



Lateinamerikanische Handelskammer in der Schweiz
Cámara de Comercio Latinoamericana en Suiza
Câmara de Comércio Latino-Americana na Suíça
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From Impoverishment to Economic & Social Integration in Chile, Bolivia and Peru: Sister Karoline Mayer of the Fundación Cristo Vive



One of the major challenges that Latin America faces is poverty. Reducing the social and economic inequality of millions of people and enabling them to join the ranks of the middle class with opportunities for basic health, education and employment that this entails, is one of the key factors that future regional growth hinges on.

A highlight of this year's Latin America Day that took place in Zurich on May 12, 2011 was a presentation by Sister Karoline Mayer, Founder and President of Fundación Cristo Vive. Sister Karoline was born in Germany and founded Cristo Vive in Chile over thirty years ago with the mission of integrating the marginalized and disadvantaged of Chile, Peru and Bolivia into society as healthy, educated and productive individuals.

Sister Karoline has had remarkable success in her quest, weathering turbulent political changes and negotiating towards a common understanding with a variety of different governments. Her foundation has initiated a dazzling range of projects – establishment and running of kindergartens and schools, skills development for young people, medical services, therapy for alcoholics and legal support for the handicapped.

Today, this fragile yet powerful woman operates a \$10 million enterprise that successfully delivers health and education to the poorest of the poor in Latin America. Hers is an inspirational account of a deep spiritual and humane mission driving a formidable business operation.

In her modest, yet impassioned way Sister Karoline shows that deep compassion and good business can go hand-in-hand.

