



Asociación para la Rehabilitación del Infantil Excepcional

Lima, Peru



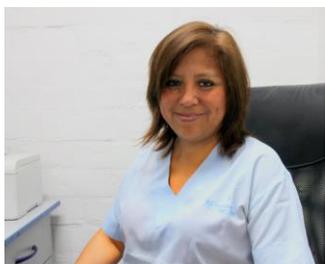
STICHTING VRIENDEN van ARIE



Newsletter January 2017

Dear Friends of ARIE,

Thank you for your on-going support during the past year. Twenty eight years have passed since ARIE started treating children with a disability from the poorest districts of Lima. It is the mission of ARIE to provide treatment to children with a disability in this city of 10 million, most of whom have no or very limited access to proper medical facilities. In order to treat 5.000 children every week in five different clinics, ARIE now employs 260 people. Doctors, therapists, support staff and volunteers. They all play an important part in giving these children a better chance in life. Let's hear the story of two of them:



Licenciada Marlene de la Cruz joined ARIE 22 years ago and is in charge of the physiotherapy

department: *“After the child has been diagnosed by the medical department, I get involved. The parents and I agree on the short term targets and long term objectives, which form the basis of the treatment plan for physiotherapy. To establish a personal relationship with the parents is crucial for its success. Not only will the child have to come to ARIE at least once a week, but ongoing exercises at home are a critical part of the total plan of treatment. Experience has taught us how a combination of professional treatment at ARIE and exercises at home will give the child the best chance of developing to its full potential. In this way the overall development of the child will be stimulated; depending on the condition of the child it will achieve some degree of independence and if at all possible attend a “normal” school. For me working at ARIE is highly motivating, because of my wonderful colleagues and the focus we all have on the children. Of course it does mean hard work and continuous training, but the personal and professional satisfaction of seeing real progress with the children makes it all worthwhile”.*



Lucia Ramirez is a language and speech therapist, who joined ARIE 18 months ago. *"My work consists of the rehabilitation of the ability of the children to communicate effectively. Communication is the all-important ability to transmit thought, needs and sentiments. The challenge is that there can be so many factors influencing the normal development of listening, understanding and speaking. These can vary from a common pronunciation disorder to a highly complicated metabolism-syndrome, associated with the alterations in communication. Only after careful observation and a thorough analysis can we draw up a trustworthy diagnosis. It requires a lot of dedication, effort and patience, but the satisfaction is enormous when you have been able to assist the child in overcoming it's difficulties. I much value the dynamics of my job, as more often than not it is done in a multidisciplinary group, which is essential for the all-round rehabilitation of the child. I hope that through my work in ARIE I can contribute to the appreciation in my country of this important therapy as an essential part of rehabilitation".*

For Marlene, Lucia and all the other therapists to continue their professional development, ARIE has once again in 2016 organized a number of training courses, conducted by high level experts from Peru and from other countries. With these courses ARIE contributes to the general professional development as well, as therapists (fee-paying) from other institutions are welcome. During the year many

training courses were conducted, covering among others: psychological evaluation, speech therapy and different treatment for different children.



Early intervention is best

At the same time the support systems and facilities of ARIE require on-going attention. In Lima City Centre additional treatment rooms became available; optical sensors were introduced to register the movements of children with cerebral palsy; an improved system for fixed asset control was implemented; the bank reconciliation was automated saving time and avoiding errors; the internal optical fibre network was re-cabled; electronic invoicing was implemented, the logistical systems were evaluated and subsequently improved.

We were we able to start construction on a sixth treatment centre in September, thanks to the generosity of many people and organisations, both inside Peru and abroad. This centre will be located in the San Juan de Lurigancho district of Lima. A district with more than 1,2 million people, which is currently without a proper treatment facility for children with a disability. This centre is scheduled to start operating by the middle of 2017. As it is in Lima ARIE remains true to its core value of a small organisation, with a clear focus and minimal overhead costs.

Here are the stories of two children to present a flavour of the work ARIE is doing:

José Ramos is 5 years of age and like his sister suffers from a severe condition of autism.



As the mother is fully occupied to look after the two children, only the father goes out to work, if and when he can find a job in construction. The four of them occupy one room of a simple, wooden house, in which various members of the extended family live. In order to treat José it was decided to take an integrated approach, comprising of Language & Communication, Occupational, Behavioural and Music Therapy. As the total cost exceeds the parental ability to pay, the treatment is partly subsidized from the ARIE Fund for people in extreme poverty. Luckily José's family are fully committed to both children. He is making good overall progress as evidenced by a more controlled use of his limbs, in understanding others and expressing himself. The music therapy has calmed him down a lot and he now demonstrates a much better interaction with people.

Antonella Rodríguez is 5 years of age and suffers from microcephaly, which retards her physiological development.



She lives with her parents in the house of the maternal grandparents, in which two uncles reside as well, one of whom is mentally retarded. The father is a casual labourer in road construction and additionally rents out beach-umbrellas during the summer months. Antonella comes to ARIE for Physio, Occupational, Language and Behavioural Therapy. Her progress is favourable, but slow. She is a sweet and smiling child, who loves her family life. Her hearing is good and she is keen to sing and to dance. As she is now able to communicate better, she continuously asks questions to seek reconfirmation of what she observes. She engages in conversation with parents, grandparents and friends and obviously enjoys the social contact. As they live near the beach, she is happy to move around in the sand and play. With more and more progress in her behaviour she can now take part in games with other children. As the total cost of treatment exceeds the parental ability to pay, the treatment is partly subsidized from the ARIE Fund for people in extreme poverty.



Construction of the new location in San Juan de Lurigancho is making good progress.

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