

Happy Christmas and farewell from Peru

December 2018

As our Connect2 Peru parish scheme draws to a close, we report back from Lima.

CAFOD's Jess Micheltore has just visited the children's project you have been supporting in Lima. She celebrated Universal Children's Day with the girls and boys in this area of the city where life for families can be very tough.

"There was a buzz in the air," she writes. "Children of all ages came to celebrate their rights and show off their hard work. It was a great atmosphere."

The children who participate in the Warmi Huasi project shared banners, poems, songs and dances relating to their right to play, to have a family and a home, food and good health. Parents and community leaders watched and applauded.

"It is fantastic to see that these children not only know their rights, they demand that they be respected," comments Jess. "After an amazing day, I leave with a feeling of immense hopefulness."



The children recite poems about their rights

Connect2 closing prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the opportunities we have to forge strong and lasting bonds with our sisters and brothers around the globe.

Lord God, you are love, and in love we reach out, allowing ourselves to be touched by the joys and griefs of all your people.

Light within us the fire of hope, and a passion for change. May the stories we hear move us from indifference to care, from distance to deep connection,

So that together, we might all find the joy of living alongside each other as one human family in our common home.

Amen

Prayer by Linda Jones

With love from Lima

connect2: Peru



Children's organisers Luz and Danny with CAFOD certificates

CAFOD's Jess describes how much the children in Lima have achieved:

It was lovely to see the safe spaces that children have helped create, like their Reading Club. The club is so important to them, as it is often the only place where they can have a quiet space to read and be peaceful.

It is filled with books and games. The children are so excited to come, they run in at full speed!

To show our gratitude to the Warmi Huasi helpers and children who have been part of Connect2 Peru, I handed around certificates of appreciation.

Volunteer Danny says she has really enjoyed the two-way communication with Connect2, hearing from UK parishes.

"Thanks to Connect2 we are more aware of other people's experiences," she told me. "We will continue to be connected."

While the UK parish scheme is closing, CAFOD continues to support the children's amazing work learning about and actively promoting their own rights.

"At Christmas time, give something of yourself to those who need it.

"Remember, doing what you love most is what makes people happy." *Danny*

Next steps

Hands On

Whilst our work in Peru continues, we will be inviting you to start a new journey with young people in Colombia next year.

In January we will send you a welcome pack to introduce the community.

If you have farewell messages for our Peruvian friends, please do send them in to us and we will forward them on: *Connect2 Team, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.*



Your help has brought about real change for people in Peru.
Thank you!

Photos by Gemma Salter, Thom Flint, Louise Norton/CAFOD.
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