



SACREDVALLEYPROJECT

# 2016 Annual Report



# Letter from Program Director

*Estimados amigos,*

*Es para mí una enorme satisfacción poder apoyar un año más a Sacred Valley Project, trabajo que me llena de ilusión todos los días. Con solo imaginar que cada una de nuestras estudiantes podrá tener un futuro mejor y de igualdad de oportunidades, y que además de beneficiarlas a ellas, tendrá impacto sobre sus familias me hace seguir confiando en nuestro compromiso como organización.*

*Es increíble observar el avance de ellas, desde el primer día en el hogar hasta el último, aquel día en que acaban el colegio secundario. Mucho ocurre durante este tiempo, ellas crecen en proporción directa a sus ilusiones y deseos de ser cada día mejores. Sueñan para ellas un mundo lleno de oportunidades y confían en que así será si continúan estudiando con esfuerzo y dedicación.*

*Este año y como todos los años estaremos trabajando fuerte para garantizar a nuestras estudiantes el éxito en su educación, velando por todas las necesidades que acontezcan en el ciclo educativo y en su crecimiento como personas íntegras de derechos y en pleno desarrollo.*

*Nuestro propósito es alcanzar cada vez a una mayor cantidad de mujeres jóvenes que sueñan con un futuro mejor, es por eso que este año, estaremos brindando apoyo a 37 estudiantes, todas ellas provenientes de comunidades rurales alejadas en la zona andina peruana.*

*Es un orgullo para mí, contar con el apoyo de nuestros tutores y las madres del hogar. Sin ellos, nada sería posible. Dedican su tiempo, sus ganas, su vida a acompañar a nuestras estudiantes en lo académico y también en el sostén necesario para un buen desarrollo emocional, aspecto muy importante para formar líderes, mujeres capaces de defender sus ideales y sus derechos. Hago extensivo el agradecimiento a Alex Ball, fundador de nuestra organización por confiar en nuestro trabajo apoyando cada una de nuestras ideas y sugerencias.*

*El trabajo en equipo hace posible sostener durante tantos años este humilde proyecto, cada uno aportando desde su saber, pensando en cada estudiante de manera particular, velando por sus necesidades y sus intereses, animándolas a continuar y a no decaer en el esfuerzo que hacen diariamente al estar lejos de sus familias.*

*También nos sentimos felices de anunciar como organización que el pasado año, tres de nuestras estudiantes, lograron con éxito alcanzar el final del colegio secundario, con las mejores notas académicas.*

*Estamos orgullosos de los logros alcanzados, aunque sabemos que aún tenemos muchos desafíos por delante.*

*Te invito a que nos continúes apoyando, que compartas nuestra historia para que tengamos mayor alcance y seamos capaces de perpetuar nuestra misión.*

*Es nuestra ilusión, es nuestra motivación. Gracias a todos y a cada uno de ustedes.*

**Gabriela Scarafio**

# Gaby











# Reflections from Founder/President

*Dear SVP family,*

*Another year has passed, and the Sacred Valley Project continues to grow. 2016 was a year focused on academic rigor, development workshops and international travel. All of our students and staff agree that the year seemed to fly by and now as I take moment to look back on the past 12 months, I can confidently say that it was the most successful and enriching year in our project's history. Our students thrived academically and our three graduates are all eager to find a way to continue their studies.*

*This year, three of our students and two of our staff had the opportunity to attend international summits focused on girls education, networking and empowerment. These events were both eye opening and inspiring and we hope to be able to incorporate more travel into the lives and education of our students for years to come.*

*The success of our project is based on two key elements, our dedicated, positive, hardworking students and staff, as well as the continued support of people from all over the world who have identified with SVP and show their belief in our work by fundraising, donating and staying involved in the project. It is truly remarkable that so many of you have found the space in your hearts and minds to care for the education of young women here in Peru and I am truly grateful for all of your support.*

*I understand that there are a lot of issues that need our attention right now and for many of us it is hard to decided where to focus our limited time and resources. As SVP continues to move forward with a commitment to education as the best way to affect change, I hope that you will continue to believe in and support our work.*

*With gratitude,*

**Alex Ball**

# Alex





# Mission and Vision

## **Mission:**

**The mission of the Sacred Valley Project (SVP) is to provide boarding and supplementary education for young women from low income families in remote communities of the Andes so that they can continue and complete their secondary education.**

## **Vision:**

**SVP aspires to help educate as many girls as we can, by empowering them to become indigenous leaders who generate positive development. Our vision for this project is that all women in the region have access to quality education, and that from this education the community continues to thrive and grow to meet all needs of the people living in the Sacred Valley of Peru.**



# Locations

The Sacred Valley Project runs two dormitories in the department of Cusco, Peru. Our pilot location is in Ollantaytambo and in 2015 we opened a second location in a town called Calca, Peru. We currently work with girls from 17 different communities of the Sacred Valley.



PERU

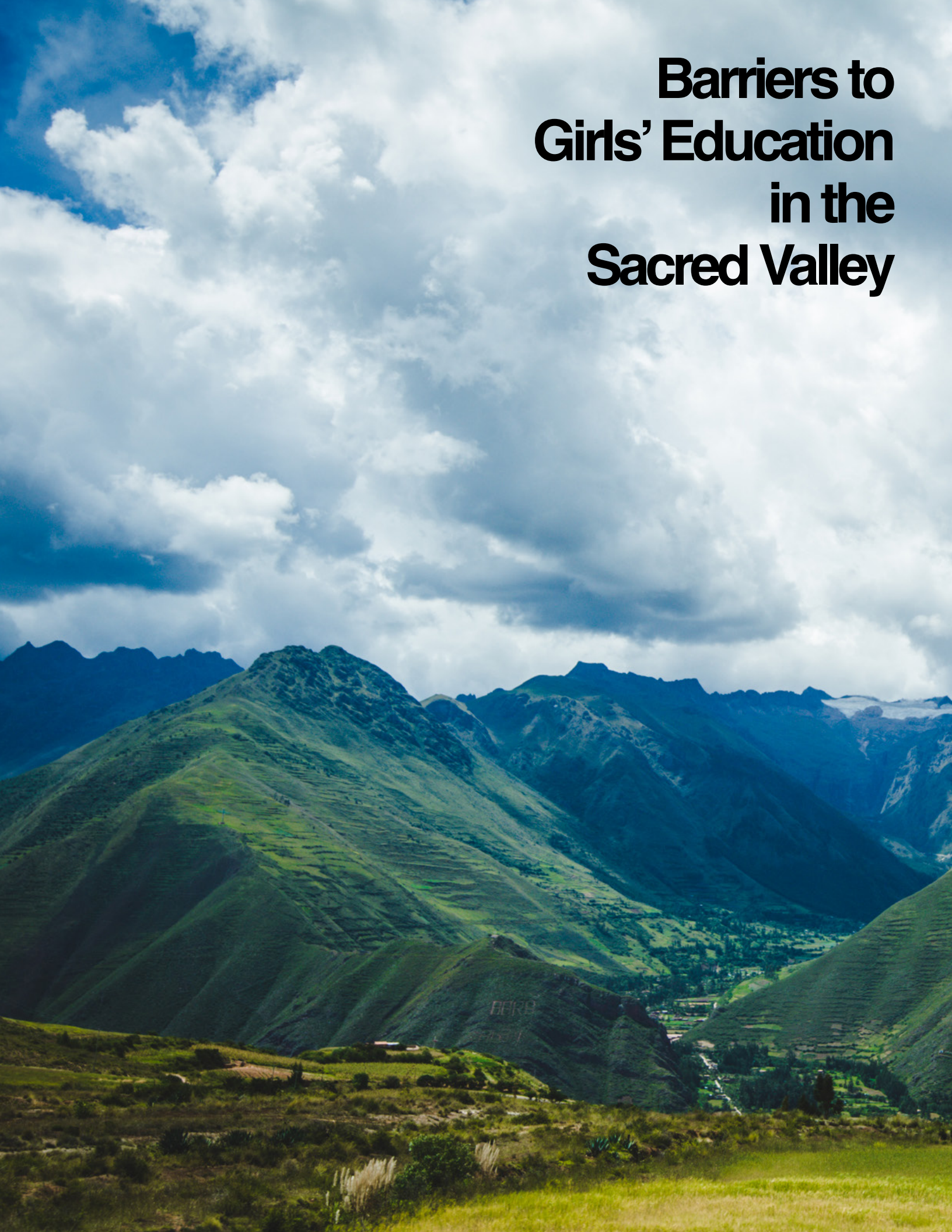
LIMA •

MACHU PICHU

OLLANTAYTAMBO  
CALCA  
CUSCO



# Barriers to Girls' Education in the Sacred Valley





**The Sacred Valley Project began in order to provide a dormitory and education center that nurtures and supports indigenous girls in their endeavor to attend school. SVP also helps students to adapt to the culture of an urban area, Spanish speaking schools, and academic struggles as the result of poor primary education.**

**Currently, only 4 in 10 indigenous Peruvian girls from rural areas graduate from secondary school. While most communities in Peru now have access to a primary school (grades 1-6 in the US), girls in the rural Andes face significant challenges reaching the closest secondary school (grades 7-11).**

**Challenges include several hours of travel on foot, harsh weather conditions, and health and safety concerns for young women traveling alone. While many farming families will find a way to pay for their sons to receive**



**an education, this opportunity is not often afforded to their daughters.**

**The Sacred Valley Project addresses the need for better access to secondary school for Quechua girls from rural Andean communities by removing the barrier of a long and unsafe journey. On top of this, the dormitory is intended to be more than just a living space. It is a place of community and growth, in which the girls learn to set goals and achieve them in a warm and positive environment. The direct beneficiaries of our program are the girls in the program, however SVP strives to equip the girls with skills that will ultimately affect their families, communities, and future children.**






# Programming







**SVP achieves its mission by providing the following services to students from the Sacred Valley:**

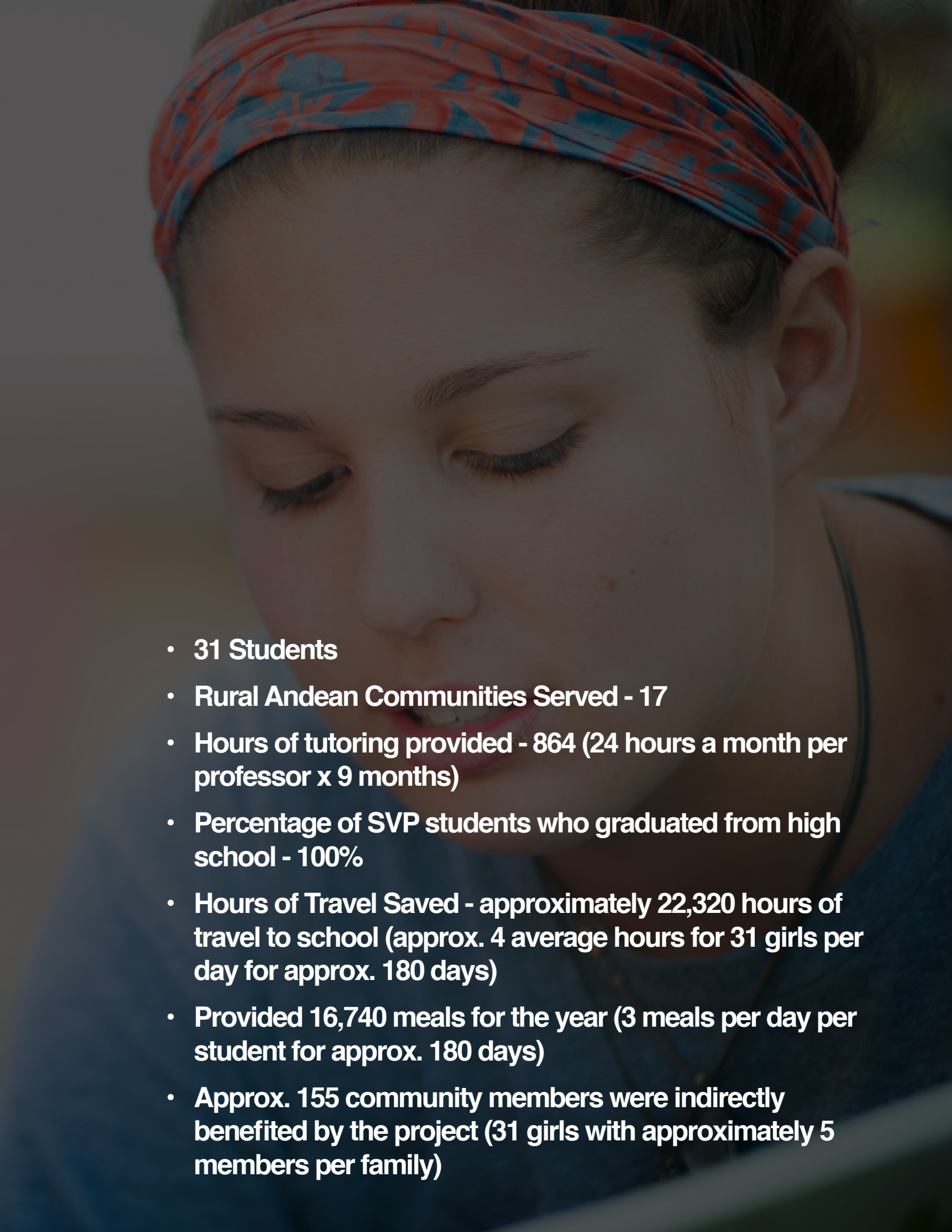
- **A safe and nurturing space conducive to learning and growth**
- **Academic Tutoring**
- **Language transition tutoring for Quechua speaking students entering Spanish speaking schools**
- **All schooling and indirect schooling fees such as school supplies, uniforms, books, and transportation**
- **Extracurricular activities that reinforce self-confidence, self-esteem, empowerment, and promote local cultural values**
- **Technical skills workshops to build each student's capacity to reach economic independence upon graduation**



**Impact**





- 
- **31 Students**
  - **Rural Andean Communities Served - 17**
  - **Hours of tutoring provided - 864 (24 hours a month per professor x 9 months)**
  - **Percentage of SVP students who graduated from high school - 100%**
  - **Hours of Travel Saved - approximately 22,320 hours of travel to school (approx. 4 average hours for 31 girls per day for approx. 180 days)**
  - **Provided 16,740 meals for the year (3 meals per day per student for approx. 180 days)**
  - **Approx. 155 community members were indirectly benefited by the project (31 girls with approximately 5 members per family)**



# New Graduates

**100% of SVP seniors successfully graduated from secondary school (as opposed to only 60% of the average population in the Sacred Valley of Peru).**

**There's something special about this graduating class: Two SVP seniors, Sinforsa and Carlota (bottom right) graduated at the TOP of their class. Two young ladies who, prior to the support of the Sacred Valley Project, used to trek 8 hours each day to reach the closest school. And Vicentina (bottom left), is a great example of the success of SVP. She took advantage of the resources of the project to succeed academically. All three of our 2016 graduates are incredible examples of success, perseverance and hard work for future generations of young women.**

**We couldn't be more proud of all of our graduates. Their graduation accomplishments prove to us that this work not only empowers young women to find their voice, but it is also crucial to ensuring that girls just like them have the chance to realize what their full potential can be.**



SACRED VALLEY PROJECT GRADUATES 2016



# 2016 Highlights: Workshops, trainings, SVP Features and Events, Leadership Opportunities, New School for Ollantaytambo Students

## January



### Skirball Center

We are proud to have had SVP student, Yessenia, featured in the The Skirball Center in Los Angeles exhibition of the *A Path Appears!* Thanks to the Skirball Center and She's the First for organizing!

*A Path Appears: Actions for a Better World.* Inspired by the bestselling book *A Path Appears*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the exhibition is both a gallery installation and a community engagement project—a place where every visitor can take practical, results-driven steps to bring about social change.

<http://www.skirball.org/exhibitions/a-path-appears>



### Visionarias- Photos 10.1 and 10.2

During the month of January, SVP students Nayda, Nilda, Carlota and Sinforosa participated in a

leadership workshop put together by The Visionarias network. This is the third year SVP students have been involved and the progress the girls are making is extremely notable. Topics included mentorship, business and financial planning, health and well being, technology and the Kubmo technology program for women, opportunities for internships and professional development with the Clinton Global Initiative, how to prepare an 'elevator speech', negotiating skills and more! An important contribution to the development of girls' abilities. Thank you Visionaria Network!!

## March

### NEW SCHOOL- Sol y Luna

In March of 2016, SVP students in Ollantaytambo began at a new school, El Colegio Intercultural Sol y Luna. Sol y Luna provides a holistic approach to education, by providing quality academic education, fostering collective identification so that students gain pride over their cultural roots, and their comprehensive education and workshops enable students to develop their emotional intelligence and cognitive abilities.

The teachers of Sol y Luna and SVP are committed to working together with SVP for follow-up and support of our students to ensure that all achieve the academic and developmental goals set by the school.

After a full year at Sol y Luna, our students finished 2016 with good grades and were happy with the overall experience of changing schools and getting to know their new teachers and classmates.



## April



### Creative Thinking and Problem Solving Workshop

LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) volunteers worked with the girls at the Sacred Valley Project on creative thinking and problem solving in a workshop in April. One of the challenges was to choose a limited number of objects to take with them if shipwrecked on a desert island. The girls enjoyed working together to come up with a solution that would best suit their needs.

## August



### Carlota Visiting US

In August, She's the First granted Carlota Laucata Quispe, a senior at the Sacred Valley Project, a scholarship to visit the U.S. and attend the She's the First Leadership Summit. Not only did Carlota get the opportunity to speak to over 250 campus leaders and advocates for girls' education around the world, she also made international connections with non-profit leaders and fellow STF Scholar Angelica from Starfish Impact in Guatemala. Not to mention a visit to STF supporters at Glamour Magazine and an Adopt a Cause Unity Walk on the High Line! Her visit to NYC also allowed the Souljourn Yoga Foundation to throw a fundraiser on behalf of SVP, where Carlota participated in yoga, a silent auction and presented to a large community of supporters at LuluLemon's Hub Seventeen in NYC.

Carlota, along with Alex (SVP Founder and President), and Gabriela (SVP Program Director), then traveled up and down the East Coast telling her story of perseverance at the World Fellowship Center in New Hampshire, welcoming long time supporters and new friends to our first *Evening with the Sacred Valley Project* event in Washington, DC hosted by the Embassy of Peru, and connecting with the Hazleton Integration Project in Hazleton, PA. Needless to say, this experience was unforgettable for Carlota and for the SVP team.

Carlota returned from the U.S. with eyes and heart opened wide. In a recent review of her experience, Carlota wrote (translated,) "*The [She's the First] events helped me with my public speaking, helped me lose my fear and believe in myself.*" Carlota says her "*dreams came true*" having had the opportunity to visit the U.S. and she "*feels inspired and proud to have met other students from other countries who are fighting for their education just like her.*"

## October



### SVP Partners with the Centro Educativo Pallata Ayllu

SVP is extremely excited to announce the inauguration of the Centro Educativo Pallata Ayllu (CEPA) in October, 2016. Dedicated SVP board member Joe Levitan, Kayla Johnson and countless others worked hard with community members of Pallata, Peru to bring more educational opportunities to the people of Pallata.

What is CEPA?:

Centro Educativo Pallata Ayllu is a community learning center that was co-developed with members of a rural Quechua community to support community-identified educational needs and provide culturally responsive educational opportunities. Designed for



children and adult learners, CEPA will house courses taught by local indigenous peoples for indigenous peoples who facilitate culturally grounded literacy, computer, and community development courses. SVP is thrilled to see members of the Sacred Valley community, including families and siblings of our SVP girls, getting access to educational tools and skills that will continue to build on the development of the region.

## November



### CHISPA Network Conference

A Sacred Valley Project partner through She's the First, Starfish- Her Infinite Impact, has worked with organizations across Guatemala to develop the CHISPA Action Network. The CHISPA Network was born with the goal of creating a powerful network of young women who are leading and modeling change every day.

She's the First, Genesis Fair Trade and Starfish - Her Infinite Impact have teamed together to bring SVP students Sinforosa and Miluska to Guatemala for the first annual CHISPA network conference. Alongside SVP house mother Kathiuscha Ochoa Meza, Sinforosa and Miluska were two of 100 young women who were selected for their leadership and desire to make the change in their communities and their country. It was incredible to watch Sinforosa, Miluska and Kathiuscha take on this opportunity for their first international experience! Thank you to Starfish, She's the First and Genesis Fair Trade for making this happen!



### Arts & Crafts workshop with the Latin American Foundation for the Future (LAFF)

Thanks to LAFF for enhancing SVP students' skill sets, with particular emphasis on social, entrepreneurial and artistic skills!

A snapshot from the Arts & Crafts workshop LAFF ran at the Sacred Valley Project in Calca. Thanks to Fiorella for showing our young women at SVP all about how to use different materials for their collages! SVP students created collages from a variety of materials and got really creative! Thank you as always to LAFF for the fun and educational workshops you provide SVP students to continue making education fun!



# 2016 New Student Spotlight: Almendra

Almendra, born in 2003 in Yucay, lives in the community of Pomatales with her mother, father, and little brother Ronaldiño. As she started at SVP, Ronaldiño began kindergarten. Almendra also has an older brother, Rodrigo, who has finished secondary school and has begun working with a hotel in Ollantaytambo.

Almendra writes that when she was very small, she started primary school in Yucay, which is a small town three hours away from Pomatales. She lived with an aunt and stayed with her until she finished first grade. After that she continued school in Pomatales when her family moved closer. Almendra is now a student with the Sacred Valley Project in Ollantaytambo during the week because her community, Pomatales, is very far from any secondary school and there is no transportation to go to school.

*“I would have to walk two hours to get to the school from my community and I get really scared when I walk by myself the winding pathways through the mountains. I really appreciate the support of the Sacred Valley Project because here they give me housing, food, school supplies and I also get to meet and share experience with my housemates. Life on a farm is difficult, when I’m not in school I had to shepherd my animals and it is really boring. I would need to spend seven hours a day in the hills caring for the animals. It is for this reason that I want to study and become better every day, so that I can continue on to higher education in the future. I want to have other opportunities, and this way I can help my family.”*

We are so glad to have welcomed Almendra to the project in 2016. A brave young woman who shows drive and perseverance to succeed. Join us in welcoming her to the family!





# Staff Spotlights

This year, we would like to celebrate the house mothers at the Sacred Valley Project who gave so much of their hearts to encouraging the girls on their journey through secondary school. We speak about all house mothers equally because they showed incredible effort and commitment to the work they do and to the success of the girls. We want to recognize them for their incredible dedication to the project, as they leave everything in their lives behind during the week to live with and mentor the girls.

SVP House Mothers are with the girls day-to-day, looking after the students well being, academic success and their safety. With patience and enthusiasm they are attentive to any need and only seek the best for the welfare of the girls. Join us in recognizing the loyalty, dedication and selfless commitment of Gladys, Norma, Yessica and Kathiuscha in 2016!





# Introducing the T'anta Wasi Bakery!

## Katerina from the T'anta Wasi Bakery talks about why she loves working on this sustainability project for SVP

As the administrator of the T'anta Wasi Bakery Katerina oversees sales, finance, management and the business development of T'anta Wasi. Her role is to make sure T'anta Wasi run smoothly and sustainably with future growth and development in mind. Also, developing a platform for the girls at The Sacred Valley Project to learn a little about how to start and run their own businesses is one of the goals of administration. This will empower the young women by giving them the tools and the confidence to learn basic administrative responsibilities of running a business.

Katerina was born in Denver, CO. Her parents immigrated to the states from Peru and Panama. She studied Environmental Design with an emphasis in Architecture at the University of Boulder in Colorado and has been working in the fields of architectural and structural drafting, designing, and project management since her first internship at age nineteen. After graduation Katerina spent some time as a project manager and freelance designer. Throughout the years, she took some time to travel as well. She was able to get to know 13 countries throughout Europe, Scandinavia and South America through backpacking and adventuring around. Naturally, she fell in love with Peru. Katerina has a lot of family here and the number of places to see are infinitely beautiful. Peru never ceases to amaze her.

Katerina hopes to help build the T'anta Wasi business up to be the start of something more for the education of the girls of the Sacred Valley Project. Her mother worked in education for 25 years and has instilled in her that education is an essential catalyst to growth and change for the betterment of a community as a whole. Ultimately, the bakery will help offset some of the costs of the girl's school supplies, costs of living, and transportation. In the future T'anta Wasi will also aspire to become a pilot program that will teach these young women how to administer a business of their own one day. Katerina's goal is to gain enough traction to then become a template for sustainable business design that would support other projects similar to that of The Sacred Valley Project.

Thank you, Katerina, for all of your hard work and support!





# Looking Forward to 2017



## Open Doors Initiative

SVP currently provides a safe place to stay, quality nutrition, a caring, supportive environment, and culturally grounded education to low-income indigenous girls from remote villages in the Peruvian Andes. This education is based on the students' home knowledge and language, as well as providing advancement in important learning outcomes. We also devote the time and resources necessary for each student to succeed, instead of taking a broad approach we treat each individual as an important and unique person who is able to make a meaningful contribution to society.

This approach has allowed us to ensure that each of our students graduates and has opportunities for work or higher education upon completing secondary school. We strongly believe that it takes a village to raise a child, and we ensure that our village takes care of each and every child in it. We are now able to expand our work to open our doors to more students who live closer to town and are not boarding, but still need this caring, holistic approach to education so that they can be successful in their studies and later in life.

In an effort to support more students in the Sacred Valley, the Open Door Initiative will provide after-school tutoring, mentorship and nutritious meals for non-boarding students who live nearby and attend secondary school in Calca and Ollantaytambo. These students are from families with little education background and who still deserve the support our boarding students have been provided in the past. We have expanded our tutoring capability to support more students, so that more indigenous young girls get the support they desperately need to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to become leaders and meaningful contributors to their communities.





## Beginning Construction of Calca dorm

Towards the end of 2016, we began construction on the new dormitory in Calca! As we head into the dry season, SVP aims to finish the construction alongside volunteer groups. The goal of the new dormitory project is to develop a permanent and self-sustainable dormitory in Calca that can be run by local community members. The new SVP dormitory in Calca will serve 20 female students from more than 18 communities in the Sacred Valley of Peru. By building a new dormitory in Calca, SVP will be able to cut rent costs from our general operations budget. Without the costs of renting a space, we will be able to use the newly available funds to develop economic sustainability projects such as a bakery.

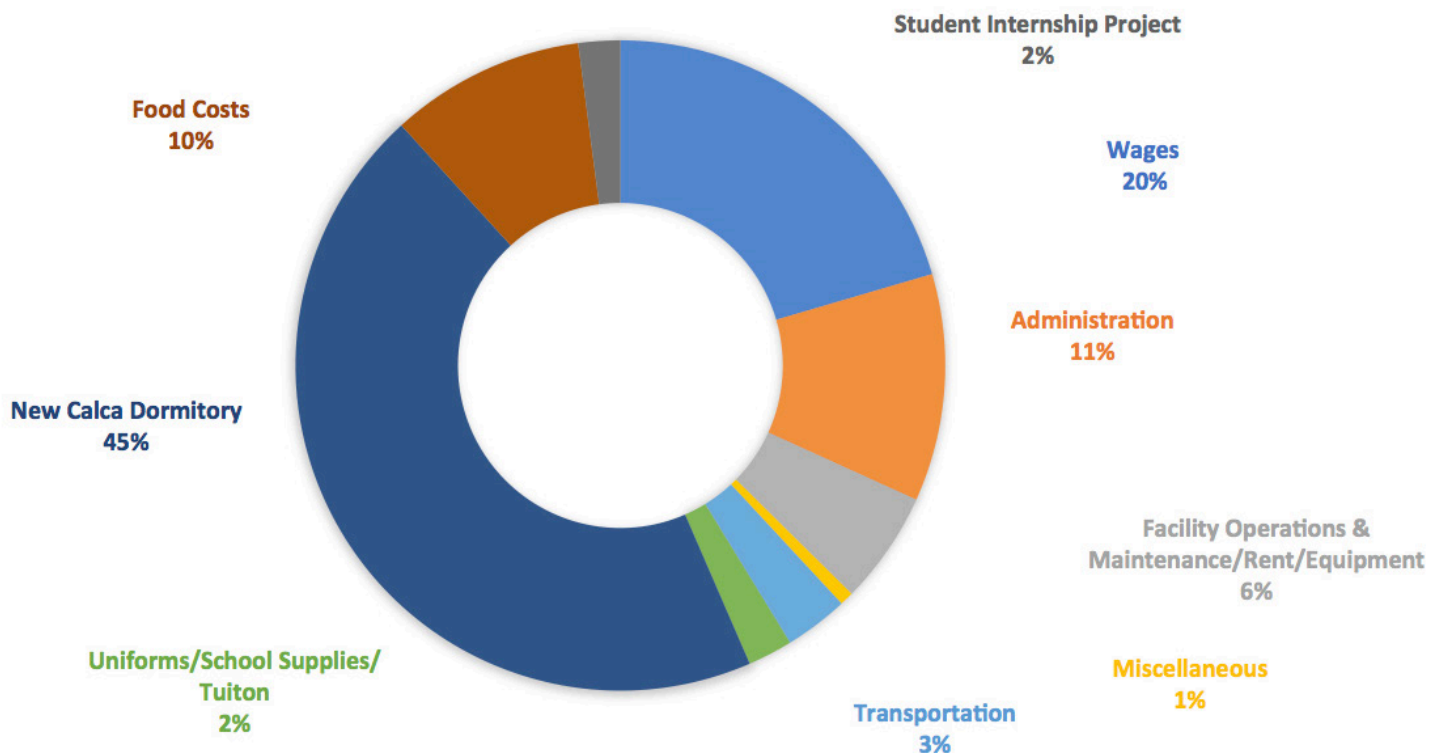
The building will also provide a safe space for our students to live and study, and allow our students and staff to have autonomy to create a dormitory and education center environment that will foster learning, empowerment, creativity, critical thought and freedom to express themselves. This dormitory will create new opportunities for not only the girls who attend, but also for their families to be a part of a larger community project that will foster collaboration among 18 communities, as well as drive change and progress for women in the Sacred Valley.

The 600m<sup>2</sup> property will allow for SVP to build a dormitory that includes the following amenities: 5 shared bedrooms for students; two bedrooms for the house mothers; two dorm style bathrooms; large living space divided into three parts (living, study and dining spaces); ample outdoor space for a vegetable garden to supplement food costs, a space for games and outdoor activities as well as a laundry washing area. SVP hopes to use local adobe style building practices in order to utilize the most sustainable and resource friendly building method possible for this area of Peru.



# Financials and Team

The Sacred Valley Project maintains low overhead in order to focus our energy and resources towards building an organization dedicated to the girls and communities of the Sacred Valley of Peru. Our U.S. office consists of one part-time employee. In 2016, we employed 6 staff members in Peru whose daily responsibilities directly affect the success of the girls. Financials are based on the 2016 calendar year. In-country expenses made possible by donations to the Sacred Valley Project More details can be found in our 2016 990 Report.



# Peru Team

**Gabriela Scarafioca, Program Director**  
**Ollantaytambo, Peru**

**Norma Ochoa Meza, House Mother and Tutor**  
**Ollantaytambo, Peru**

**Kathiushca Ochoa Meza, House Mother and Tutor**  
**Ollantaytambo, Peru**

**Yessica Yaneth Vilca Phocco, House Mother and Tutor**  
**Calca, Peru**

**Gladys Chilo Chullo, House Mother and Tutor**  
**Calca, Peru**

**José Manuel Rabanal, Tutor**  
**Ollantaytambo, Peru**

# U.S. Team

**Christie Cutler, Director of Development**  
**Boulder, CO**

**Cyanne Stonesmith, Development Intern**  
**Boulder, CO**



# **Board of Directors (U.S.)**

**Alex Ball - Founder, and Board Chair (Peru/U.S.)  
Montclair, NJ/Ollantaytambo, Peru**

**Joe Levitan, PhD, Co-Founder, Director of Educational  
Programming and Operations (Peru/U.S.)  
State College, PA/Ollantaytambo, Peru**

**Nicole Vera, Secretary  
Vienna, VA**

**Sean Casey, Treasurer and Media  
Vienna, VA**



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