

## Katie Ashbridge Memorial Page – My New Home Initiative



During her gap year, Katie spent a month taking part in The Peru Children's Project, working in one of the poorest areas of Latin America, in Peru's capital of Lima. In her memory, we continue to raise money to provide improved housing to the families of the most disadvantaged children in Villa Maria.

Villa Maria is one of the largest shanty towns in the world and Katie taught sport, art, music and drama to some of the children living there. Katie particularly enjoyed this part of her trip and she came away having touched the lives of many of the children who she met during her time there.

Quest4Change initially focused its energies on improving the general living conditions for the children, providing summer camps, a pre-school and primary school and year-round activities for all ages. It has already shown dramatic improvements, reducing crime and gang warfare in the area. But space in the valley of Villa Maria has been becoming increasingly limited and families have been forced to cut precarious platforms into the hillsides to erect their homes, all lacking basic facilities of water, electricity and sewage. These oppressive conditions often lead to the break-up of families, leaving single parents to struggle to work and care for their children. Education, health and general well being are extremely difficult to maintain, making it hard to give the next generation the opportunity to better their situation

### 'Katieville' – My New Home Initiative

In her memory, Quest4Change started raising money to offer improved housing to families of the most disadvantaged children in Villa Maria, those from broken homes, generally with single mothers. The constructions are basic, single storey wooden constructions which can be put together in a matter of days. They can be singles or many rooms depending on the size of the family and the funds available. The great advantage is that they cost little to buy and make; a simple home for a family of 4, with electricity, water and sewage costs around £500 when available. These solid homes provide the warmth and hygiene that families have previously been missing.



The work continues apace on the My New Home Initiative: every year Quest volunteers are involved in the construction of homes, and donations from Katie's friends and family continue.

**Thanks to everyone's support, to date Quest4Change has built an amazing 25 homes for Villa Maria families – a truly fitting legacy, as Katie felt very passionate about both the people and surroundings of Villa Maria.**