



Dining for Women

## Program Fact Sheet

**Program: WOW! WORK OF WOMEN**

A membership organization of **World Neighbors**

**Web Site:** <http://www.wn.org/wow>  
<http://www.wn.org>

**Address:** **WOW! - World Neighbors**  
4127 NW 122nd Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120 USA

**Mission:** **The WOW! (Work of Women) initiative at World Neighbors mobilizes people in support of a better life for women and their families throughout the world.** WOW! Work of Women is a membership program of World Neighbors. WOW! supports activities such as women's savings and credit groups, leadership development, water projects, and community and reproductive health.



**Where They Work:** **World Neighbors** is an international development organization striving to eliminate hunger, poverty and disease in some of the most isolated rural villages in Asia, Africa and Latin America. **The DFW funded project will be implemented in the Department of Apurimac in Peru and in North Potosí in Bolivia.**

**History of the Area**

Malnutrition continues to be an acute issue in the marginalized rural areas of **Apurimac, Peru, and North Potosí, Bolivia**, which contain some of the poorest communities in the High Andes area.

World Neighbors has partnered with communities in **North Potosí** in an initiative that has made important progress in reducing malnutrition among women and children under five by involving

communities, primarily women, in understanding and finding solutions to lack of food availability and poor nutrition.



**In Peru, Apurimac is part of the “trapezoid of poverty,”** with some of the worst human development indicators in the country. It is estimated that during the 1980s and early 1990s, over 69,000 people from this area, three quarters of whom were Quechua-speaking indigenous people, died as a result of the conflict between the Shining Path Maoist insurgents and the Peruvian military.

Life in Apurimac is characterized by a low life expectancy, very low literacy levels, high fertility rates, and for children under five, an eight to ten times higher possibility of dying from acute diarrheal disease, septicemia or malnutrition. World Neighbors is beginning work on women and children’s health through nutrition initiatives in Apurimac.

### Quick Facts

**Ancient Peru was the seat of several prominent Andean civilizations,** most notably that of the Incas whose empire was captured by the Spanish conquistadors in 1533. Peruvian independence was declared in 1821, and remaining Spanish forces defeated in 1824.

**Bolivia is one of the poorest and least developed countries in Latin America.** Named after independence fighter Simon BOLIVAR, Bolivia broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and countercoups. Democratic civilian rule was established in 1982, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and illegal drug production

### History of World Neighbors/Wow! Work of Women

**World Neighbors** was incorporated on Sept. 12, 1952, as a private, charitable, not-for-profit corporation. Since 1951, more than 25 million people in 45 countries have transformed their lives with the support of World Neighbors. Currently, over 500,000 people benefit from World Neighbors’ 70 programs in 15 countries. World Neighbors does not give away food or material aid. The organization invests in people and their communities so they may create their own life-changing solutions through programs that combine agriculture, literacy, water, health and environmental protection. **WOW! Work of Women** is a membership program of World Neighbors. WOW! members are mobilized to support all of World Neighbors work, especially drawing attention to the work that improves the lives of rural women and their families.

“Women care for families, impart wisdom, teach values, provide leadership, produce most of the world’s food and work two thirds of the world’s working hours. Yet, globally, women earn only a small fraction of the world’s income, hold title to less than a tenth of the world’s property, suffer disproportionately from violence, and are kept out of leadership and decision making.”

—WOW! Work of Women

## The Project:

**Dining for Women** will be supporting an initiative in several of the poorest regions of **Bolivia** and **Peru**. This project will help communities learn from each other and implement pilot projects primarily with women that find solutions to a critical, basic need. The details:

<b>Project Goals</b>			
<b>Increase availability of food</b>	<b>Improve the nutrition</b> (and thus, health) of women and children under five	<b>Build community capacity via savings and credit groups</b> to sustain community development efforts and improve families' economic situations	<b>Integrate women into community leadership roles</b> and decision making
<b>Project Activities</b>			
<b>Encourage women's groups to lead the process</b> of evaluating the local food security and nutritional problems and to develop possible solutions.	<b>Broaden local agricultural approaches</b> to include improved, traditional kitchen gardens, seeds and small animals that encourage further involvement of women (and children) in their communities.	<b>Expand savings and credit program</b> efforts in which women tend to play the central role.  <b>Small loans can be taken out to purchase additional seed</b> in order to grow a surplus of food that can then be sold to generate income to further improve their situations (i.e., income to cover school fees for children or medical care).	<b>Increase women's skills, confidence and participation in decision-making</b> – and to help men and village groups understand and embrace the benefits that women's involvement can bring

### Why is this DFW project vital?

- Simply growing enough food does not ensure that people, especially women, are able to improve their nutrition.
- Increased food production, without efforts to address gender inequalities, is unlikely to improve the nutritional status of women and girls.
- Improved gender relations are essential to long-term solutions to hunger.
- Increasing women's status and decision-making power in their homes and communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty.
- When household income is controlled by women, the family's nutritional status improves.
- Dining for Women funds will allow implementation of a workshop in Peru where methodologies and experiences can be exchanged, as well as the initiation of pilot programs in Bolivia and Peru.
- The work in North Potosí and Apurímac will be monitored, evaluated and eventually disseminated to other Andes-area communities.

---

## How World Neighbors Measures Program Success:

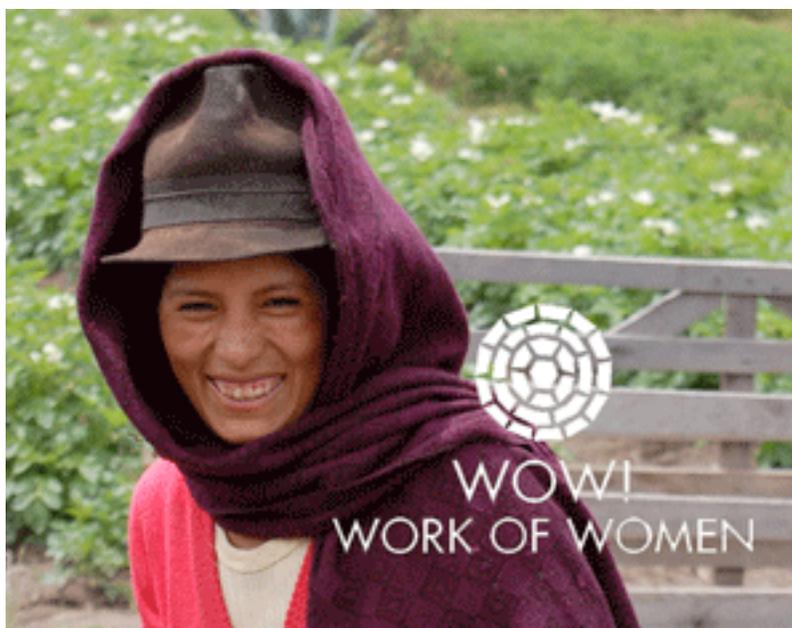
World Neighbors will provide reporting within 9 months on this project. This will include:

1. Numbers of participants and community beneficiaries
2. Measurements of progress toward increased food security and nutrition in the communities
3. Narrative description of program related activities
4. World Neighbors will also provide anecdotal stories of village participants and photographs

---

## Financial Profile

World Neighbors' annual operating budget is approximately \$6 million. Since 2007, World Neighbors has been awarded Charity Navigator's 4-star rating for sound fiscal management. World Neighbors is also included in Charity Watch's Index of Top-Rated Charities. The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) awards this designation to charities that meet the double requirement of keeping fundraising costs low while at the same time spending a high percentage of its budget directly on programs. Organizations included in this index also receive an "open book" credit from AIP for willingly sending the financial documents requested. Financial Report Links, including Form 990 and Audited Financial Statements, are available on the Accountability page of the World Neighbors website. [www.wn.org](http://www.wn.org)



## Our gift is directed to:

**Total DFW Goal: \$15,000**

**WOW/World Neighbors Project Budget Total: \$127,706 Bolivia; \$103,339 Peru**

---

## Sources:

<http://www.wn.org>

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas\\_of\\_Bolivia](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Bolivia)

[worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com) <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/samerica>

<http://www.workofwomen.org>

CIA Factbook