

# MANO A MANO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



**Saint Paul-based Mano a Mano International Partners** collects surplus medical supplies and lightly used equipment that would otherwise be discarded by local health care facilities and distributes them to providers in Bolivia to serve the country's neediest patients.

Through the BizRecycling grant, Mano a Mano was able to purchase equipment to improve the safety and efficiency of their donation processing and distribution and to reduce waste in their operations. This equipment included a new pallet jack with a scale to move and weigh items for shipment, a stable sorting station for volunteers to process donations, a dishwasher to reduce the use of paper products and other disposables, and recycling and compost containers.

Carmen Paredes Dockry, Operations Manager, and Segundo Velasquez, Co-Founder and Board President, are proud of the impact Mano a Mano has achieved through the improvements made possible by the BizRecycling program. "The grant made it possible for us to buy some of these tools that allowed us to process more cargo safely and more professionally," said Velasquez.

Although Mano a Mano International has hosted about the same number of annual volunteers since implementing changes, the organization has increased the amount of donations processed by 152,000 pounds annually. By processing donations more efficiently, Mano a Mano was able to increase their diversion of surplus medical supplies and equipment from local waste streams by accepting an additional 35,000 lbs. of donations in 2019.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased diversion of medical supplies and equipment from local waste streams by **35,000 lbs.** annually
- An annual increase of over **152,000 lbs.** of donations processed, with nearly **130,000 lbs.** of donated materials put back in use

