



Blanca Laguna de Vera, former president of the La Paz and Altiplano, Bolivia Chapter and former International Board of Directors member, passed away in September 2019.

An exemplary volunteer, she carried out many campaigns for the social good. Blanca worked with the La Paz and Altiplano Chapter's counterpart, the Utah Chapter, to improve the lives of Bolivian blind children in the Sopocachi neighborhood of the city of La Paz and then the southern Ovejuyo area. She also worked on an effort to have Bolivian doctors and ophthalmologist surgeons of Utah help hundreds of people have operations to improve their sight and led the donation collection for lens frame products in the U.S. for people in Bolivia. Both campaigns were so successful at the local level that they were replicated in the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

In the city of Potosi, Blanca worked to improve the quality of life of people in the towns of LLallagua and Huanuni by training them to use ovens for food preparation. She also worked on two reforestation efforts that led to the planting of 500 trees for the cities of La Paz and El Alto.

Another accomplishment includes improving the lives of prisoners in the city of Oruro with the Youth Citizenship and Criminal Justice Program, which has now been incorporated into the national high school curriculum, with 2,800 high school students trained in public schools in the cities of La Paz, Oruro, and Potosí.

Additionally, Blanca promoted local Bolivian arts and culture, including Bolivian painter Jaime Calizaya, who created artwork of Salt Lake City. We send love and peace to Blanca's family and friends.