colour, nationality, gender, location, or any other surface differences, we are all human beings

and we all deserve our human rights. Children are the most vulnerable group in society – they don't possess the tools or abilities to change things for themselves, they need people to advocate on their behalf and give them a helping hand, just like an aunty would give her niece or nephew. That's where Tia International Aid comes in.

Tia International Aid has continued to grow from strength to strength. The positive impact we have been able to have on the lives of vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged children in Bolivia over the past year is extremely promising. This past year has been one of growth, change, challenges and solutions for all of us at TIA. We have managed to raise over \$31,600 after costs which is almost double what we made last year to go towards our projects in Bolivia. We have seen the water system at the State-run Children's Home Ciudadela SEDEGES completely replaced and now the 80+ children living there have access to clean running water. We have provided access to technology for the children and adolescents at the

Blind Rehabilitation Centre Manuela Gandarillas by funding and setting up a Computer Room equipped with 6 desktop computers, a printer, a scanner, and (when it gets released from customs) a Braille embosser. We have also funded the second year of the Music Program there to continue enabling the children who are blind and vision impaired to express themselves through music as well as building up their skills to be able to enter the workforce when they are older. We have set up a new partnership with the Alternative Education Centre San Jose, which does incredible work in a small rural town outside of Cochabamba, providing a space where marginalised youth and single mothers are able to complete their High School Certificates.

We have also managed to expand our supporter base in Australia and Internationally. Interest in and support of the work we are doing has been increasing at an astounding rate, and TIA's team and capacities are growing with this. We are very lucky to have an absolutely amazing and passionate young team of

volunteers, and their hard work and commitment have made TIA into what it is today.

But most of all – the contribution of our wonderful supporters has enabled us to do the work we are doing and assist children in Bolivia to reach their full potential. Nothing would be possible without the amazing generosity of our supporters, be it private donations, attendance at our events, corporate sponsors, or even just telling your friends about TIA.

Our philosophy of development is that the people in the community are the experts in their own situation, and we aim to empower them to make the changes they see necessary. That is why we are now solely focussing on partnering with already existing local organisations and community groups, working in collaboration with these Bolivian groups and organisations to enable them to undertake their work more effectively and sustainably. Through partnering with these organisations, we are reaching some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged

children in Bolivia and recognising that local people are the drivers behind social change in their country.

I hope that you will stay with us on this journey and continue to support us so we can maintain and grow our work with these amazing and inspiring in-country partners who are doing such incredible work with the disadvantaged children and youth of Bolivia.

Muchas Gracias!

Tessa Henwood-Mitchell
Founder and Director
Tia International Aid



About Tia

Tia International Aid Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve the futures of underprivileged and disadvantaged children through working directly with local organisations in Bolivia to create sustainable and lasting change.

Working from a model of empowerment, we concentrate on working in collaboration with the community. We partner with local organisations and community groups, who focus on working with marginalised and underprivileged children and youth, to develop sustainable solutions to issues they view as important.

Founded in February 2009 by university student Tessa Henwood-Mitchell, all of our work is conducted entirely by passionate and committed volunteers. We have no religious or political affiliations, a philosophy which fosters and respects diversity within our team.

Our Vision

A global community, free from poverty and inequality, where all children are able to reach their full potential and have the freedom to live a safe and healthy life.

Our Mission

We partner with local organisations and community groups to assist them in making sustainable change to the lives of children and adolescents facing the hardships that are associated with poverty and disadvantage, with the end goal of enabling them to reach their full potential through long-term community development.

Our Objectives

Provide and/or support training, services and materials for institutions that are working to improve the well-being of disadvantaged children globally;

Improve the situations and alleviate the poverty to which the children are initially subject;

Encourage the wider community to be aware of the difficulties faced by the children living in situations of disadvantage and poverty in the areas where our work is based;

Focus on development and sustainability as the key elements to successful aid



Why Bolivia

Landlocked Bolivia is an incredibly diverse country, home to the Andes Mountains, Amazonian rainforests, Lake Titicaca, and the world's largest salt flats. It also has the largest indigenous population of any country in South America, making up two-thirds of its population of over 9 million, resulting in a culture rich with traditions and customs still very much alive today.

Bolivia is also considered the poorest large country in South America, and poorer than the average for developing countries as a whole, with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 95 out of 169. Bolivia has faced high levels of persistent poverty and inequality which transcend rural-urban and regional boundaries. An estimated 65 percent of the Bolivian population are poor (with incomes insufficient to cover the basic food and non food expenditures), while 41 percent live in extreme poverty (incomes too low to afford the food basket minimum caloric intake). (*World Bank 2005*) Bolivia is also amongst the most unequal countries in the most unequal region in the world, with most of the population living on very low incomes and a small elite group controlling much of the country's wealth.

One third of Bolivian children suffer some form of stunting as a consequence of malnutrition. A large percentage of the population also lack access to clean drinking water, which leaves children susceptible to dangerous waterborne diseases. Mortality, illiteracy and poverty rates continue to remain unnecessarily high in rural, indigenous communities, where only half of children complete primary school.

According to data from the Vice-Ministry for Children and Adolescents, some 9,200 children and adolescents live in homes for orphans, abandoned and disabled children. A study carried out in 1999 by the ombudsperson covering 32 State-run children's homes showed that the child population in Bolivia is very mixed. Children enter the homes for various causes, such as "vagrancy", lack of economic resources or as victims of sexual abuse or mistreatment. Furthermore, the homes themselves do not have a suitable infrastructure or staff trained to assist them in their needs. (UNICEF 2003)



Where does TIA work?



Tia International Aid's projects are located in Cochabamba, a thriving city of 800,000 inhabitants set in a fertile valley about 8,300 feet above sea level. The city features a strong grassroots political movement, symbolized internationally by the successful protests against privatization of the water supply in 2000.



In-Country Partners

We partner with local organisations and community groups, who focus on working with marginalised and underprivileged children and youth, to develop sustainable solutions to issues they view as important. We work in collaboration with these organisations and groups, enabling them to undertake their work more effectively and sustainably. We recognise that the interests of Bolivian children and young people are best served when their local communities take ownership of the projects and drive the development process.

Our partners are the drivers of change as they have the knowledge and experience about the environment, situation and culture in which they work. Our planning process generally involves an interactive dialogue about how to build on current work and how to utilise their assets and resources. By working in partnership, we mobilise communities to make positive, long-term impact.



Current Partners



Ciudadela SEDEGES

This orphanage is the place where TIA's founder Tessa worked during her first visit in 2008. It is a government run and funded orphanage, housing over 80 children, ages ranging from 0-14 years. The children live in 6 houses, approximately 14 children in each. There is one woman employed in each house to take care of the children. Each house has an eating area, sleeping area, bathroom and living area.

Most of the children who live at the orphanage come from families who cannot afford to care for them, or who have mistreated them. Many of them have faced enormous hardship and have experienced trauma that no child should ever have to experience. There are constant waves of head lice at the home, and the hygiene conditions are very poor which means the children are constantly getting sick. The lack of staff and constant change of administration means that these children have no steady ongoing support and care. Their development is way behind what is considered to be the normal rate of development.

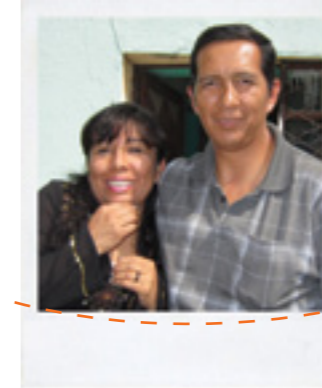
Unfortunately, due to the nature of the Government, as well as a new model we are working on, Tia International Aid is currently re-assessing our involvement with Ciudadela SEDEGES, with the view in mind that we will solely work with privately run local organisations where we can deal directly with the staff. This will mean we can ensure that the funds are going directly to where they are intended.

Manuela Gandarillas

Manuela E. Gandarillas is a Rehabilitation Centre for blind children and adolescents, established in 1952 and situated in Cochabamba, Bolivia. It is designed to provide these children and adolescents with visual rehabilitation services and integration into the formal education system, seeking to leverage accessibility and assist the students in achieving independence. It aims to help these blind youth develop the skills necessary to re-enter the regular school system and integrate themselves into society, through rehabilitation, education, early attention, social work, and workshops.

The centre currently helps thirty-five children and adolescents, of whom twenty are permanent residents and fifteen are external (the former coming from rural areas of Bolivia). These young people are blind for various reasons. There is a permanent staff of twelve, four of whom are also blind, including the director of the centre Nicomedes Flores Martinez. Manuela Gandarillas relies wholly on donations and grants, and a small yearly fee from each student, as it is a non government organisation. When Tessa Henwood-Mitchell spent time there in 2008, she could see that there were many missed opportunities

due to this lack of funding, support and resources. Through TIA, we are able to work in collaboration with the staff at Manuela Gandarillas and fund projects to provide the students with opportunities to improve their future prospects and realise their full potential to become independent and successful members of Bolivian society.



San Jose

Tia International Aid's newest partner is Alternative Education Centre, CEA "San José", which was founded in 1991, and is located in the small town of Vinto, in the Lower Valley area of the Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia. It offers primary and high school education as well as technical training in an alternative setting to the regular school system to single mothers and youth considered 'at-risk' due to reasons such as alcohol and drug problems, teenage pregnancy, abortion, crime and violence.

Accomplishments 2010-2011:



Water System

In the last annual report, the water system at the orphanage Ciudadela SEDEGES was still not completed. The pipes and connections had been fixed, and there was water running in the houses and coming out of the well so we were waiting to see how it would hold out before unnecessarily digging a new one. As it would happen, the well collapsed late last year. However, fortunately, an Australian couple Wendy and Mark from Brisbane, who own a water company (Prime Pump) and have started a non-profit organisation as a branch of their company, called BridgIT Water Foundation, came to visit Cochabamba in November after

talking about the problem with Tessa and Daniela (the Country Director of Projects Abroad in Bolivia). They very generously agreed to bring their team in and put in the extra funding to do a complete overhaul on the water system at the orphanage. So together with the funding from TIA, Projects Abroad, our friends at Escuelita Bienvenida in Germany, and BridgIT Water Foundation, and the tireless work from Wendy, Mark, two of their children, and a handful of volunteers from Projects Abroad, as well as Tia the water system was able to be completely re-done at the orphanage! After just a month, it was all up and running! We want to

take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to Wendy, Mark, Stephanie, Christian, Kirsten, Jean-Christophe, Wayne, David, and Dani for working so hard to complete the project, and making it all possible. The children at Ciudadela SEDEGES are now less likely to get sick, their overall health and wellbeing has improved and they do not have to bathe out of buckets any more. They have access to one of their basic human rights - clean water.

Nutrition Project

In December of 2010, we worked directly with Silvia (one of the educators employed at the pre-school within the orphanage run by Escuelita Cochabamba which is a German-run initiative) to develop this project. By preserving the integrity of the children's nutrition and health, their intellectual development and behaviour will directly and indirectly be improved.

The specific objectives were to:

- Develop hygiene principles and food care
- Develop positive eating habits
- Advise on food ingredients and contents
- Strengthen their knowledge on different foods
- Foster care, concentration and develop motion control, self-confidence, and responsibility

To implement this project we provided a refrigerator and an oven. Silvia has implemented the project and has reported that the children are showing great learning progress.



Surgeries

Eliseo

Eliseo is a 6 year old boy who lives at the orphanage Ciudadela SEDEGES, in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He was diagnosed with a serious heart condition when he was younger and had his first open heart surgery at the age of 4. In July 2010, Eliseo had a check up as his health was deteriorating, and the doctors informed us that he needed surgery to repair the hole he has in his heart.

Unfortunately, Social Services in Cochabamba were unable to provide the health care needed, so Tia International Aid, along with Projects Abroad Bolivia, moved to have him checked up and admitted for surgery. Eliseo ended up having to have three operations; the first operation planned, the second as an emergency

due to complications, and the third to fix further complications. During this difficult time, TIA called on our supporters to assist us in saving Eliseo's life. We were absolutely overwhelmed with people's generosity and in just one month we were able to raise the \$9,000 needed to cover all Eliseo's medical costs for the surgeries.

He has made an amazing recovery and is back to being the cheeky and playful young boy that he is. We are ever grateful to the amazing and generous people who dug deep and gave what they could to help save this little boy.



Michel

Michel is a 6 year old girl who was born with a problem in her ankle. Her mother Ines was told the operation to fix the problem would cost 4,000 Bolivianos (less than \$600 AUD), but she couldn't afford it.

Ines grew up in another orphanage in Cochabamba, and is a single mother to Michel and her sister. She works for minimum wage (which is less than \$100 a month), and like many single mothers in Bolivia, she struggles to even put food on the table. Being brought up in the government system like many children are in Bolivia; there is an extreme lack of support for these young people once they reach 18 and leave government care. This results in people like Ines who, through this lack of support, end up

not being able to find good, steady work, and are unable to support their families.

Michel is 6 years old, but unlike most 6 year olds, she couldn't attend school because she couldn't walk with her ankle the way it was. Her mother had to carry her on her back everywhere she went. They left and, after crying at the unfairness of it all, and consulting with the TIA team in Australia, Tessa realised that we had the power to enable this little girl to walk again, and to attend school. She has now had the operation, which was a success, and Jimena (our superwoman in Bolivia) visited her in hospital almost every day.



Manuela Gandarillas

Computer Project

In November 2010 Tia International Aid, in partnership with Manuela Gandarillas, set up a computer lab for the students at the centre. The students at Manuela Gandarillas all have a form of visual disability, whether it is full blindness or low vision. Due to the increasing reliance on technology in Bolivian society, more technical aptitude is required in the labour market, which means there was a concern that the students of Manuela Gandarillas would be left behind and disadvantaged. Hence the centre was looking to current technologies that would allow the students to function more easily.

TIA installed 6 desktop computers and set them up with JAWS screen reader program, which is a specialised program enabling people with vision impairments to operate a computer through verbal

prompts. We also bought the centre an ink printer and a Braille Printer. Unfortunately the Braille Printer, which we arranged to be shipped from the United States to Bolivia, has been held in Bolivian customs since November 2010. They are requesting an extortionate amount of money in taxes and duties to release it. This goes against a very specific Bolivian law stating that no equipment which is intended for use by persons with a disability can be taxed. We have been tirelessly trying to sort this issue out, but to this point we have had no success.

Benefits of this Project:

- Ease of access to a wide range of useful information
- Mass storage of information without it taking up space as Braille documents normally take up a lot of

space, thus allowing the students to have a greater amount of textbooks, dictionaries, reading materials and other required documents.

- Visually impaired students are able to interact on an equal footing with their classmates, the power to exchange experiences, discuss the same topics, access chat, music, sports and games.- The new technology replaces the labour intensive and time consuming task of creating Braille texts by hand or by typewriter.

-the students are better equipped to enter the workforce and there will be a wider range of job opportunities available to them.



Music Project

This year has been another successful year for this wonderful project. This project is centred on the education and training of blind and vision impaired youth in the field of music. The idea behind this project is to empower the youth at Manuela Gandarillas further by providing them with specialised music skills which will increase their chance of future opportunities in the workplace. Music is something that everyone should be entitled to enjoy. At Tia International Aid we believe this should include those who are vision impaired.

Since April 2009, we have employed two skilled music teachers on a

permanent basis to work for 4 hours each a week, working with the children and adolescents at Manuela Gandarillas in the areas of voice, recorder, rhythm, and theory. The determination and drive of these students is extraordinary, and this project has allowed them not only to show their creativity and express themselves, but it also accelerates the process of rehabilitation while providing skills that may lead to potential employment.

In December 2010 the students played in their second end of year music concert, which TIA's Director, Tessa, was lucky enough

to be present for. This showcased just how much the students have learnt in such a short time, and also challenged the stigma surrounding people with a disability in Bolivia. Often those with disabilities are not treated well or given very much respect, so this concert was an opportunity for the students to show the public just how talented they are.



Current Projects

Child Care Centre Hogar Nidito

There has been an increase in the rates of single mothers or cohabiting teenage mothers attending CEA and bringing their children to class. This causes both the neglect of the children and interference with classes, disrupting both the mothers learning as well as the class as a whole. Thus TIA, in collaboration with the staff and students at CEA, has developed Proyecto Hogar Nidito as a solution to this problem. We are creating a child care centre within CEA to care for the children of students (approximately 30-40) attending classes at CEA to provide both a better and less disruptive learning environment for the students, and a more stimulating and nurturing environment for the children. We are currently underway with the first stages of this project. This project is being funded through the proceeds from our recent Harry Potter Film Night, and also by Coffey Corporate Global Quest



Plans for 2011/2012

Tia International Aid is constantly evolving and developing. We have a lot of new and exciting plans for the next year to come! We are currently working on designing a new model of working in Bolivia that will focus completely on empowering local grassroots Bolivian organisations to grow and develop their work. There are so many incredible locally run Bolivian NGOs who are reaching some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged children and youth in Bolivia, yet there seems to be a lack of resources, skills training, and funding for these organisations to enable them to develop the work they are doing. We can see a role for TIA where we concentrate on collaborating with these already existing local organisations, consulting and providing skilled volunteers to help grow these organisations into the organisations we know they can be. Through this model, we can ensure that these organisations can be equipped to aid the disadvantaged and marginalised children of Bolivia.



**Tia International Aid
Australia Team**

We couldn't have achieved any of the work we've done in Bolivia without our incredible team of volunteers here in Australia! They bring so much passion, enthusiasm, energy, and innovative ideas to everything they do, and without them TIA would not exist as it does today.

**Executive Management
Team 2010-2011**

Tessa Henwood-Mitchell
President
(2009 – Present)

Kelly Eickhoff
Vice President
(2009 – Present)

Stacey Cassar
Volunteer Coordinator
(2010 – Present)

Julia Parkin
Event Coordinator
(2010 – Present)

Leila Henwood-Mitchell
Secretary/Graphic Designer
(2009 – 2011)

Remco Marcelis
Treasurer
(2010 – 2011)

Amy Tran
Marketing Director
(2010 – 2011)



**Volunteers from 1 July
2010 to 30 June 2011**

Kelly Eickhoff
Remco Marcelis
Amy Tran
Leila Henwood-Mitchell
Julia Parkin
Chetna Upasani
Ching Wong
Ruimin Li
Nicola Woodhall
Sylvia Syta
Sandra Tertsch
Lauren James

Lauren Keen
Liz Somers
Maryam 'Afifah
Sarina Puopolo
Serena Gasparini
Christy Tang
Ross Zhu
Melissa Falnegri
Holly West (Sydney)
Natalie Shallow (Bolivia)
Kathleen White (Bolivia)
Meredith Drinkell (Bolivia)

**Tia International Aid
Bolivia Team**

Having a dedicated local team on the ground in Bolivia makes all the difference. Jimena has been with TIA since February 2011, and since she came on board she has been committed to taking TIA forward. We are extremely lucky to have found someone so passionate and willing to take initiative and act to make a difference. Over the next year we aim to grow and develop this team to support the growth of TIA and our projects.



Bolivia In-Country Director

Jimena Ramos Morales

Advisors

Daniela Viljoen
Fredy Mita
Ana Silvia Ramos Morales

Fundraising and Events

Over the last year, TIA has held many successful fundraisers. Our enthusiastic and passionate volunteers have continued to achieve great results, with our fundraisers (both events and others) collectively raising over \$12,000! Our main fundraising event, the annual TIA Quiz Night, was held in September 2010 and managed to attract almost 200 guests raising over \$6,000 after costs! Other events included a drinks night at Fumo Blu Cocktail Bar, various barbecues held at UniSA

campuses around Adelaide, a lovely evening at a local Gift Shop called Brightseas, and a TIA team running in the annual Sunday Mail City to Bay Fun Run. We also have continual donation boxes sitting in cafes and bars all over Adelaide which provide a constant source of income for TIA's projects, as well as Cadbury Chocolate boxes in various businesses.



Adelaide to Anchorage

These are two local Adelaide Blokes who have decided to ride motorbikes from Adelaide, Australia to the northern reaches of Anchorage, Alaska, with the aim to raise \$20,000 AUD for Tia International Aid.

Start – Adelaide, 10th November 2011, flying out of Sydney on the 13th of November

Finish – Anchorage, late September 2012

Distance – approximately 40,000-45,000kms through 15 countries in South, Central and North America.

www.adelaidetoanchorage.com



Balance Sheet

Current Assets Cash on Hand	10/11
Cheque Account	\$4,678.18
Petty Cash Float	\$163.05
Cheque Account *OLD*	\$0.03
Stock On Hand – Chocolates	\$364.00
Stock On Hand – Diaries	\$540.00
Total Current Assets	\$5,745.26

Equity	10/11
Current Year Earnings	\$10,894.04
Unspecified	\$2,075.92
Historical Balancing	-\$7,224.70
Total Equity	\$5,745.26

Profit and Loss Summary

Income	10/11
Donations	\$23,179.10
Fundraising Events	
Donation Boxes	\$735.40
Cadbury Chocolates	\$772.45
Drinks Night	\$1,372.85
Entertainment Books	\$260.00
Film Night	\$392.00
Quiz Night	\$8,303.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$75.00
Interest Received	\$67.27
Sundry Income	\$641.50
Total Income	\$35,798.57

Expenses	10/11
General & Administrative Exp	
Bank Charges	\$195.04
Legal Fees	\$1,000.00
Internet Site Costs	\$44.00
PayPal Fees	\$288.91
Postage & Stationery	\$91.00
Total General & Administrative Exp	\$1,618.95
Cost of Sales	
Cadbury Chocolate Purchase	\$759.12
Entertainment Book Purchases	\$676.00
Film Night Expenses	-\$84.00
Quiz Night Expenses	\$2,773.00
Total Cost of Sales	\$4,124.12
Gross Profit	\$31,674.45

Project Expenses	10/11
Ciudadela SEDEGES	\$9,027.10
Manuela Gandarillas	\$13,382.40
Other Projects in Bolivia	\$10,800.51
Other Sundry Expenses	\$400.85
Total Expenses	\$35,229.81
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$3,555.36

Event Sponsors and Contributors:

There are too many amazing businesses and individuals who have assisted us in our events and fundraisers to name here – so please go to our website at www.tia.org.au/partners/current-sponsors to see a current list of these incredible and generous people and businesses. We can't thank them enough for supporting Tia International Aid and helping the children and youth who we work with to reach their full potential.



Large donations and significant contributions:

We are forever grateful and wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the wonderful individuals and businesses who have contributed to TIA significantly over the past year. They are (in no particular order)

Projects Abroad
Taplin Web Design
Cardijn College
Walford Anglican School for Girls
Global Experience Program
Coffey Corporate Global Quest
Albany Theatre Company
David Millar
Alex Kwong
Justin Gouin (Assisted significantly with the Computer Project at Manuela Gandarillas)
Alison Piedade



Thankyou



Website Development and Design

Taplin Web Design
(www.taplinwebdesign.com.au)

Auditor:

Barry Halfpenny

Donation Box Businesses

Royal Copenhagen Glenelg
Bacchus Bar
Estia Greek Restaurant
Wrap 'n' Roll
The Coffee Spot
Daily Bread
Olympic Industries
BSS Light Audio Visual
Breast Centre – Burnside Hospital
Chilli Mojo
Multicultural Education Committee
Al Fresco East End Gelateria & Pasticceria
Billy Baxters Regent Arcade
Cherry Blossom
Scuzzi Rundle St
Alfonzo's





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Designed by
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