

Sacred Valley Project



Mission Statement: We aim to provide boarding and supplementary education for young women from low income families in remote areas of the Andes so that they can continue and complete their secondary education.

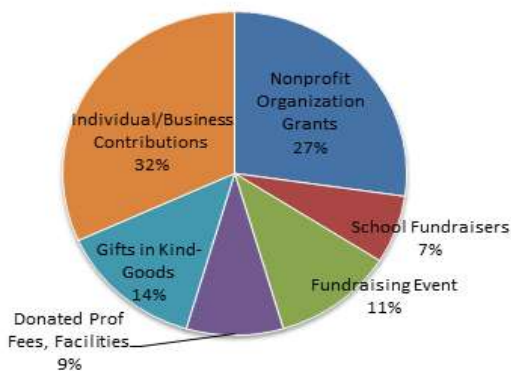
HIGHLIGHT: WE'RE EXPANDING!

To accommodate for the growth and success of the Sacred Valley Project, we are currently constructing a brand new dormitory for our students. Thanks to support from local officials and individual generosity, we will expand from 10 to 16 students in the coming year.

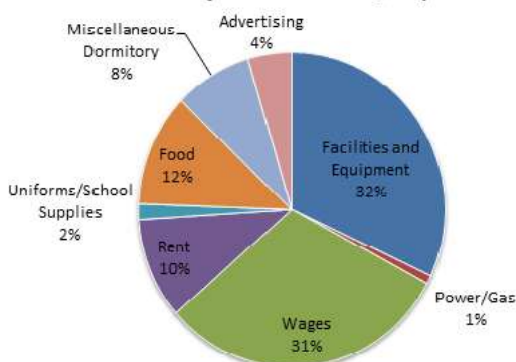


2012 Financial Information

2012 Income Total: \$44,000



2012 Expense Total: \$43,228



In the Sacred Valley of Peru, young girls from rural Andean communities lack the opportunity to attend secondary schools. At the Sacred Valley Project, we provide a **SAFE ENVIRONMENT** for the girls to live during the week while they attend secondary school in Ollantaytambo.

To ensure academic success and ease the transition from rural primary school to the more rigorous curriculum in Ollantaytambo, we provide **AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING** sessions for our students, which are led by local teachers.

Our students are direct descendants of the Inca Empire—thus, preserving and maintaining the **CULTURAL VALUES** is a priority. Through the utilization of traditional agricultural, artistic, and cultural practices, we foster an environment which emphasizes the importance of Incan heritage.

By providing access to secondary education, we believe that our students will return to their rural villages as **EDUCATED FEMALE LEADERS** who will work for the progress and development of their communities.

The Sacred Valley Project Dormitory is currently home to ten bright young women. Each of these girls comes to the Sacred Valley Project with a completely unique story. From their remote home villages, to their ages, to their favorite food and diverse academic interests, read on to take a peek into the lives of the ten girls of the Sacred Valley Project.

SINFOROSA



My name is Sinforosa Huamanhuillca Quispe. I am 13 years old. I am from the community of Huilloc, which is located 13 kilometers from Ollantaytambo. In my community, we speak Quechua and it is very beautiful because we wear colorful clothes that we have made for ourselves. I am currently in 9th grade. My favorite subjects are math, communication, technology, and environmental science. I like to read legends, play soccer, and listen to music. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. My dad is a farmer, and he grows varieties of corn and potatoes. My mom is a weaver and sells her items to tourists. I like being with my family on the weekends because they are funny and like to tell jokes and stories. In the future, I'd like to become a professional. I want to study accounting to work in an office or I would like to be a police officer. I am grateful to the Sacred Valley Project which supports me in everything I do. I strive to be a better person.

MARISOL

My name is Marisol Ccasa Huallpayunca. I am 13 years old, and I am from the community of Socma. My community is located about four hours, walking, from Ollantaytambo. Cars only come by my community 2 days a week. I finished elementary school in my community, but there is no high school in my community. I am currently in 8th grade. My favorite class is Quechua. My family consists of five total siblings, one brother and four sisters. My mom helps support our family by taking care of our farm land and our animals. My mom also cooks for me and all of my siblings. At the end of every day, she gets very tired. My dad is a guide on the Inca Trail. This is a very hard job because he has to carry, on his back, the tourists' luggage. When I finish high school, I would like to continue my studies. My goal is to become a doctor and support and aid



YESSENIA

My name is Yessenia Ccoiso Ocón. I am twelve years old and I am from the community of Anapahua. My grandfather and dad had to help my mom when I was born because in my community, there are no doctors or nurses. I am currently in 8th grade. I like reading stories, legends, and jokes. My dad is a farmer and grows many varieties of corn, potatoes, wheat, and onions. My mom stays at home and weaves. I have a sister and a brother. On the weekends, I like to visit my grandfather because he tells me stories and anecdotes. I would like to continue my studies in college, although I do not know what subject but maybe Tourism. Living in Ollantaytambo is nice but I miss my family, especially my mom and my little brother. I put in this effort because I think if I study it will help me to be better each day and give me new opportunities in the future.



DINA

My name is Dina Suarez Echame. I live in the community of Pallata and I study at the Ollantay School in Ollantaytambo. I would like to finish my secondary schooling and then go to university to be a math teacher. My favorite dish is chicken and rice and I would like to travel to Arequipa. I like all types of music.



NAYDA

My name is Nayda Carbajal Condor. I am 12 years old and I am from the community of Pomatales. I am currently studying in Ollantaytambo and I am in eighth grade. My community of Pomatales is about 2 hours from Ollantaytambo. It's a very beautiful place and it's very cold. Our language is Quechua. My family supports itself by growing corn, potatoes, wheat, and peaches. Before the Sacred Valley Project, I used to walk every day from my house to school. I would usually leave my house at 10 in the morning and arrive at noon. Leaving school, I would walk very far and arrive at home at 8 o'clock at night. I love studying, and my dream is to become a doctor so that I can help my community.



ELIZABETH

My name is Elizabeth Sueldo Huillca. I am sixteen years old. I am from the community of Rayan, a beautiful community in the valley. It's very cold in my community and everyone speaks Quechua. In my community, the majority of people are farmers. My dad and mom are farmers and grow a variety of potatoes and corn. They also take care of our animals. Also, my mom cooks for my family. My siblings also study, one is in elementary school and one is in high school. I go to high school in Ollantaytambo and I am in 10th grade. I could not study in my community because there is no high school. During the week, I live in the Sacred Valley Project dormitory in Ollantaytambo. Here, they help me with whatever I need help with. I would like to continue studying in order to be better every day and have more opportunities in the future. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, doing my homework, and reading books. I would love to study law, tourism, and administration.



VINCENTINA

My name is Vicentina Calizaya Yupanqui, and I am from the community Abra Málaga. I am in ninth grade. In my free time, after I do my homework, I like to read and write. My father is farmer who grows potatoes. My mom is a weaver and my younger brother is in elementary school. My community is located in Kilometer 119, the high part of the mountains. Sometimes it snows and is very cold. The houses are made of rocks with straw roofs. My family raises alpaca and llamas because they can live in the low temperatures. The Sacred Valley Project supports me a lot. I learn a lot here and they give me the opportunity to study. We have tutors who help us with our homework for our classes. I would like to continue studying when I finish high school, but I am not sure which subject I want to choose. All I know is that I want to become a professional and I hope I can help my family any way I can. I now live in Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley Project's dormitory with my classmates. We play a lot and they try to make me dance but I do not like to, I just applaud when they dance.





CARLOTA

Hi, my name is Carlota Laucata Quispe. I come from the community of Huilloc, I am 14 years old and my best friend is Sinforosa Huamanhuilca Quispe. My favorite food is pizza or whatever la Señora Eli (our Sacred Valley Project cook) or my mom are cooking. My favorite classes are Communications and Quechua. I am happy to be a part of the Sacred Valley project. I want to study tourism and hotel administration.



SILVIA

My name is Silvia Huanaco Surco. I am 17 years old. I am from the community in Huayllabamba. My community is 6 hours from Ollantaytambo. There is no high school in my community. I can now live in a dormitory in Ollantaytambo thanks to the Sacred Valley Project. I also receive help with homework and we have specialized tutors. I would like to continue my studies beyond high school. I want to study tourism and get a good job to help my family. I have a very large family with seven other siblings. In total, we are 5 girls and 3 boys. My dad is a farmer and my mom stays at home. In my free time, I like playing, dancing, and reading stories. My favorite subjects in school are math, art, physical education, and Quechua. When I go back to my community in the weekends, I like cooking, cleaning my house, and also helping my mom with whatever jobs she needs.



NOHEMI

My name is Nohemi Orihuela Aguilar. I live in Socma and study at the General Ollanta School in Urubamba. One day I would like to visit the United States. I like the music of Grupo Cinco and I like watching El Rostro de Analia on TV. I like to play volleyball and soccer and the food I like best is causa rellena.

MEET THE STAFF

Alex Ball developed the idea behind the Sacred Valley Project after having worked in rural highland communities of the Cusco region. While working in the village of Socoma, he would sit in the afternoons with his goddaughter Maria Elena to help with her homework. One afternoon, while going over her math homework, Alex asked her about her plans for high school. She responded that this would be her last year of school because she didn't have access to housing in town and it was too far to walk to and from high school every day. Although she lacked the opportunity, her continuing diligence and desire to study became a major inspiration for the creation of the project. With this inspiration, Alex gained support from indigenous leaders, local officials, and community leaders and the Sacred Valley Project was founded in 2009. Since, Alex spends the majority of the year living in Ollantaytambo, where he oversees the project to ensure its continued success and growth.



Gabriela Scarafioca is the current director of the Sacred Valley Project. After joining the staff in 2011, Gabriela has managed the logistics of the Sacred Valley Project, while also dedicating her life to the everyday intricacies of the project. Gabriela can be found helping the girls with their homework after school, spearheading a discussion workshop which has become a fundamental program, taking the girls on a hike to fill a day off from school, and much more. This dedication is also apparent in the 11 months that Gabriela spends in Ollantaytambo, away from her home country of Argentina.

Maria Pareja Delgado holds the essential position of Sacred Valley Project House Mother. Like the girls of the project, Maria travels from Cusco and resides in the dormitory throughout the week. With 10 high school students residing under one roof, Maria helps to instill discipline, act as a mentor, help with homework, and truly becomes a mother to each and every student—could you imagine having 10 teenage girls? Needless to say, Maria has been an invaluable member of our staff since her arrival in 2011.

2013 Highlight: Constructing Our New Dormitory



With generous support and donations, we are currently in the process of constructing a brand new dormitory for the students of the Sacred Valley Project. While our current location only allows for ten girls, our new dormitory has the capacity to house 16 students as well as a house mother. Aside from the bedrooms, this new dormitory will also feature a kitchen, dining/ study room, and space for a bread workshop. Allowing space for the new bread oven project will greatly aid in teaching our girls the very practical local craft of bread making. The projected completion date for the dormitory is December, 2013.

We are incredibly grateful for the many volunteers who have put in much time and effort transporting wheelbarrows full of materials to the construction site that is inaccessible by road. We are also indebted to the various donors who believe in the Sacred Valley Project, without whom the construction of this dormitory would not be possible. Thank You!



A PEEK INTO THE UNFINISHED FIRST FLOOR



CEMENT HAS BEEN LAID FOR THE SECOND FLOOR



VIEW OF THE FIRST FLOOR ROOF FROM THE RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED SECOND FLOOR

“The true reason I love this work is that I find myself at the front lines of a booming organization that is truly making an impact in the lives of 10 girls who would otherwise still be in the mountains farming or sewing just to get by”

- Menelaos Mazarakis, Princeton-Peru Partnership, Volunteer 2013



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT US



“The most incredible aspect of the Sacred Valley Project is how it has become so integrated into the Ollantaytambo community. Through the employment of local tutors, cooks, and staff, this project not only provides an unmatched educational opportunity to young women of the rural Andean communities, but also puts money back into the pockets of Ollanta residents.”

- Alison Nabatoff, Volunteer 2013

“Our children cannot attend high school because the cost is very high and the access is almost nonexistent. For this reason, all the students in the different communities of this district have to move into the town to continue secondary education, because it is the closest town that has a high school. For this reason, we need to have an infrastructure that lodges all the students that demonstrate academic ability and desire to work on behalf of their own communities, protecting and strengthening their cultural identity. We make this request because we need to push forward but do not have the economic resources to do so.”



“I really like the Sacred Valley Project. It is one of my favorite organizations in Ollanta because without it the girls would not be able to go to school and education is very important.

- Sonia Guzman, Ollantaytambo resident

-Juan Loayza Onton, President of Ollantaytambo



“Working with the Sacred Valley Project has allowed me to see firsthand the opportunities it provides for the girls. Having taught in one of the rural villages from where some of the girls come from and knowing that without the Sacred Valley Project, their education would have ended after sixth grade, it is clear how essential SVP is in continuing the education and creating opportunities for these young women.”

--Claire Pinciario, Volunteer 2013



Education for women is invaluable and benefits not only the individual herself, but future generations as well. Studies show that an educated woman is more likely to have a smaller and healthier family, a stronger voice in family negotiations, and the ability to advocate for herself and her children. Furthermore, female education is proven to have a substantial impact on reducing poverty.

The Sacred Valley Project makes secondary education possible for young, indigenous women from rural Andean communities who would otherwise not have the opportunity to continue their studies. These girls will return to their communities as strong, educated, and empowered women who will have the background and resources to progress and develop their rural communities.