



# THANK YOU!

From the community of Chimore, Bolivia, and the University of Waterloo's Bridges to Prosperity for your contribution to the summer 2015 footbridge

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## UPDATE: Welcome back travel team!

Our travel team members, Marianne Joy Baucas, Kathy Lin, Diana Valdes, Kevin Honsberger, Kunjan Mehta and Emma Inacio, have returned from their footbridge building adventure and have amazing stories to share! Their contribution has helped bring the community closer to schools, markets, and medical facilities in the surrounding region. This newsletter highlights their work with the community and B2P to help create a better way of life for the people of Chimore.

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## Working with UofT

This year, two University of Toronto (UofT) students joined us for our build in Chimore. It was great working with new voices and extra willing hands on site. Being able to share our knowledge with UofT on how to operate a chapter was a rewarding relationship as we also learned from their experiences. They both are now good friends of our team!

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## Steps Taken to Build the Tiers and Anchors for the Bridge

When the team arrived, the low side of the foundation was fully complete and the high side foundation was partially complete. After arriving, our team began work on the low side tiers. Our travel team was in-country during the three week trip for the completion of the towers, unable to stay for the complete construction of the bridge. Delay was a result of material delays due to the government and extreme flooding, causing the completion of the bridge 1.5 months after our departure. Our construction mason Clemente kindly saw through to the bridge completion. Below is a step-by-step procedure of how the tiers and anchors were built.



- 1) Marking tier dimensions and placing guideline strings to keep tier walls straight
- 2) Gathering rocks, ranging between large (upwards of 100 lbs) and small (fist sized)
- 3) Mixing concrete with cement, coarse aggregate, and fine aggregate delivered to site
- 4) Constructing the tier walls using concrete and large rocks
- 5) Assisting in the construction of the high side foundation and tier (only one tier)
- 6) Construction (bricklaying) of high side and low side towers
- 7) Locals began construction of the low side approach walls by placing concrete and large rocks in the excavation
- 8) Building the anchor cages by bending rebar and tying the pieces together
- 9) Setting anchors and approach wall excavation on the high side







## The Travel Team

**Marianne Baucas**

**Kathy Lin**

**Diana Valdes**

**Kunjan Mehta**

**Kevin Honsberger**

**Emma Inacio**

### **Q:** What was it like living in Chimore?

**Kunjan:** It was truly a unique experience living in Chimore. I always felt very safe and at home while living amongst the villagers. They treated us as family. After the long working days, we somehow managed to find energy to play sports with the kids in the community.

**Diana:** Despite the large difference in our way of living to theirs, we were all able to adapt to such a unique culture in the short three weeks that we were there. We learned to quickly appreciate every little opportunity that came our way. I am thankful that we were given the opportunity to gather our knowledge and time to bring forward the construction of the Chimore 2015 bridge.

### **Q:** What did you personally get out of travelling to Bolivia (skills, culture, friendships, etc)?

**Kathy:** The best thing I gained out of the experience was the friendships with the project team. Not only was I able to get to know my peers, I also connected with members of the tag-along team. The bond formed in Bolivia continues to serve as encouragement and motivation to keep working hard towards our common goal -- to use our knowledge and resources to make a difference.

**Kevin:** Traveling to Bolivia gave me the chance to work on a team as it moved into a new environment. Throughout the trip I worked closely with each of the team members and we spent many hours talking and playing games together. My friendship with several team members was much deeper after three weeks of doing life together and experiencing a new culture together. Working with Clemente, a local mason working for B2P, as well as the locals in Chimore gave me a better understanding of Bolivian construction culture and way of life.

### **Q:** What was the most memorable moment of the trip?

**Kunjan:** The most memorable moment of the trip would be when we travelled to Cochabamba to visit the Cristo de la Concordia. The statue and the view were both breathtaking! I am definitely planning to visit it again when I get the chance!

**Kevin:** My favorite part of the trip was working with Clemente and Brandon (from UofT) as Clemente taught the two of us about marking out each tier, building the tier walls, and bricklaying for the towers. He really enjoyed our enthusiasm to learn and was an excellent teacher.

**Marianne:** There were a lot of good memories during the trip and I won't be able to pick a single instance. One thing that I will remember the most is how generous the community members were. We received sacks of oranges, bundles of bananas and a pineapple for each person fairly often. Even with our little knowledge of Spanish, we were still able to have meaningful conversations with the community members which was very heartwarming. We were able to build connections that crossed borders of culture and language and that in itself is something that will remain with me for the rest of my life.





## Future Steps

We appreciate all the support you have given us throughout the past year and we hope that support can extend to our next project! We are already getting started on training our team as a whole on the processes and formalities that come with funding, designing, and building a bridge. In addition, our team has begun to expand and we have new, enthusiastic teammates that are ready to start helping. Keep updated on our upcoming projects at: <http://b2p.uwaterloo.ca/pcurrent.html>

## Chapter Structure Update

Owing to Waterloo's unique co-op program, our team was only ever on campus for four months in any given eight month period. Our chapter is now set up to have a presence on campus all-year round!. We have successfully found our executive members for the next term, and are excited to welcome them to the team! For more details on the logistics please visit our website <http://b2p.uwaterloo.ca/ourteam.html>

## Sponsors T-shirt Customization



Our team proudly sported our sponsors' logos on the back of their Chimore t-shirts!

## Final Note

We would like to take the time to thank all of you for supporting us all the way. We could not have achieved any of this without you. We hope that your generosity will be able to extend beyond this footbridge!

## Thank you to All Our Sponsors!



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## Fundraising Update

The fundraising team has been hard at work designing, organizing and selling uWaterloo iPhone cases and civil engineering 2020 shirts! The team is also considering running Zumba workshops and other events, giving variety in our fundraising tactics by including events.

