

Greetings from Volker Nack/Casa Verde – PERU – April 2025

Dear friends and supporters of Casa Verde:

In the best case, vacation time means time for yourself and time with each other. And for those who are lucky enough to spend time with their

families. For many of the children who live in Casa Verde, this was the exception rather than the rule. And so

we at Casa Verde try, within our means, to create time together in which

the children can have fun and relax, and at the same time we try to take advantage of opportunities

where the children can learn and develop skills.

For us (Volker and Dessy Nack), this time was a gift in that we were able to travel to

our second (or first?) home for several weeks and of course spend a lot of time in Casa Verde Arequipa

and Cusco. Even though we are in constant contact with my

deputy Manuel and the respective directors of the homes, Crisol and Anna, throughout the year, it is quite a different matter

to be on site and to have an overview of the big picture, but also to see the many small but important details.

I took a lot of time to talk to all the employees individually and to discuss current issues and plan for the future.

Some of what I saw was good as it is, but there are other things that we certainly need to optimize. We want to strengthen our employees and their skills, and concepts in educational work with children must be analyzed again and again and adapted where necessary.

To do this, we need to provide time and resources and be willing to strengthen existing ones to strengthen, but also to question again and again. One thing I was able to take from Casa Verde for sure

: Each and every one of these children deserves our best efforts and continued work to ensure that Casa Verde has a future.

With this in mind, we returned to Germany with the certainty that the basic idea of Casa Verde is firmly established and supported by our employees, and At the same time, we came back with many ideas and the motivation to initiate something new.

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support, which forms the basis for everything that has endured.

We ask you from the bottom of our hearts to accompany us and Casa Verde in everything that is yet to come.

Greetings from the bottom of our hearts!

Volker and Dessy Nack and the Casa Verde family

Dear friends of Casa Verde in Arequipa and Cusco,
..and before you know it, the whole Christmas rush, New Year's Eve and the whole of the following January is already over! What the summer vacations are in Germany, there are also here in Peru, only that these last from mid-December to early March. A pretty challenge for the adults, but of course quite popular with the children J.

In the first days of January, everyone had to digest the more than eventful December. So we were in the park a lot, doing handicrafts, and of course playing with the numerous new toys that were given to the children by different groups who like to visit Casa Verde around Christmas time.

In addition to fancy new race cars, there were also some dolls. But what the children actually spent the most time with were board games. We played Jenga for hours or

plastic monkeys on a tree until one fell down. The stamina, patience and sensitivity of children are always fascinating and beautiful to watch. After a quiet first week, everyday life picked up speed again.

So the hairdressers were back at the door, the cape was swung around my neck and then the snipping began.

Both the boys and girls got a new haircut for the new year, with the boys preferring it fashionable and short and the girls hardly negotiating every centimeter that is to be cut.

The vacation program then picked up speed. We volunteers **2h4ab** en thought up plenty of activities together with the señoritas. It is important to us to educational content as well as to take into account the children's desire to spend their vacations in "family".

So the children went to soccer training, track and field, basketball and also to creative workshops such as painting and handicrafts several times a week. All these courses are offered by the city of Cayma to organize the school children's vacations. But that's not all the action for the children – we volunteers

also came up with a "tight" program and, for example, organized a fairy tale day with the children, painted T-shirts with finger paint and played Monopoly for hours on the board game day

. In addition, a highlight of the month was on the agenda in mid-January: the trip to the dinosaur park. After a nearly endless drive ;) we arrived in perfect weather and the boys were amazed . Each dinosaur was examined in detail and we were asked to read the information board several times for each one - name, when it lived, what it ate. A quasi insatiable thirst for knowledge ;) Both the younger and the older ones stormed through the park full of energy and explored where the best activities were. The younger ones spent a lot of time on the backs of the dinosaurs, but the older ones didn't want to miss out on the fun either. Moving dinosaurs on tires with integrated music finally captivated the younger ones and so it was full steam ahead for 10 minutes on the dinosaur track. After that, there was a detour to the play paradise and Mike bought ice cream for everyone. The older ones spent their time

in the trampoline park and competed with the balls - so everyone was exhausted and happy when it was time to go home.

Just a few days later, it was unfortunately time to say goodbye to Mike. The whole team **2u4n** d the children

have taken Mike into their hearts over the two months of his visit and his help. He was always actively

supporting us in all the activities in the administration building and especially in the kitchen, but what we remember most

is the loving way he interacted with the children. It was impossible to miss the place he had in the hearts of the children.

We thank you for your unique commitment and wish you all the best for the future, Mike!

The girls went to dance class three times a week, which everyone enjoyed. Brihanna was even able to do gymnastics on top of that.

We volunteers always accompanied her there

.

They baked cakes and pizza, and made things like thank-you cards or salt dough. All the children were very excited to see how the dough would work with the salt. But because

everyone wanted to eat the dough, we also baked the edible things, of course.

First we cut and then baked.

And of course we also thought about the dishes!

Furthermore, excursions were also undertaken, such as horse riding and canopy rides. When it came to canopy rides,

even the youngest, like Dominic, overcame their fear and rushed down the long line.

All of them

were totally excited and watched every single descent closely.

On the last day of January, we also went to the zoo. The children were very enthusiastic about all the

different animals and were amazed.

And after so much adventure and leisure, the children were then reminded that it is important to have a tidy house and that everyone is responsible for it. That's why the

tasks alternate every week and on Fridays we clean.

January was also all about "holidays, activities and relaxation" at Casa Verde Cusco.

During this time, we are happy to take advantage of offers from our immediate vicinity, such as

offers from the various local administrations and church parishes.

Sol and Valentina, for example, the youngest at Casa Verde, were able to let off steam for several weeks in a

karate course.

The Cusco police offered "vacaciones utiles", a vacation program

where girls could choose between volleyball, basketball, soccer and swimming between courses.

They trained hard every morning for four weeks, and by the end of the course, each girl had

made great progress in the respective sport.

But a little school preparation was also on the holiday agenda. So Rubi, Angela and Ariana took a refresher course in mathematics. Especially for Rubi and Ariana, who will be

moving to a new school after the holidays, it is important to be school-ready. In line with our principle that good prevention is essential to avoid the treatment^{2n4d} or even chronic illnesses, all of the girls went to the doctor during the holidays to

have a check-up. On January 6th, Three Kings Day, the girls received another visit from friends of Casa Verde. In addition to jewelry and erasers, small bags were also given, which are still

in daily use. The evening was rounded off with paneton, sweet pastries and hot chocolate. In January, Catalina also visited us for a week, and she prepared a very varied²⁴

program for the girls. The focus of the week was on books and stories, and so different stories were read and discussed in the library every day. Catalina captivated everyone with her captivating and vivid way of telling stories. By telling Peruvian sagas and legends, the girls were able to learn more about their culture and origin.

In addition to reading, various games were played and the girls were also able to express their artistic talents. For example, the girls learned how to embroider, which they particularly enjoyed.

With a lot of patience and dedication, beautiful flowers were created. In addition, Catalina organized a pyjama party in the library, where the girls, snuggled up to their pillows, and, listened to scary stories.

The week went by in a flash and it was with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to Catalina.

Many thanks to Señora Ursula, who made this wonderful and unforgettable week possible for us.

In the same week that Catalina visited us, we also had a visitor from Austria, Mike, who brought a breath of fresh air to Casa Verde. He not only spoiled us with his cooking skills, but

also supported us with his manual skills. During that week, Casa Verde was enriched by a swing and a new coat rack, which the girls embellished together.

In addition, he also gave an hour of English lessons. In the courtyard of the Casa, the girls were regularly able to take advantage of the relatively good weather. So was played football, volleyball and basketball until the evening, and the hopping fields were also in full use. So

it happened that even the falling darkness could only with difficulty prevent the girls from playing.

Only the finished dinner could finally end the time outside.

In addition, two new bicycles have found their way into the Casa Verde, which were met with great joy by the girls.

The girls, who had never had the opportunity to ride a bike before, learned it after initial skepticism very quickly and soon rode like pros with the others across the courtyard.

In addition to bicycles, the courtyard was also used for inline skating . Some girls were more, some less

shaky on their feet, which was perhaps also due to the fact that the inline skates were much too big, especially for the little ones. But that didn't stop them and they happily stumbled around the courtyard.

With mixed feelings, we had to say goodbye to Charol because she was able to move back to her family.

These kinds of returns to the family are prepared, in the best case, by us together with the youth welfare office in Cusco. If we feel that the families have been able to change their behavior and are able to provide the child with a safe and child-friendly environment, we let the children go with a good feeling.

Unfortunately, experience shows us that by far not the majority of the returns are successful. And whether successful or not, we miss each of the girls who were once part of the Casa Verde family.

An important part of the preparation for a return to the original family is regular visits by family members, accompanied and guided by our social worker or psychologist.

In this sense,

sisters Jahaira

and Valentina were visited by

their mother and Karina

by her grandfather.

Finally, in January, there were also birthdays to celebrate at Casa Verde. Angela and Ariana, who both have the same birthday, turned 12 and 13 years old. Both received a Capibara cuddly toy, which are very popular in Peru at the moment.

And our volunteer Amelie was also able to celebrate her first Peruvian birthday at Casa Verde.

We sincerely wish all birthday children a “Feliz Cumpleaños”.

In February, Arequipa was under water as it has been so often in recent years. As in so many places on

our planet, climate change is causing significant problems and in some places is more of a curse than a

boon. In some areas of the province of Arequipa, entire villages were swept away by the floodwaters

and mudslides, and the city of Arequipa also had to

struggle with flooding in many places. At Casa Verde, the girls' house was more affected this year.

Several times, the public sewage system collapsed and contaminated wastewater was flushed through the

toilets of Casa Verde into several areas of the house. While the smaller children were

brought to “safety”, the teenagers from both houses heroically helped to clean up the mess.

For the children, on the other hand, February was all about the planned vacation trip to the sea.

Weeks before, you could see the girls' indescribable anticipation; the

talks at the dinner table soon revolved only around the bikinis they would wear, the water in which they would splash and the sandcastles they wanted to build.

When the time finally came, the children had already started packing days before, strolled through the building with their heavy backpacks and waited for us to finally leave. We packed the car in the early morning hours and after three hours we were already in the coastal town of Camaná, where we have been enjoying the sun, beach and sea for many years.

We were kindly given a ride by an acquaintance in his small bus. On the beach, we had accommodation available that our home manager Anna from Casa Verde Cusco

was able to get for us through an acquaintance.

It was interesting to see how differently the children handled the water and how new the

way they dealt with the waves and the sand disappearing under their feet when a wave receded

was for the children who saw the sea for the first time in their lives, which for us is something quite natural. The initial fear of contact with the rather strong waves turned into great joy in playing in the waves over the course of the day, so that one or the other child had to be carried out to avoid catching a cold. The next day was enjoyed in the

outdoor pool, where even the small children could swim better and even Luciana did not want to get out of the water at the end. They practiced swimming and sliding extensively.

To celebrate Carnival, Casa Verde also had a German theme, among other things.

There was a little

face painting session, where the children could choose what they wanted to be transformed into

: cats, butterflies or Elsa – everything was there!

In the evening, the girls were introduced to German classical carnival songs.

Everyone danced enthusiastically to the festive music (only when they saw the music videos did they start to frown a little).

And those who hadn't yet put on make-up quickly borrowed the appropriate outfit from our volunteers to

cause general amusement.

And so ended two fulfilling vacation months in which we designed time and space together with the children to learn new things, have fun and relax, and just spend time together as the Casa Verde family.

A big thank you to everyone who supports us in making this all possible!

There was a new haircut for both the boys and the girls at the beginning of the year, with the boys preferring it short and fashionable and the girls haggling hard over every centimeter that is to be cut.

The vacation program then also picked up speed. We volunteers and the señoritas together came up with a lot of activities. It is important to us to fill this time with both educational content and to take into account the children's desire to spend their vacations in "family".

So the children went to soccer training, track and field, basketball and creative workshops such as painting and crafts several times a week. All of these courses are offered by the city of Cayma to organize the schoolchildren's vacations. But that's not all the children could do – we volunteers also came up with a "tight" program and, for example, organized a fairy tale day with the , painting T-shirts with finger paint and playing hours of Monopoly on Board Game Day.

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Just a few days later, it was unfortunately time to say goodbye to Mike. The whole team and the children took Mike into their hearts during his two months of visiting and helping. He was always actively support in all activities in the administration building and especially in the kitchen, but what we remember most is the loving interaction with the children. That he also has a place in the hearts of the children was not to be overlooked in everyday life. We thank you for your unique commitment and wish you all the best for the future, Mike!

The girls went to dance class three times a week, which everyone

a lot of fun. Brihanna can even go to gymnastics in addition. We volunteers always accompany her there. We baked cakes and pizza, and made things like thank you cards or things out of salt dough. All the children were very excited about how the whole thing with the salt in the dough should work. But because everyone wanted to eat the dough, we of course also baked the edible things. First we cut and then we baked. And of course we also thought about the dishes! Furthermore, excursions were made such as horse riding and canopy rides. During the canopy ride even the youngest, like Dominic, overcame themselves and rushed down the long line. All were very excited and watched every single descent closely. On the last day of January, we also went to the zoo. The children were very enthusiastic about all the different animals and were amazed. And after so much adventure and leisure, the children had to be reminded that it is important to have a tidy house and that everyone is responsible for it. That's why the tasks alternate every week and on Fridays we clean. January at Casa Verde Cusco was also dedicated to "holidays, activities and relaxation". During this time, we are happy to take advantage of offers from our immediate vicinity, such as offers from the various local administrations and church parishes. Sol and Valentina, for example, the youngest at Casa Verde, were able to let off steam for several weeks in a karate course. The Cusco police offered "vacaciones utiles", a vacation program where girls could choose between volleyball, basketball, soccer and swimming between courses. They trained hard every morning for four weeks, and by the end of the course, each girl had made great progress in the respective sport. But a little school preparation was also on the holiday agenda. So Rubi, Angela and Ariana took a refresher course in mathematics. Especially for Rubi and Ariana, who will be moving to a new school after the holidays, it is important to be school-ready. In line with our principle that good prevention is essential to avoid the treatment^{2n4dli3ng} or even chronic illnesses, all of the girls went to the doctor during the holidays to have a check-up. On January 6th, Three Kings Day, the girls received another visit from friends of Casa Verde. In addition to jewelry and erasers, small bags were also given, which are still in daily use. The evening was rounded off with paneton, sweet pastries and hot

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