

Dear Friend of International Eye Foundation:

Sometimes, a big problem can seem insurmountable. When hundreds of thousands of children are dying from preventable ailments like chronic malnutrition, vitamin deficiency or infection, finding a solution seems so overwhelming that it's difficult to know where to begin. Consider this:

- Twenty-seven percent of all Bolivian children under three years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition
- An estimated 45,000 children die each year in Bolivia due to high rates of infection and malnutrition
- In Bolivia's Ichilo Province, nearly 42 percent of all children under the age of two were malnourished in 1999



Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in South America and our goal there is simple: to provide not only immediate relief to the children and their mothers, but long term sustainable solutions to improve their overall quality of life. We will do this by providing health care services and training to every person in the community so that young children and young mothers no longer have to die a needless, preventable death.

Helping these children is easier than you think. It takes surprisingly little to do so much, thanks to a matching grant from USAID. This month, Gwen O'Donnell, Child Survival Coordinator for the International Eye Foundation (IEF), and Grev Hunt, IEF's SightReach Surgical® Program Director, will join a team of 25 people dedicated to preventing blindness on an arduous 400-mile "eco-challenge" - hiking and biking across Arizona and Utah. Proceeds from this trip will go directly to helping the children in the Bolivian Province of Ichilo.

After her preliminary survey this winter of the villages throughout Ichilo, Gwen decided to join this eco-challenge as a way to raise awareness, and to kickoff the fundraising for our new Child Survival Program in Bolivia. This program is a four-year endeavor to improve the health and lives of mothers and children in Santa Cruz, Ichilo Province, Bolivia. By the program's end, each community in Ichilo will have a local health care coordinator, community centers, and a steady supply of essential medications for this and other isolated communities.

Gwen and her team of volunteers (and the others at IEF) know that the only way to tackle a problem this big is to break it down into manageable parts. That's where you come

(over, please)

in. We are asking you to do what you can in sponsoring Gwen, Grev and our Bolivia Project by donating \$15, \$50, even \$500 - whatever you can manage - to help our group of dedicated community health professionals finance this sight- and life-saving program.

Gwen and our Bolivian partners plan to set up the health services, training, and record keeping for the parents of these children, and for local health services volunteers as well. These volunteers will continue to work hands-on in their community for the long-term, so that the "cycle" of malnutrition, blindness, and devastating disease may end.

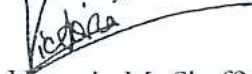
Your donations will help to provide:

- ☉ Educational materials on nutrition and breastfeeding, including posters, coloring books, and brochures
- ☉ Immunizations
- ☉ Distribution of vitamin A capsules to prevent blindness
- ☉ Training of local health care workers in proper nutrition, diarrhea management and pneumonia case management

Every dollar that you send supports not only Gwen and Grev in their push across the hot, arid Arizona desert, but supports hundreds of young children in Bolivia who so desperately need your help. By teaching local health care workers about these important, yet basic, means of savings lives, tens of thousands of Bolivian children will live to see another birthday.

Please join us today in supporting this important new program in Bolivia, and all of our life- and sight-saving work worldwide.

Sincerely,



Victoria M. Sheffield
Executive Director

P.S. Your donation of \$15, \$50, \$500 or more will make a profound and specific impact on the children of Ichilo Province. Regardless of your level of giving, you will be participating in an event that offers hope and opportunity to hurting children. Thank you in advance.

A summary of the registration and financial documents filed by this organization can be obtained by contacting: FL: THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. MD: Copies of documents and information required by the Maryland charitable organizations law can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. MI: IEF's solicitation license number in the state of Michigan is MICS9603. MS: By calling the Secretary of State's office at 1-888-236-6167. NJ: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215. NY: A copy of the IEF's annual report is filed with the Department of State of New York State and is available upon request from the IEF, 7801 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814. Residents of New York can also write to the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. NC: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214. VA: State Division of Consumer Affairs, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. WA: IEF registered with the Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, whose toll-free number in the State of Washington is 1-800-332-4483. WV: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents of IEF from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. PA: Official registration and financial information of the IEF may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration with State Offices does not imply endorsement.