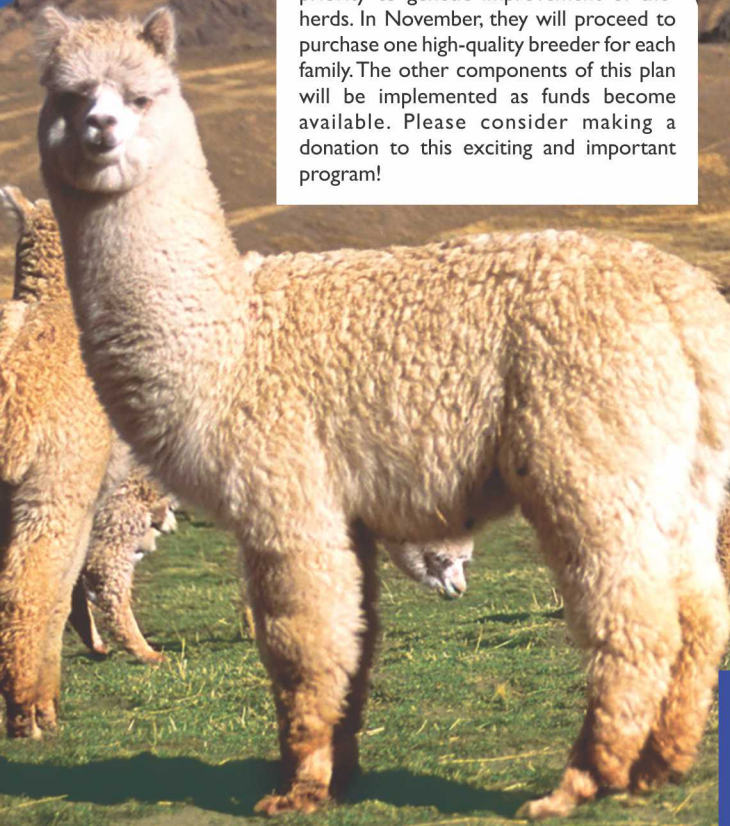


The Chijnaya Foundation

THE ALPACA HERDERS PROGRAM

With a grant from the Western Wind Foundation, we have been able to begin implementing these projects. To use the funds in hand, the herders gave highest priority to genetic improvement of the herds. In November, they will proceed to purchase one high-quality breeder for each family. The other components of this plan will be implemented as funds become available. Please consider making a donation to this exciting and important program!



ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES
IN THE ANDEAN HIGHLANDS
OF SOUTHERN PERU.





Alpacas were domesticated by Andean peoples over 5,000 years ago, and for more than 1,000 years communities of alpaca herders have existed in the Peruvian mountains at elevations over 13,000 feet above sea level. The subsistence economy of

these herders is based on the production of fiber and meat. The Foundation has been working with five alpaca herding communities to find ways to improve the living conditions for the people in these isolated and neglected regions where extreme poverty is the norm. The harsh environment of these communities makes survival precarious. With climate changes disproportionately impacting mountainous ecologies around the world, the situation on the Altiplano is going to get worse.

In recent times, each year the media throughout Peru report on the disastrous effects of severe weather on the people in herding communities. Freezing temperatures and snow are blamed for the deaths of hundreds of children and seniors annually and for devastating mortality rates among alpacas, with tens of thousands of alpacas dying because of the cold and lack of food. The response is to send some blankets or jackets as gifts to the suffering herders, a bandaid approach to crises. The Foundation has decided to undertake a comprehensive, integrated project of development for these communities to enable them to adapt and survive and to continue the rich culture of their traditional way of life.



To that end, we have called on these communities to design a program of sustainable activities to increase their chances of survival. This process has begun, and the following are some of the components to be included in this project. It is our intention that this project will serve as a model for dealing with the problems of hundreds of other herding communities throughout the Andes.



1. Regular veterinary visits and services: inoculations, de-worming, curing diseases, gestational monitoring;
2. Protection of animals against severe weather: portable sheds for baby alpacas and jackets for vulnerable animals;
3. Improvements to breeding practices: construction of separate corrals, instruction on best pasturing practices;
4. Improvements to the genetic stock: purchase of quality breeding males for each herd;
5. New and improved shearing techniques to provide a better fiber product;
6. Creation of a handspun yarn enterprise to provide earning opportunities especially for women;
7. Re-introduction of animals of different natural colors (grey, brown, beige, black) for the yarn industry;
8. Improvements to houses to make them more resistant to intense cold;
9. Restoration of the natural pastures, springs and marshes on which the animals depend;
10. Attention to commercialization processes for both fiber and meat.



Donate online: www.chijnayafoundation.org

Donate by check: The Chijnya Foundation, 1717 E.
Vista Chino, Suite A7-488, Palm Springs,
CA 92262 USA