



Dear Friends of Amazon Promise,

This has been an incredibly busy and inspiring year, and I'm excited to share some of the highlights!

A first! Our partner organization Toilets for People joined the Amazon Promise medical team in the field during our summer medical outreach clinics to install composting bathrooms in each home (and schoolhouse) in the village of Nuevo Jerusalem on the upper Tahuayo River. This is the **first** village in the entire area to have both a rainwater catchment system (clean drinking water) and basic sanitation.

For individuals, families, and communities to lift themselves out of extreme poverty, they need to be able to meet the basics needs of life. The combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for success in the fight against poverty and hunger. Each year, 1.6 million people die from diarrheal diseases (including cholera) attributed to lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Amazon Promise, along with its partner organizations, is beginning to make a dent in that number. A special note of appreciation goes to Jose Luis Valles, Amazon Promise Special Projects Manager, for organizing all in-country logistics and making it possible.

We also continue to work with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Sonoma and Central Houston professional chapters, Johns Hopkins and Binghamton EWB student teams, and Vance Cook from the Treehouse Lodge to install six further rainwater catchment systems in 2016. Since the installment of rainwater catchment systems in Jaldar and Jerusalem, there have been no reported emergency evacuations of people to the hospital in Nauta with diarrhea, and teachers report school attendance is at an all-time high.



Before



After!

New composting bathrooms contain a men's and women's urinal, composting toilet, and a handwashing station. For more photos click on the [link](#).

November 1 – 9

Amazon Promise continues to charge forward to reach women with no access to cervical cancer screening and treatment. Amazon Promise would like to thank Dr. Andrew Goldstein, MD FACOG IF Director, the Centers for Vulvovaginal Disorders Washington, New York, Annapolis Immediate Past-President, The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, and his family, for taking this week to work with us to screen 155 women for cervical cancer. Twenty women were found with cervical dysplasia (pre-cancer); four had severe dysplasia.

Seventeen women were treated on November 8th with cryotherapy and two with more severe cases were biopsied on November 9th. We will follow through with all of these women to ensure a healthy outcome. Thank you Rosa Aranzabal for organizing the entire week! An incredible job! We are also grateful to Dr. Jearim, Adriana Calizaya and Obstetra Paola Chu for your important work on the team.



Celebrating the Belen Clinic!

Five years ago this past July, Amazon Promise, along with the French medical student organization, Les Gondoliers I Amazone, celebrated the inauguration of the completed Belen Clinic. Salimata Gassama, along with eight other French medical students, donated the funds to construct a large waiting/registration area and complete the clinic. Many thanks go out to the many friends of Amazon Promise who donated funds to get the Belen Clinic started and through completion. Without all of you, the Belen Clinic would never have become a reality. We have provided care to thousands of people in desperate need of medical and dental care, counseling, and health education. The Belen Clinic has also been a secure base of operations for Amazon

Promise's partners, including other non-profits, local government institutions, and the general public.



Patient Update

During our summer medical clinics, the first person we encountered upon entering the village of Jerusalen was Mariliz who was suffering, as it turned out, from malaria. She had a high fever, chills, and body pain and was unable to stand or sit up on her own. This is the first time, in 22 years of working in Jerusalen, we have seen a patient with malaria. Her mother Rosa was due to give birth any day, so we, together with village leaders, organized to get them to the town of Nauta as quickly as possible and into the hospital. This is no easy task, as they had to hike out half an hour through deep mud to the Yarapa River, where a boat would take them the four-hour journey down the Ucayali River, then up the Maranon. Mariliz was quite ill; her temperature was 103 degrees Fahrenheit, she was unable to walk, and had to be carried through the jungle on the shoulders of the mayor. **Today, Mariliz, her mother Rosa, and her new baby sister, Lizbeth, are doing well!**



Soy Capaz!

We are also proud to announce the **10-year anniversary** of our HIV education/prevention program, ¡Soy Capaz! 2015 in particular has been a very productive year for the ¡Soy Capaz! program; the number of trained Peruvian staff has grown, and our HIV-prevention and education program in the city of Iquitos and remote river communities has consolidated and reached the next generations. We also continue our campaign on related topics, such as **women's empowerment**. Here, we focus our education on women's reproductive rights and intervention strategies, as well as coaching in how to deal with abuse and domestic violence. We produced new interactive strategies for our public sessions and revised our materials, such as handouts, brochures, and posters, in preparation for the outreach campaigns in 2016.

Our collaboration continues with **Lazos de Vida**, the organization of educators living with HIV that runs a

Children's House for HIV-positive orphans. Amazon Promise always make numerous visits to the house to help out with its operations. ¡Soy Capaz! supplies necessities for the children, such as medicines, food, and mosquito nets, and provides support during hospitalization. In return, **Lazos'** highly professional educators staff our Iquitos clinics.

We have also made new contacts with **CEM** (Center of Emergency for Women) that is run and funded nationally, and has now expanded from Iquitos to the river town of Nauta.

Thank you ¡Soy Capaz! Director Elena Deem, PhD, for ten years of dedication to ¡Soy Capaz! and Amazon Promise.



I look forward to keeping you posted on our work in the months to come. As we look toward the holiday season, please consider making a gift and invest in a healthier Peru! You can give through our website at <http://amazonpromise.org/index.php/donate> or send a contribution to P.O. Box 1304, Newburyport, MA 01950. Thank you!

Best regards,



Patty Webster

Founder and President, Amazon Promise

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