



Preparations in full swing!

Wow, time flies when you're preparing to leave the country! We have been busily speaking with various groups of people over the last month or so, and still have a few to go. It has been great to share with others our story, passion and desire to help the Bolivian people. We love that so many people are interested and so encouraging - it inspires us to continue on!

This month's news is primarily about what Juelz will be doing in Bolivia.



Life in Tarija

Tarija is a city in southern Bolivia, and where we will be located for the two years.

Tarija's climate is Mediterranean, in contrast to the harsh cold of the Altiplano and humid heat of the Amazon Basin. Tarija has a population of 234,442 (as at Jan 2013).



Violence against women

Much is known about violence against women in Australia, with 1 in 3 women affected (33%). Although there is more work to be done to improve this issue in Australia, women's support organisations, advocates, and a judicial system (although imperfect) are available to help women

THE SANDERS FAMILY:

Volunteering in Bolivia, South America, living among the Quechua people of the Andes mountains. Extreme poverty, domestic violence, and low literacy rates are among the major social issues facing Quechua people. **BEN:** Illustrating for the Tarpuy children's curriculum project. This desperately needed resource is the first of its kind developed in this part of the world. **JUELZ:** Seeking to use her experience working with women who are victims of family violence. **RUBY & MAX:** Mixing with children their own age at a Spanish-speaking local



Tarijeños enjoy a relaxed lifestyle and are sometimes particularly proud of a lackadaisical approach to punctuality. A three-hour siesta beginning at noon is practiced daily. During the siesta, most offices and shops are closed and the city streets are empty as families reunite to eat lunch, followed by a short nap - ready to then tackle the afternoon's work.



Ready, set.....wait

Although we feel ready to jump on that plane and get started in Bolivia, logistically there are things that need to happen first.

We have a 4 week "special

affected.

In Bolivia, the issue is extreme and the workers are few. Almost 70% of women are affected by domestic violence. The judicial system is completely inadequate (& quite corrupt), the culture accepts domestic violence as "the norm", and women suffer considerably at the hands of their partner - with seemingly no hope of this changing.

After working at WRISC Family Violence Support for the past almost 2 years, Juelz has been on a steep learning curve - absorbing as much as she can about how domestic violence affects women, and how to provide assistance.

Initially Juelz will be gaining an understanding of what help is currently

school.

Ways you can support us and the work we are doing in Bolivia.

STAY

in touch. We would love to hear from you! Email us directly, or if you read the newsletter, leave us a comment - we'd love to know what you think: sandersintheandes@gmail.com

SAY

you'll [donate](#) to support the Sanders Family as they volunteer in Bolivia (via pioneers.org.au). This could be a one-off donation, or an ongoing monthly contribution. All donations are tax deductible (through Pioneers).



VISA" process to go through, to even gain entry into Bolivia - which we cannot commence until we book our flights, which we cannot complete until we finalise our financial support.

Generous financial support enables us to go and do this work in Bolivia (we are 35% self-supported with Ben's commercial illustration work, and need to be 65% supported by others).

Once our financial support is finalised, we can book those tickets, finalise that visa, and we on our way! If you can help in any way, we greatly appreciate it (refer to donation details, under "ways you can support us"). Thank you.

available in Tarija, and where she may be of assistance. She will be aiming to work within current community structures, such as the community centre (or health centre), or places where women congregate.

An issue so culturally engrained will present some challenges - but women deserve to live life free from fear, hurt and oppression (wherever they are). Juelz wants to be part of empowering women - bringing women and girls front and centre so that they have a voice and basic human rights is what women's empowerment is all about. Hope and a future.

So, stay tuned as we settle in to life in Tarija and as Juelz pursues opportunities as they arise.