



2016 – 17



Clayhands

Reviving the lost art of earth-based construction in Colombia

Ron Ringsrud, Clayhands founder, has worked in the gem industry for 30 years, specializing in Colombian emeralds. He founded Clayhands in November 2013 as a way to give something back to that exotic and magical country.



Mission Statement: Spreading self-sufficiency through earth building skills in rural Colombia and Southamerica.



Clayhands works with individuals, organizations and municipalities in rural Colombia to revive the art of earth construction; mainly clay, adobe, bamboo and pressed earth. Creating earth-based habitat will foster self-sufficiency in rural families, many of whom have been displaced by Colombia's long civil war.

Slogan: *“Build your family a home;
learn a lifetime marketable skill.”*

Structure

Clayhands Project operates with a simple non-profit structure in the US and in Colombia is registered independently with the same name, also as a non-profit (called a “Fundación” in Colombia). As we grow, regional directors will be responsible for projects in their area. As our projects extend to other countries in Latinamerica we will register with the local governments.

Services and Programs

Clayhands Project will offer hands-on group instruction in the various techniques of building with clay, adobe, pressed earth, bamboo construction and others. The instruction will be free in many areas, paid for by the general fund. Other projects will be paid for by municipalities, and state planning committees. As the organization evolves, the instruction could be generalized and packaged into videos which could be sold.

CLAYHANDS OFFERS:
***CONSTRUCTION KOWLEDGE and
CLAY KNOWLEDGE***



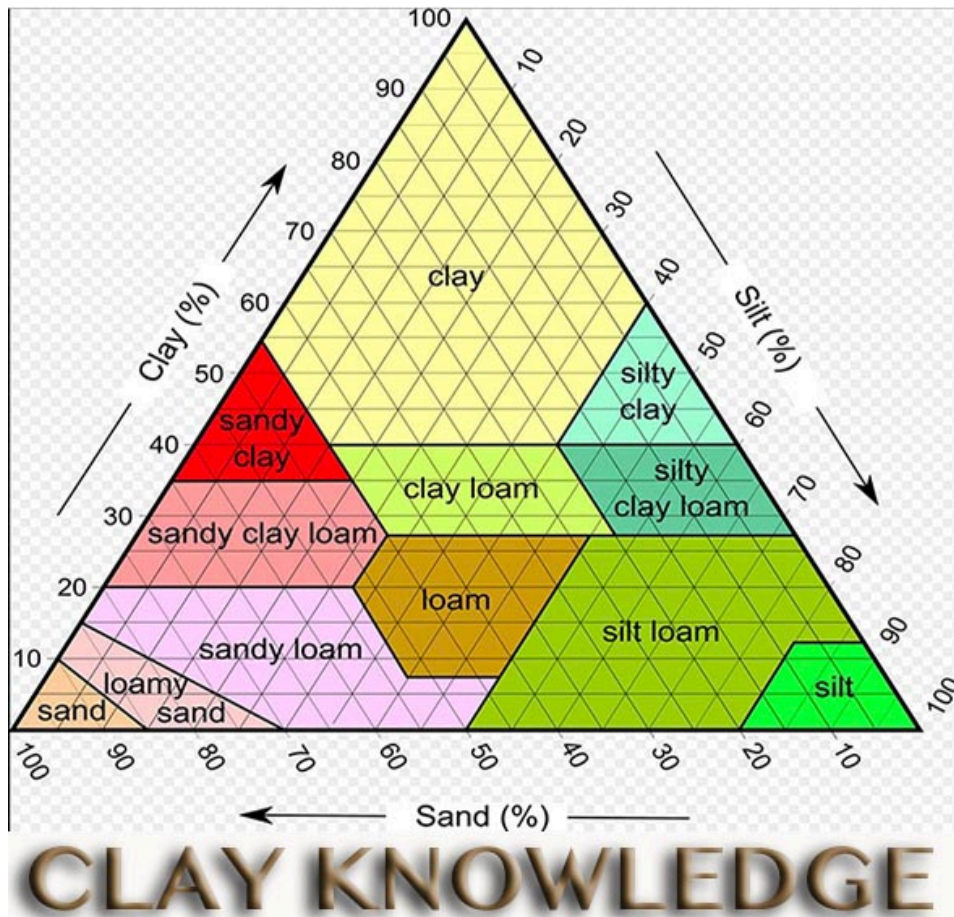
KNOWLEDGE LEADERS



CONSTRUCTION KNOWLEDGE

Clayhands is lucky to have **Fernando Manrique**. Fernando has a quality of passion and expertise that is special: rather than sit in his architectural office he is always found at the job site doing hands-on work. He is also an excellent recycler (in Spanish: rebuscador); for example, his first choice for any building material will be recovered lumber or tile from local house demolitions. His brother **Jesus (Chucho) Manrique** is also a benefit to the organization: Chucho can make anything! He has the skill, strength and patience needed for the hardest jobs. Just look at their construction handiwork on the Clayhands project in Sasaima!





The Clayhands experts will teach and share the use of earth as a construction material. Town and county leaders are hiring adobe construction experts to preserve the cultural integrity contained in 100-year-old adobe houses and even entire historic towns. A new generation of young builders will grow up with this knowledge and will apply it, benefiting their families, communities and cities.



Clayhands, as a new entity, wanted to show what can be done with earth-based construction methods (adobe, pressed earth, bamboo and clay). What better way to do that than by building a huge meditation hall for 110 boys, and then giving it freely to a much appreciated and revered foundation (Hogares Claret) with its amazing, bighearted and holy founder, Father Gabriel Mejia.



The project was completed in August 2016.



Beginning in March 2015, Clayhands laid the foundation of a 10 x 14 meter (33 by 46 feet) building made of guadua (bamboo) with mud and bamboo (bahareque) walls.



In most house constructions the materials cost is 80% of the cost of the entire house and labor only 20%. With this building however, the materials cost was 40% and the labor cost was 60% of the total. The involvement of more hands-on labor teaches young people the skills involved in earth-based building and supplies employment to the locals of the region; a region where there is much labor available.



During the building project about 30 boys from 9-17 years of age learned earth building techniques and participated in the process. Child labor laws were strictly followed, limiting the number of hours they could work. All of the Clayhands projects will involve teaching, building and learning.

The total cost of the building in 2016 was approximately \$62,000 US. The labor costs were about \$32,000 US and the materials were about \$22,000 with the remaining \$8000 for supervision and architect fees. It was all paid for by our generous partners and donors. By giving the building freely to the Hogares Claret Foundation, Clayhands has gained a small tax advantage for the following three years.

Peace and Progress in Colombia

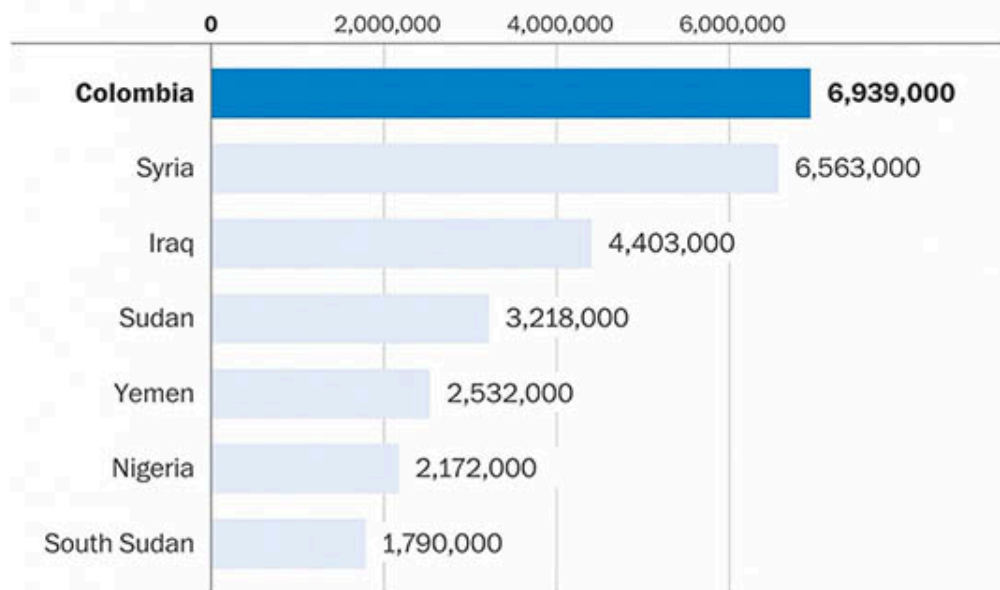
Often in the news this year was the termination of the 50-year-old civil war in Colombia. After years of negotiation with the FARC guerilla group, a peace accord, now ratified by congress, has put in place a new era free from armed conflict. The country is already enjoying increased foreign investment, tourism and growth.

Displaced Population Resettlement

Many Colombians were forced to leave their homes in the last decades. Settlement of displaced populations will be a big issue in 2017 and beyond. Clayhands will be involved in creating habitat for these people, training them as they build their own houses.

Top countries with internally displaced people in 2015

The United Nations estimates a total of 37 million people worldwide have been forced to leave their homes as a result of conflict as of 2015. Colombia has the highest number of internally displaced people, or IDPs.



Source: UNHCR, 2015 report on global displacement

THE WASHINGTON POST

Clayhands will work with NGO's and government to create habitat and employment to many in the displaced populations. Communities are in the process of getting land that was unavailable during the years of conflict. This is a great resource for the development of the rural population and for Clayhands to play a part in.

Future Projects:

1. Build a pressed-earth house in San Pablo de Borbur, Colombia on land provided by the Mayor and assisted by several town workers.
2. Build a Community Center at the Muzo emerald mine property in Eastern Boyacá
3. Build a demonstration structure in El Chacaro, near the Coscuez emerald mine. This will serve to inspire and educate the locals, many who are emerald miners or unemployed, to learn a skill they can use immediately.
4. Ressurrect an Adobe Brick-making Factory in the tiny town of Chanares, near Borbur. This small factory, abandoned for 50 years, is made of adobe and is 100 years old and is still standing. The locals have forgotten the techniques of adobe and clay construction and are living in cement houses or bamboo shelters.
5. Our long-term project is to become a center for alternative construction activities in northern South America by our third year of expansion. The ideal way to accomplish this is to purchase one or several brick factories; the bigger ones serve as centers for construction for large population areas. While the brick factory would continue its function as before, it would also become a teaching center for pressed earth, adobe and clay (and cob) construction as well as plastering with natural breathable materials. The economy, ease, beauty and sustainability of these methods would sell themselves and spread through the population, as it did in New Mexico, Patagonia, Santander and other locations.



Sister Organizations: These are our valuable and bighearted friends from whom we draw inspiration and assistance.

1. Hogares Claret will be closely associated to Clayhand Project. The Hogares Claret Foundation of Medellin, established by Padre Gabriel Mejia (pictured below) has 45 centers all around Colombia, especially Medellin, where alcoholics, drug addicts and street orphans are rehabilitated in a safe environment of Catholic values, good living conditions, loving staff, yoga and meditation. The success of his rehabilitation was recognized in 2002 when he received the Queen Sofia of Spain Prize for the best non-governmental therapeutic community. There was a video made about him by one of his supporters in the USA, the David Lynch Foundation. Padre Gabriel has told us that every year he has hundreds of rehabilitated boys and men who need re-insertion into society. Clayhands will teach some of them the techniques of alternative construction. Once learned, they would be guaranteed employment for life and would be able to build their own homes.



2. Organismo, led by Ana Maria Gutierrez and Juliana Ramirez, will be a source of earth builders and teachers for our different groups. Based in Tabio Colombia, Organismo will work closely with our people. They will send us the qualified builders who can lead our groups and teach them at the same time.

3. Fedesmeraldas is the umbrella organization for the emerald miners in Boyaca, the dealers and exporters. They construct clinics and schools in the emerald mining region. They have also put together farming co-ops. Fedesmeraldas will support some of our activities in the emerald mining region with the cooperation of the mayors of some of the small towns.

4. Teatro Taller de Colombia teaches circus skills and their members are friends and neighbors in Bogotá. They have offered to help us with videos and promotion.

5. Funmuzcol was started after a mud slide displaced many families in Muzo Colombia. They continue to do charity work in that region and can help us to establish ourselves in that area.

6. Alcaldía de San Pablo de Borbur - The Mayor of this small town in eastern Boyaca wants to be the first town to employ these construction methods and train their people.



FINANCIALS

Total donations since 2014 - \$119,701.67
Total cost of Sasaima Project (2015-16) 62,110.00

Assets – 2015 Chevrolet D-Max dual-cab Pickup Truck
- 320 square foot office in downtown Bogota
- Building tools

Capitalization

Clayhands will need generous donations in order to hire qualified people and in order to acquire land in Boyacá for our base of operations. Year to year Clayhands Project will continue to pursue donations. Our growth however, will also be fostered by government and municipalities hiring our experts and paying for large projects like historical preservation and habitat for displaced populations. For example, in 2017 Clayhands has entered into a contract to build a 10 x 14 meter Community Center for MTC, the company that operates the Muzo emerald mine in Eastern Boyacá.

Financial Information

Year 2016 - 17: Fiscal Year starting in April)

Earned Income	0
Municipal contracts	0
Contributed Income/Support	
Foundation Grants	0
Corporate contributions	\$10,000
Individual gifts - See below -	\$13,135
Promotional events	0
TOTAL	\$23,135

Expenses

Operating costs:

	\$5000 legal and administrative fees
	\$1000 Travel
Total	\$6,000

Salaries [annual] President	\$0
Arquitects/Builders (Colombia)	\$3000
Office Manager (Colombia)	\$3000
Independent Accountant (Colombia)	\$5000

Other expenses	Building materials	\$2000
	Truck expenses	\$2000
	Communication (printing)	200
	Rent	0
	Misc costs	\$1,000
	TOTAL Expenses	\$22,200



Sasaima Project, April 2016

DONORS

Our donors expect nothing in return for their assistance; by donating they become part of something bighearted and broad in focus.

Donors will receive a charitable tax receipt for income tax purposes.

TIFFANY & CO.

Heaven's Helping Hand Foundation

Bill Brown Construction

Roger Schat

John and Lynn Winston Simon

Chen Shen

Sara Abey

Carlos Ruiz

Ann Mason

Ron & Linda Ringsrud

Daques Nini

Humberto Rodriguez

Edwin Molina

Ilya Kluev

Robert Procop Designs

Sunil Jain

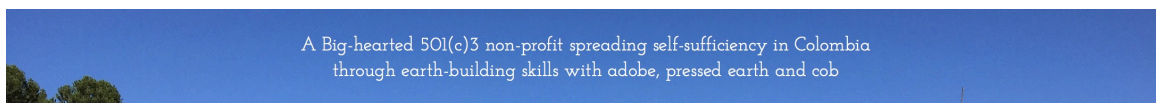
Charles Carmona

Elizabeth Price

Jeff Irvine

Bob Routt

Maria Jose Linares



Vision Statement: Displaced communities can regenerate and grow while learning to

build with earth-based materials.

Our Clayhands Board



Ronald Ringsrud
Founder



Peter Thompson
Emerald Mine Owner



Roger Schat
Operations Supervision



Fernando Manrique
Architect/Builder



Ramon Manrique
US Non-Profit Manager



Susan "Sun" Paulson
Fundraising

