

NEW TRUSTEES, NEW WEBSITE, NEW HOPE

The past twelve months have been a period of consolidation for the Trust. In 2018 the Trustees were kept very busy by the introduction of new data protection regulations and much work went into the design and launch of the new website. We also suffered substantial turnover in the board of Trustees and, at the end of the year, had to take the difficult decision to reduce our monthly remittances to the Home to reflect the Trust's falling level of donations and preserve a minimum level of reserves so that the Home could have a reasonable degree of security of continued funding. This year has seen

fewer challenges. We have had good news on the income front and have been able to make positive changes in administration systems and in keeping the website current with information from the Home. More details can be found in News from the Trust, below.

Meanwhile the Home has had a challenging year. There were changes in both the local Committee and the management of the Home at the same time that great efforts were being made to increase local support in order to adapt to the lower level of funding from the Trust. I am pleased to report that those efforts are

proving successful and all credit is due to the team at the Home and their supporters in the community of Piura. You may read more on this in News from the Home.

Finally, in this issue, you can find the stories of a number of present and former residents of the Home, going back to when Anita Goulden first began to take in sick and abandoned children over thirty years ago. They give some idea of the huge impact that the Home and its predecessor institution have had on the lives of some very vulnerable children and young people.

David Thomas, Chairman of Trustees

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The Trust has been fortunate to receive recently a commitment of funds from a private charitable trust that, subject to certain conditions, will be ongoing. Together with an increase in local support for the Home and a quite substantial legacy also received by the Trust in 2019, this has improved our ability to foresee continued funding of the Home, which had become critically strained. Without the money from the Trust to cover its cash requirements, it is doubtful whether the Home could remain in operation. The Trust does not hold large financial reserves so it and the Home depend on the continuing support of its donors, some of long standing, others more recent. Those of you reading this Newsletter should be in no doubt of the fundamental importance of your donations to the continued existence of the Home and of its irreplaceable role in the lives of the young people with disabilities whom it serves.

The Trustees take very seriously their responsibility to monitor the use of our funds by the Home. There has been no visit to Piura this year, but we have kept up

to date with news from the Home through periodic telephone calls with the Chair of the local Committee and Sra. Anita Mollet. Sra. Mollet was a close friend and supporter of Anita Goulden and is still both an advisor to the local Committee and a valuable channel of communication for us, sending updates on the local situation from time to time by email as well as participating in our telephone briefings. You may read about events since our last Newsletter in News from the Home, below.

We had built up a good relationship with the Chair of the local Committee, Sra. Luciana Ceccovilli, so it was sad to see her leaving Piura and her role in the Home during this year. Her outstanding contribution had left the Home in a strong position, better integrated than ever in the local community and well placed for a sustainable future. Happily, she was replaced from within, so there has been no interruption in the work of the Committee and we are already establishing good contacts with the new Chair.

We have tried to make news from the Home more accessible to current and



Donation of a neurological chair - painting by Hugo Chanta in the background

potential donors by posting periodic updates in the News blog on the Trust's website <https://www.anitagoulden.org/>. Trustees also have access to detailed monthly financial accounts kept by the Treasurer of the charitable Association that operates the Home. In the accounts, we can see the money coming from the Trust being used for cash outgoings, mainly staff related costs, professional fees and taxes, that cannot be replaced

by donations in kind. Their campaigns to raise local donations of supplies have been so successful that monthly purchases of goods are now at a very low level and there is little farther that they can go on that front. This suggests that any further reduction in funding from the Trust would be very hard for them to absorb. We are sad to report the death of Sallie Morgan who served 16 years as a Trustee until her retirement in 2018. With her

husband, Dick, Sallie had visited Piura at the time of Anita Goulden's death, when there were real risks to the continuation of her work and the home she had created for some severely disabled and abandoned children. Sallie's role in informing and advising the Trust in that critical period was fundamental to the eventual establishment of the new Home that now carries on Anita Goulden's legacy.

Stories of some Current and Past Residents

These stories were provided to us by Anita Mollet

Anita Goulden's original home, which she called la Sendita, began in Piura over 30 years ago with two children, Carlos Paul and Hector who both had severe disabilities, the after effects of polio. La Sendita, and later the Anita Goulden Home, was their home for over 30 years. Sadly, Carlos Paul died in 2017 and Hector in 2018.

Another early resident, known by the nickname of Chavela, came to la Sendita in 1985 from Hornapampa, in the very poor mountain region near Piura, when she was very small. She was suffering infantile paralysis, the effects of polio, spasticity and mental retardation. La Sendita and the Anita Goulden Home gave her a home and care until, in 2018, she was able to rejoin her mother, with whom she now lives. The Home's social worker now visits her once a year as well as being in regular contact by telephone.

Juan came to the home, also in 1985, abandoned and malnourished. He left



Chavela in the Parque Santa Isabel

when he reached the age of majority. He studied at the Armed Forces college, then enrolled in the Services. Today he works in security in a private company. He is married and has three daughters and a son.

César came from the town of San Francisco de la Sierra. With learning difficulties and some speech impediment, he nevertheless was able to do small tasks in the home and attended primary school. Today he works in Lima as a gas delivery man.

Dilma, also from San Francisco de la Sierra, arrived as a small child with vision problems. With treatment and the use of spectacles her vision improved. She stayed in la Sendita until the age of majority, then moved back to her family and later married. Pedro Pablo, from Lalaquiz, came to the home following an accident which left him with serious damage to his legs. He sadly died in a landslide accident.

Also from Lalaquiz, brothers Meiser and Miller, arrived abandoned and malnourished. They lived at la Sendita until the age of majority and later formed a music group, "Son de Ríos", that plays traditional Peruvian music. They can be seen frequently on Facebook and YouTube.

Lucho, abandoned as a child, grew up and studied at la Sendita. Today he works in a hardware store.

Dany, from San Juan de Bigote, was also abandoned as a child. He lived at la Sendita until the age of majority. He now works in a casino, is married and has three daughters.

Lucia grew up and studied at la Sendita. Later she studied Odontology and now practices in the town of Talara. She is married to a Brazilian and has a lovely home.

Miguel, from Collona, was given away to Anita Goulden and grew up and studied at la Sendita. He went on to higher education in Business Studies and now works for a constructions company. He is married and has three children.

Rosa came to la Sendita as a small child from Collona. She left at the age of 20 and moved into Casa Anita, a house rented with the financial support of the Anita Goulden Trust to aid the transition of residents from la Sendita to an independent life. She later married and now has two children.

Maribel came to la Sendita as a small child. She was in poor condition, having been mistreated by her supposed father. As an adult she moved into Casa Anita and studied to be a nursing technician.

Brendy came to Anita Goulden very young and suffering from malnutrition. She grew up and studied at la Sendita, eventually leaving, also to Casa Anita. She now lives and works in Lima.

Esther came to Anita Goulden very young and became the apple of Anita Goulden's eye. She grew up and studied at la Sendita until leaving, staying at Casa Anita until she could support herself, at which time she moved to Lima where she worked in administration at a transport company. She now is married, has a son and lives in la Selva.

Ronald came to the Anita Goulden Home with his sister Cindy, both abandoned when very young. Ronnie has quite severe quadriplegia as a consequence of infantile cerebral palsy. To address his difficulty in swallowing his food, he has recently had an operation to implant a peritoneal feeding tube.

Cindy was eventually able to train to be a chef and now lives in Lima and works with

her husband in a restaurant. They have two children.

Katty came to la Sendita at the age of 10, accompanied by her sister Rosmery. When



Rony with his old feeding tube

she was old enough, Katty moved into Casa Anita and studied Accounts. She now works in a local company.

Rosmery suffers from hemiplegia as a consequence of polio. Following schooling at la Sendita she gained a place at university to study law. She later obtained a Master's degree from Piura University. She practiced in the Public Registry and now works for the municipal authority in Castilla.

César, an ex-resident of la Sendita, today lives in Lima and works in construction.

Santos, abandoned as a child, grew up and studied at la Sendita. As an adult he has moved to Lima and is now in show-business.

Ana Alicia came to the Anita Goulden Home at the age of 5 suffering from acute polyneuropathy. After several years in the Home she returned to the care of her family to be closer to the school that she attends. Staff of the Home visit her periodically. Her condition has advanced slowly.

Hugo, from Lalaquiz, came to la Sendita

following a traffic accident that left him without his right leg and his left foot. Anita Goulden provided him with prostheses and la Sendita became his home. Hugo joined the art workshop at la Sendita and exhibited a great artistic sense, painting and later taking his first steps in sculpture. He was taught to play chess by volunteer Don MacNeil, from the US, who used to visit for a month every three or four years. He also learned the guitar. On the death of Anita Goulden, he left la Sendita in search of new horizons. He paid his way through Art School by working as a motorcycle taxi driver.

Sought out by Trustee Sally Morgan, he was given a room at Casa Anita so that he could pursue his artistic career. Through great application, he became a teacher of music, a painter and sculptor. Today he is an art teacher at a school in Piura. From his works in painting and sculpture he has become very well known. He and his wife María Eugenia have a son and a daughter.

News from the Home

Following the necessary decision by the Trust to reduce its level of funding, a general meeting of the local Association was held to address the situation. The meeting approved the formation of a task force to focus on raising local funding to supplement that available from the Trust. It is difficult in Peru to find people with direct experience in charity fundraising, although the concept is becoming more widely known and accepted in the country. Whilst raising cash donations is still difficult, the Home now receives almost all of its required supplies, particularly medicines, food and diapers, as donations in kind from local businesses and

individuals. These donations, as well as being larger, have been more regular and sustained than in previous years.

The Home has also adapted to lower funding by managing staff costs more tightly, cutting extra hours and overtime worked, extending cover by co-workers during annual leaves to ensure service is maintained without paying for extra help or temporary staff, placing some staff on part-time contracts and relying more on the help of volunteers.

The young, Swiss-based Peruvian professional who, with his group of supporters had paid for the installation of a lift last year, this year paid for

improvements to the main entrance to the Home. This had originally been the garage of the building and had never been repaved since being made the principal entrance for disabled access. As well as cosmetic improvements, eliminating changes in floor levels has greatly improved access for wheelchairs. If these, or other donors are willing to fund further improvements, the Home's next priority would be improvements to the kitchen.

After several years as Chair of the local Committee, Luciana Ceccovilli resigned from the post in April this year. A university administrator, she has moved to Lima for professional reasons.

A general meeting of the Association appointed Carmen Olga Palma as its new Chair, and reappointed Amabilia Arellano as Treasurer. Another local Committee member, Dolores Fera, stepped down for health reasons and the meeting appointed two new members, Pilar Nuñez as Vice-President and Enrique Falcón as Secretary. Both of them had already been providing support to the work of the Home for some time and both have extensive financial and business experience that they bring to the Committee. Carmen Olga had been a member of the local Committee for 5 years, so represents much needed continuity. The new Committee has now completed all the bureaucratic steps required to assume their positions, and is fully operational, although it is sad to report that Amabilia, has not been well



Anita Goulden birthday pigriimage

and is not coming to work. In her absence, Carmen Olga has been managing the finances of the Home.

Day to day management of the Home also changed. Since the former director moved overseas in 2017, her deputy, the Home's Social Assistant Dora Reyes, had taken charge pending the appointment of a newly hired Administrator. This took place in the latter part of 2018 with the arrival of Sra. Dina Díaz.

THE CHILALO BIRD

This compilation of memories of and tributes to Anita has sold very well indeed and the feedback has been excellent. However, there are still some copies left so do send off for one – it would make a good Christmas present. £11.50 includes postage.

SPREAD THE WORD

When you have read this newsletter you might like to pass it on to your neighbours or friends who would be interested in hearing about the Trust and its work in Piura. Further copies can be obtained from the address below.

WILLS

We benefit greatly from legacies so do consider mentioning the Trust when you make or update your Will.

GIFT AID

You can download a form from our website very easily. You can also send a donation via the website through our new system called Charity Checkout. Do please use this method of sending donations as it is so easy.

Please let the Administrator know if your income tax circumstances change which might affect Gift Aid donations.

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News of the Residents

The Home is housing 18 residents, compared with its maximum capacity of 20. New applications from families unable to cope adequately with their children's disabilities are regularly received and there is some turnover as residents return to live with their families when conditions allow. Residents leave at the age of 20, if they have somewhere to go. Currently there are six residents with no known family and no capacity to live independently.

The Home has worked hard to promote greater engagement of parents with the children. Where possible, parents or close members of their families take them out at the beginning of the weekend, and return them to the Home at the end of it. This helps to keep down the Home's costs and more importantly it fosters the engagement of the families with the children, who know they have a family that is looking out for them. It also helps promote wider awareness of the work of the Home. Parents are also asked to attend medical appointments with their child, again reinforcing their involvement. The six residents that do not have family do remain in the Home over weekends.

Regarding the health and welfare of the residents, three of them, Rony, Veronica and Angelito, have difficulty with swallowing, exposing them to the risk of aspirating food when fed by mouth. This was being treated by feeding them via a nasogastric tube. Doctors had advised that this is not appropriate for long term use and recommended changing to the use of peritoneal feeding tubes. Insertion of the tubes requires an operation, for which the three youngsters would in principle

have had to travel to Lima. Happily, the Home was not only able to arrange for the surgeon to come instead to Piura, but also for the required equipment to be donated. The operations took place in late June. Rony suffered some respiratory complications which required a short stay in the hospital, but all three are now back in the Home and slowly adapting to the new feeding arrangements.

Further good news is that a group of volunteers, including both students and qualified professionals, are offering their services to provide residents with language therapy, orofacial therapy and occupational therapy that the Home would not otherwise be able to afford. The Home is now making arrangements for the therapy to be given at times which suit both the volunteers and the routine of the Home.

An important element in providing a good quality of life for the residents is taking every opportunity to celebrate events, whether national holidays, residents' birthdays or the annual celebration in Piura of the life of Anita Goulden. As a recent example, Friday 13th of September was the 14th anniversary of the opening of the Anita Goulden Home, which replaced "la Sendita", the home where Anita Goulden had lived and cared for "her" children. The occasion was marked by a concert at the Home by the symphony orchestra of the "Omapec" organisation, activities for the children, run by volunteers and by the staff of the Home, and performances by the children themselves. The event was also attended by some of the 20 or so members of the charitable Association.



Volunteers from Argentina, January 2019