



### Friendship without Borders

Many times we have received the wonderful visits of our faithful friends from the Friendship without Borders group. Their visit is a unique experience for everybody in the Homes. Their presence for that one week touches our life. Once we know the date of their arrival we can see the happiness in the children and the staff. The group organizes and completes their projects and activities with so much dedication and enthusiasm. We all participate and take part in these experiences. At each visit we have realized three to four different activities: the open clinic, the craft projects, construction projects and lately the English classes and the outreach trip to the community of Choantonio. In the August project 2005 we replaced all the shelves in the storerooms and in May 2006 we built a sustaining wall in one of the agricultural areas, which is on a steep incline. That last project required particular dedication and a lot of physical energy. We all worked and learned during this short time. In these projects we can learn the value of team work, which is one of our goals. When we are working with our friends the results always have been very impressive. The craft projects and English classes have taken place in different groups. Each day different children have the opportunity to participate: it is a very important activity, because it helps them to know each other better, they relate to each other directly, they express themselves and learn something new for life. Before the arrival and during the year we organize the open clinic. The group makes sure that they know about the most important needs related to health and come loaded down with all that is necessary to treat not only the children, but also adults, who need to receive attention. At the last two visits, the clinic was in the charge of Dr. Jill and her team in coordination with S. Bersabé and the help of Carmen and Dr. Luis Toledo from the dental clinic. We organized a day for an outreach trip to the community of Choantonio, where the group participated in the celebration of sharing the word of God, and Jack Alexander, Deacon of Saint Alphonsus parish and leader of the group, shared the message of the word of God with the community. Both groups share their songs and the children anxiously await the end of the celebration, because they will receive a little present from their visitors. It is another opportunity for the community as well as for the group to enlarge their circle of friends and learn more about an intercultural experience. With happiness we look forward to the next visit in August. We already want to welcome you in the Homes again and express our gratitude for walking with us in the process of growth and development of the Homes and its people.

### Friendship without Borders May 2006



During English classes



During the open clinic



The wall construction



The May 2006 group



Some of us from the Homes in front of the finished wall.