

Km 9 School Painting

In 2004 we started building a school in the remote suburbs of the city of Iquitos located along the Amazon River in Peru. The school was about 5 kilometers out of town, had 150 students in 10 age groups, and had seven classrooms. The city continued to expand and each year 100 more students joined the school. We added a few more simple classrooms each year. After 10 years there were more than 1,000 students. When the school reached capacity the government said they would help build a new school. The old school was torn down and a new two-story building with a courtyard and covered pavilion was added. The village is lucky to have such a nice facility now for 1,200 students.

We have continued to support the school with water filter equipment, science lab supplies, and basic maintenance. Last year the parents helped paint



the school. We supplied 100 gallons of good-quality paint at \$25 each with a donation of \$2,500. I recently returned to the school to see what else the school needed. They only had enough paint for half of the classrooms. They need another 100 gallons of paint to finish painting the school. Our goal is to supply another \$2,500 so the parents can finish painting all the rooms.

When I was there, the school had a celebration to say thank you for the support they have been receiving. Ceremonies and celebrations are a big part of Peruvian culture. It was fun to see the dancing and entertainment provided by the students. We have supported this school for almost 20 years and I expect we will continue to assist with basic projects as we are able.

