



## ACTIVITY REPORT CHILDREN HOSPITAL - 2012

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**AYNI BOLIVIA**

## Music at the Children Hospital "Ovidio Aliaga Uria" with group AYNI BOLIVIA

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***An activity supported by CURACULTURA and KHALA UMA – SWEDEN***

With the support of CURACULTURA and the group KHALA UMA from Sweden, the work of music therapy continues to be held by AYNI BOLIVIA in 2012. This work focuses primarily on the burn ward at Children's Hospital in the city of La Paz.

Earlier this year the government of Evo Morales decided to implement a policy that included an increase in working hours for all health officials. This has caused an upset in the health sector who decided to close the public health centers and in some cases suspend attention.

This has provoked a discontinuity of Ayni Bolivia's work at the Children's Hospital.

Later reports of abuse and discrimination against some children by parents of children at the oncology ward have generated susceptibility from doctors to alternative activities.

These have been, in general, the difficulties prevented BOLIVIA AYNI to perform their duties as normal.

Despite these contradictions and problems emerging in Bolivia, especially at the city of La Paz, Ayni Bolivia has done continuous work concentrated in the burn ward.



## BURN WARD

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The burn ward provides treatment that seeks a specialized service to all those children who for some reason have suffered accidental burns in varying degrees.

During 2012 management, this ward received children with very high levels of burn obtained mainly by the lack of attention from parents.

It is noteworthy that the majority of children treated in this ward come from low income families and the lack of responsibilities of handling flammable products.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

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This work has been conducted on Fridays at the Children's Hospital between 3-5 pm.

Ayni Bolivia has sought to perform continuous sessions in order to lead to empathy and process of learning the proposed repertoire by the children and aim a more active participation.

Besides the songs learned from Gitte Palsson, are incorporated traditional songs that cause parents sing along with the band.



## SOUND RESOURCES

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The sound resources used in these sessions have included the following instruments:

Guitar, charango, violin, flute, panpipes, North American Indian Flute, Aztec Drum, Resources percussion and singing.

It has sought the active participation limited by the possibilities of movement of patients to participate actively in the musical experience.

We want the child to identify and trust the group from the development of learned repertoire. We seek to strengthen social unity, but also reinforce their individuality and identity while motivating the desire to improve and heal.

We introduced ourselves and often repeat our names to provoke familiarity with children in order to obtain a better opening to participation in musical activities.

This work involves mainly pediatric patients, but also, and importantly, parents and mothers who stay at the hospital. Occasionally we have sought the active participation of medical practitioners, nurses and administrative staff.



## RESULTS

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The experiences resulting from the application of music in the burn ward could focus on the following.

- **Music for palliation of pain.** On numerous occasions patients receiving painful treatments have achieved positive results in the alleviation of pain in children in healing treatments. These effects obtained were achieved for children of various ages, from babies under 1 year to children 8 years or so.
- **Music as a factor that reinforces the sense of partnership.** The burn ward has about 12 beds and one intensive care. Through the application of music has reinforced the need to support each other. Often families suffering these misfortunes feel abandoned and lonely. Through this work seeks to strengthen the partnership between patients and between parents in order to achieve levels of solidarity and mutual support.
- **Raising the level of self-esteem in patients and parents.** Patients and mainly parents and mothers feel victims of bad luck. This observation has been stated by Gitte Palsson timely. In this context the work is concentrated enough to achieve self-esteem boost from parents and mothers of affected children. The change of attitude works efficiently in the timely recovery of their children.
- **Commitment and support from the hospital staff.** This commitment has been gained in the continuity of work. Apparently those children who have been subjected to the work of music therapy in the hospital submitted under recovery periods. In that sense the committed support obtained by the hospital staff occurs pursuant to the results obtained for the work performed.
- **Learning and identification.** Children undergoing music therapy processes, mainly by children who have been subjected to longer recovery processes, learning songs and musical processes achieve better welfare after the visit of the group therapist. These results have been produced outside the cultural background of patients. It is worth mentioning the case of Valvina, an indigenous girl, Quechua, who suffered severe burns all over his body and has been admitted to a longer time in this pavilion. Upon arrival of the band, this girl showed a better attitude and participated enthusiastically in the activities proposed.





## NEEDS

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Ayni Bolivia developed this volunteer activity at the Hospital del Niño in part by the support of CURACULTURA and KHALA UMA.

We hope we can maintain this support to continue this important musical activity.

There have been some complaints from other nurses from other wards. This shows the need to expand activities to other sectors. Unfortunately for the teaching work of Ayni Bolivia, we can only devote one day a week to this activity.

In that sense we would like to prepare other young musicians who are interested in expanding the work that plays Ayni Bolivia at the Children's Hospital.

For these musical activities we use our own instruments, and for the active participation of children we have been using a lot of instruments belonging to Gitte Palsson. We would ask CURACULTURA that could rely on the provision of a greater number of small percussion instruments.

Also, if it is possible to provide educational toys to give children would be helpful.



## CONCLUSIONS

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We have finished the activity on 2012 with increasingly visible results and positive children in burn ward.

The voluntary contribution that undertakes CURACULTURA makes possible Ayni Bolivia's participation in this activity. We hope its continuity in this support.

We need to find ways that allow expanding the work of music therapy at Children's Hospital, and, if possible, to expand the activity to nursing homes for example.

On behalf of children who benefit from this activity, the solidarity and commitment of support and KHALA CURACULTURA UMA in this effort we are very thankful.

May God bless you.

**Mirtha Carrazana**

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More pictures

<http://s1214.beta.photobucket.com/user/Carrazanacordero/library/Ayni%20Bolivia%20Musictherapy%202012>





