

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN PERU

Responding to an urgent need...

There is no government support for differently-able people in Peru whatsoever, so they are amongst the most marginalised, the most vulnerable, and the poorest of the poor in their communities. Many are reduced to begging on the streets.

People with disabilities face a huge amount of discrimination in Peru. Disability is often seen to be contagious, thus making it very difficult for disabled people to find employment.

People with physical disabilities, especially those who are unable to walk, cannot travel around Arequipa without constant assistance. The streets and public transport are not accessible for wheelchair-users. Those who are not begging on the streets are often confined in the home, depressed and isolated with nothing to do, and unable to contribute to their family's income.

This year, CAI began to work with Iglesia Bautista Misionera, a small Baptist church in Arequipa, Peru, to establish a craft-based social enterprise to provide employment for differently-able people and to change attitudes towards disability within the community.



OUR DIRECTOR, SUSIE HART MADE TWO TRIPS TO AREQUIPA THIS YEAR TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TO GIVE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

ON HER 1ST TRIP, SUSIE WENT OUT WITH A TEAM OF SKILLED VOLUNTEERS TO TRAIN 35 DISABLED PEOPLE IN A VARIETY OF CRAFT SKILLS.

SINCE RECEIVING TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FROM CAI, THESE PEOPLE ARE NOW EARNING A WAGE, SUPPORTING THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH DIGNITY.