



# Newsletter

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**December: New Year's Farewell Party in Miami**

*For a calendar of events and details go to:*

[www.reachingu.org](http://www.reachingu.org)

Make your donation at our site: [www.reachingu.org](http://www.reachingu.org) through **PayPal**

## Editorial

During the last few months we were lucky enough to meet individuals whose lives and stories have positively affected us. Their compassion, values and dedication to their jobs deeply inspire us. These people are teachers at public schools in Uruguay, who work two shifts and still take the time to participate in teaching seminars that help them overcome the problems and frustrations encountered at schools located in low-income neighborhoods.

We have also met doctors and technicians who volunteer or receive minimum wages to assist newborns at the Pereira Rossell Hospital. Their search for ways to help these babies and the love they

give to them translates into significant improvements in the conditions of premature babies. Finally, we have seen social workers and family therapists that take a bus to remote and dangerous locations in the outskirts of Montevideo to assist teen mothers; or help homeless women living in shelters. Evidently, these individuals see their jobs as much more than a career, they are leading exemplary lives. Let's help them in their efforts!

Inés Bonicelli - Executive Director

## Reaching U to donate US\$ 18,000 for three new projects

By Pilar Mercader

This was the second year that Reaching U made a call to organizations with social focus in Uruguay for the selection of new projects. This process was held during the second trimester of this year and was led by Reaching U Uruguay. Eleven organizations were present and three projects were selected: Niños con Alas Foundation, Centro de Promoción por la Dignidad Humana (CEPRODIH) and Centro Educativo de Retardo Mental del Uruguay (CERMU). Some of these funds were raised at last year's auction and we are expecting to collect the rest throughout the different events and activities that are programmed for the second part of the year. These three projects focus their efforts in the problems of children who are living in extreme poverty in Uruguay.

The Niños con Alas Foundation has developed a series of teaching seminars with focus on the development and advancement of teachers from five schools located in very poor neighborhoods of Montevideo. The objective is giving school teachers additional tools to deal with children who have learning disabilities, who come from violent homes and that are prone to abandon school. The program started in 2005 and will take place during a 15 month period. Reaching U will contribute US\$ 8,500 which covers about 75% of the project. The funds will be used mainly to compensate the staff responsible for the seminars. Reaching U will also donate funds to CEPRODIH, an organization that helps the homeless. One of its shelters for the homeless is located at an old office

complex in the old part of Montevideo. This site is used both as a shelter and as a learning center. Approximately 40 people, mostly women and children, live there all year round. During the winter an additional 60 people are given shelter in this building as well. That is why in an effort to re-organize its activities, CEPRODIH is looking to move the shelter to another place, leaving this building as a center dedicated to the daily activities of women and children. These activities include adult education, seminars on entrepreneurship, medical attention and counseling. CEPRODIH also finds paid internships as a first step to finding stable jobs. Reaching U has committed US\$ 8,000 for remodeling the office complex as well as for educational materials.

*(Continues on page 4)*



CEPRODIH, this building is a shelter to more than 100 people

# Mailing Campaign of March 2005

*Between the months of March and June 2005 we ran a campaign to receive donations by mail. The campaign's objectives were: to finance the program for early detection and prevention of vision and hearing problems led by the Alvarez Caldeyro-Barcia Foundation, supply food for the children at the Banneux School and fund two new projects at the Casa Lunas Center.*

Finally thanks to the dozens of people that participated in this campaign, we raised more than US\$ 3,000.

The Alvarez-Caldeyro Barcia Foundation functions within the Pereira Rossell Hospital. One of its programs centers around the prevention of visual and hearing problems in premature babies. These babies are prone to both problems which in

many cases can be prevented or reversed if detected and treated early. Reaching U was able to fund an additional six months worth of the salaries of technicians who perform the tests.

While analyzing the needs of Casa Lunas Center and the Banneux School, a change emerged with respect to the original objectives. Both organizations asked for the donations to be directed towards infrastructure needs.



*Dr. Walter Meerhoff performs vision controls to a child that travels to Montevideo from another city.*



*A baby is tested for hearing problems*

In another article we describe in detail the projects that were started with these investments.

In all cases, Reaching U asks for initial estimates and copies of receipts. These achievements were possible thanks to the donations to the March 2005 and December 2004 mailing campaigns.

## Reaching U donates US\$ 11,500 for infrastructure improvements

As you may know, Reaching U provides continued support to the Banneux School, the Alvarez Caldeyro-Barcia Foundation and the Casa Lunas Center. This year these donations were possible thanks to all of you who participated in the different events organized by Reaching U as well as in the March 2005 mailing campaign.

The Banneux School offers preschool and elementary education to almost 500 children. Most of these children also receive three daily meals. Recently the school started building three more classrooms and additional restrooms. Two of these classrooms will be used for a new program aimed at 4 year old kids. This project is very welcomed in the neighborhood since there are no other free

options for kids that age. The third classroom will be used for an after school program for high school children. The company GoTV contributed via Reaching U with a donation of US\$ 1,350 for the necessary furniture for these three new classes. Another US\$ 3,500 were donated by Reaching U for the preschool restroom.

The Breast Milk Bank has been operating for the last few years in the Pereira Rossell Hospital. Its main goal is to provide breast milk donated by many mothers to newborns in delicate health condition. For years, Reaching U has been collaborating through the Alvarez Caldeyro-Barcia Foundation with this bank. Recently, US\$ 3,800 were sent by Reaching U. They will be used in acquiring the equipment and furniture for a

laboratory which is necessary to ensure an optimal quality of pasteurized milk. With more than 80 liters of production per month, this bank processes enough milk to feed all of the premature babies in intensive care.

The Casa Lunas Center finally got the opportunity to own its building. This organization provides support to around 30 pregnant teens and mothers from low income sectors of society. Reaching U donated US\$ 2,500, which complemented a donation from another organization and allowed the center to finally own the place where it has been functioning for almost 2 years. Such an accomplishment brings closer the center's objective of being a temporary home to these mothers and mothers-to-be in the future.

### Volunteers of Reaching U

**Uruguay:** Valeria Estrugo, Rocío Lapitz, Florencia Martinelli, Mercedes Portas, Fernanda Solari, María Solari. **New York:** Augusto Aboitiz, Ana Bluth, Eugenio Brauner, Natalia Gomensoro, German Heberling, Diego Hodara, José Imaz, Jorge Jackson, Guillermina Marquine, Eduardo Milleris, Isabel Millot, Macarena Real de Azúa, María Riccetto, José Silveira y Nidia Viña. **Florida:** Virginia Bove, Mariella Bruno, Lucienne Cambón, Paula Di Mauro, M. Victoria Ferrés, Susana Hernández, Patricia Johnson, Fiorella Magnano, Guadalupe Martínez, Martín C. Martínez, Pilar Mercader, Milagros Pitaluga, Ma. Eugenia Vilar del Valle. **Washington DC:** Pilar Sánchez Varela, Ma. Paula Díaz. **California:** Ana Casterán-Winkler. **Tennessee:** Juan Pablo García.

# Reaching U to join efforts to help the homeless

Homeless people are those whose life takes place in the streets, who do not have a home address. Everyday these homeless men, women and children try to find ways to get food, a place to sleep and make some money. They also have to find a way to survive within the codes of this subculture. Homeless boys and girls suffer the terrible effects of poverty, hunger, lack of family ties, social discrimination and often violence and abuse. Forced to lead their own lives before having the maturity to do so, and without the necessary confidence and education that are required to deal with life on a daily basis, these kids are prone to engage in prostitution, drug abuse and various criminal acts. Many times these activities are the only means they have to survive.

Research has found that the homelessness phenomenon is a worrying one in Uruguay.

The majority of actions put forward by social organizations and the government are focused towards responding to emergency situations and are constantly outnumbered. When visiting Uruguay we have personally witnessed the increase in the number of children wandering on the streets, begging on buses and loitering on public places. And we have stopped to think: how can someone help solve this problem?

Reaching U has promoted several projects that provide a positive influence to mothers and their children in those stages before becoming homeless. The Casa Lunas Center, the Patronato Nacional de Encarcelados y Liberados and the Banneux School, are three of the institutions that provide the necessary tools to mothers and their children to help them lead a better and healthier life. The Niños con Alas Foundation, whose teacher

training program will be financed by Reaching U, has similar objectives.

Another project supported by Reaching U: CEPRODIH, tends to those in emergency situations and provides a way for people to become part of society again, while reinforcing their rights as citizens. Its main objective is to break the downward spiral that takes them to the homeless situation. This process can take between 12 and 18 months. Read more about CEPRODIH in the separate article or visit their web site: [www.ceprodih.org](http://www.ceprodih.org).

*Sources: Diagnosis and solutions presented in a seminar developed by CLAEH (Latin-American Center for Human Economics) and United Nations Development Program: "Hunger, Employment, Health and Homelessness in Uruguay, November 2002". Studies of childhood and adolescence with social risk: Interamerican Children's Institute.*

By Inés Bonicelli

## Reaching U: A little history and numbers

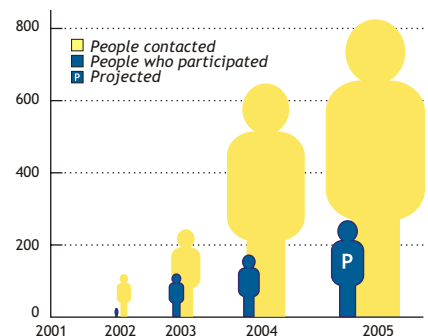
When our organization was created in 2001, we decided to reach the Uruguayan community living in the United States. That same year we created the Friends of Casa Lunas sponsorship program. In the year 2002, we organized our first event, an art auction in New York and started to develop working groups in various cities. In the year 2003, our foundation was incorporated as a non-profit organization and

thanks to all of the efforts, donations increased substantially. The same thing happened one year later when, with great satisfaction, US\$ 22,900 were sent to the different projects supported by our organization in Uruguay.

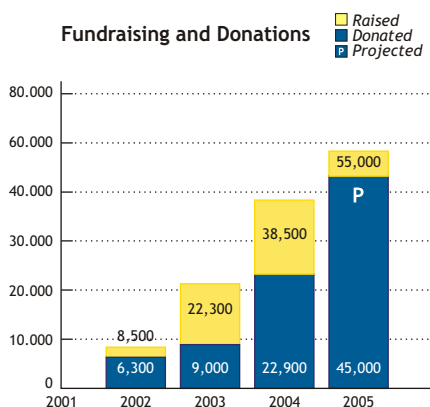
The chart shows what has been received and the donations our organization has made. The difference between the money received and donated in one year is because it takes us a few months to assign the money after it is received. In our organization all of the staff is made up of volunteers. Still there are some expenses and investments needed. The expense level does not exceed 10% of what we collect in a year.

Today Reaching U is reaching almost 800 Uruguayans living across the United States thanks to the mail campaigns, the webpage and the events. We are confident that we can continue expanding our support to those organizations in Uruguay.

People who participated in Reaching U



Fundraising and Donations



### Board of directors

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Dr. Ana Inés Balsa  
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### Our Mission

To improve living conditions and opportunities for the neediest Uruguayans, helping them to raise their self-esteem and strive for a better life.



PO Box 3251  
New York, NY 10163  
USA

**reachingU**  
A Foundation for Uruguay

[www.reachingu.org](http://www.reachingu.org)

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## Reaching U to donate US\$ 18,000 for three new projects

The last organization specializes in children with mental disabilities. CERMU was selected because the children that it serves come from very underprivileged sectors of society. Approximately 60 children with severe cerebral palsy spend their days at CERMU and 31 live there permanently.

This organization which has been around for 32 years, plays a key role in the lives of children with disabilities coming from very poor families. In some cases these children have been abandoned by their parents and CERMU is their only option.

CERMU's facilities are in need of necessary refurbishment and Reaching U will donate approximately US\$ 2,000 for upgrading its restrooms.

## Fundraising events in Miami and New York

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> friends of Reaching U gathered at Azul Restaurant in Manhattan for a fundraising dinner.

Later, on May 12th a wine tasting event, sponsored by Santa Rosa Wineries, was held in Miami.

A wonderful brunch took place at Opia Restaurant in Manhattan on June 12th where many showed their care and support to our foundation.



*Ed Little, Dolores Zorrilla, Cecilia Pagliari, Diego Perez Olave, Lucia Patrone, Macarena Real de Azúa and Agustina Barriola in AZUL*

Between the three events we raised nearly US\$ 2,000.

**thanks!**

### A special recognition to all of the "Artists Members of Reaching U"

The Forth Annual Art Auction will be held in New York City on November 15th. This event continues to be the most important source of funding for Reaching U thanks mainly to the efforts made by our volunteers in New York City as well as in Montevideo. Every year a large fraction of the Uruguayan and Latin American community in New York gather to show their solidarity and participate in the auction of excellent pieces of art from Uruguay and Argentina. We are grateful to all of the participants and volunteers for this event. We want to particularly recognize the artists, their families and their galleries, whose generous donations have made this exhibit and auction possible since the year 2002.

**In alphabetical order:** Julio Alpuy, Elisa Armendariz, Daniel Borlandelli, Jorge Boschi, Cecilia Brugnini, Lydia Buzio, Jorge Carcavallo, Rimer Cardillo, Eduardo Cardozo, Gerardo Correa, Aldo Curto, Carlos Fandiño, Cecilia del Campo, Philip Davis, Ema Delgado, Walter Deliotti, Martha Escondeur, Fernando Fraga, María García, Jose Gurvich, Guzmán García Lenguas, Ignacio Iturria, Diego Kroger, Ambar Labruna, Diego Massi, Ana Mendez, Martin Mendizabal, Eduardo Millieris, Cesar Paternosto, Juan Pedro Paz, Ana Peto de Namer, Dante Picarelli, Carlos Prunell, Adolfo Sayago, Felipe Secco, Gustavo Serra, Daniel Suárez, Horacio Torres, Joaquín Torres García, Gustavo Vázquez, Javier Velázquez, Nancy Villar, Carmen Viña, Enrique Zorrilla. Galería Juan Enrique Gomensoro y Cecilia de Torres Ltd.

**REMINDER: FOURTH ANNUAL ART AUCTION :: NOVEMBER 15th., 7:00 P.M. :: OPIA RESTAURANT, NYC**