

Food Security Project for Bolivian Families

Bolivian Young Friends, under the care of the *Friends International Bilingual Center (FIBC)* in La Paz, Bolivia, have taken on a service project to address the impact of climate change on families of the Bolivian Altiplano. This has become the **Food Security Project for Bolivian Families**.

Background: In Bolivia, in the State of La Paz that is located in the highlands there is only one potato harvest time each year. As many as 240 different kinds of potatoes are grown. Altiplano Bolivians sow the potatoes, their primary food, in October and November, and harvest them in March and April.

In the spring and summer (November and December in Bolivia) of 2022, climate change has caused a severe drought in the Altiplano. Parents and their children have been so worried that they prayed for rain and relief from the hardship at the top of the mountains. There was virtually no rain, so the seed potatoes died in the parched earth. Many families who depend on a potatoes crop for food mainly in small villages, lost their seeds, which meant there will be no harvest this year in March. Also harvest needs to provide food for the upcoming year, seed for the next season's crop, and whatever is left is available to sell for income.



The project will provide three months of potatoes (one hundred twenty-five pounds) per family beginning at the harvest time this year at a cost of \$50 (U.S. funds) per family.

We will also provide seed potatoes for sowing in October and early November of 2023. For one year's crop, one hundred twenty-five pounds of seed potatoes is considered the absolute minimum necessary. Each family will receive this quantity of seed potatoes at a cost of \$45.00 (U.S. funds).

Please give generously to our service project to help Bolivian families in the Altiplano.

- **Checks** may be made payable to Emma Condori Mamani with Food Security Project in the memo line. Mailed to: FIBC, c/o Sita Diehl, 5729 Elder Place, Madison, WI 53705.
- **Online donations** may be given through the FIBC website:

<https://www.centrobilingueinternacionalamigos.org/en/donaciones>

May the blessings of God be upon you,

Emma Condori Mamani
Director, Friends International Bilingual Center
La Paz, Bolivia

Photos taken on March 11th



The plants of this potatoes crop should be tall and blooming in March but they are not.



This mother and her two children lost the potatoes crop due to the climate change.