Greetings!

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to ask for your support of The Chijnaya Foundation, a nonprofit that supports community-led projects in indigenous Andean communities in the southern highlands of Peru. A group of generous donors have pooled their resources to create a $75,000 matching grant in honor of founder and past president Ralph Bolton, so all donations made between July 1st – August 31st will be matched and therefore doubled!

Peru has been one of the Latin American countries worst hit by the pandemic. Indigenous Andean communities already suffer from a lack of basic health services, economic insecurity, and marginalization and are facing devastating physical and economic affects due to the global crisis. The local health centers of the region lack many vital resources required to provide health services in response to the virus and the global economic crisis has been harshly impacting the fragile economies of rural communities.

The Chijnaya Foundation has been working with communities on the Peruvian altiplano for the past 15 years to support projects focused on health, education, and economic development using a community-led, integrated approach that emphasizes local leadership and prioritizes working with communities long term on a diverse set of projects that support their goals and vision for the future. Many of their programs such as the Scholarship Program and Economic Development Program are important, now more than ever, to assist communities in navigating the new or amplified challenges they are facing due to the crisis.

The Scholarship Program provides an average of 50 high school graduates a year with scholarships to pursue higher education. This program is critical as families face economic hardships, making it challenging to support the higher education of their children. The Economic Development Program provides rotating loan funds to communities that they then use to invest in projects aimed at improving their income generating activities and creating economic stability through increased income. Many projects, such as the [Oat Seed Purchase Projects](https://chijnayafoundation.org/what-we-do/2020-proposed-projects/) in the communities of Mallajasi and Chillin, will provide communities with an additional source of income for the year and therefore help offset the decrease in income that they are experiencing due to the crisis. For more information on these projects—and many others—you can visit their website at [chijnayafoundation.org](https://chijnayafoundation.org/). Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you have as well!

In addition to existing programs, The Chijnaya Foundation and their Peruvian counterpart organization Pro-DIA have created new initiatives in response to the COVID-19 crisis including a weekly radio show that provides information on health and prevention topics as well as financial education related to COVID-19 in both Spanish and the local language of Quechua. They also donated Personal Protection Equipment to the 5 rural health posts where they work in the district of Pucará. You can find more information on the foundation’s response to COVID [here](https://chijnayafoundation.org/get-involved/matching-grant/).

As I mentioned above, I am happy to share more information about this work and do hope you will consider investing in these programs. If you are able to make a donation to The Chijnaya Foundation, it will significantly impact numerous lives in the Puno region. Your contribution will be used to expand public health initiatives, to support income generating activities, and to maintain access to higher education for scholarship recipients living in rural communities. All donations made between July 1st – August 31st will be matched up to $75,000, meaning both your donation and impact will be doubled!

[DONATE NOW](https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/TheChijnayaFoundationInc/DonateNow)

With kind regards and deep appreciation,