



Be the change



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Surgeons' Hall Hotel Delivers Life-Support to Columbia's Poor

Top Edinburgh hotel Ten Hill Place, wholly owned by the city's Royal College of Surgeons, has partnered with the international charity Mercy Corps to launch a new initiative aimed at powering essential healthcare services for a remote Columbian village whilst also reducing its' own CO₂ emissions.

The initiative aims to build a micro-hydro renewable energy facility in Minaflores, a remote community of indigenous families nestled deep within Columbia's mountainous interior. Harnessing the power of a 62 metre waterfall, the facility would deliver enough clean, cheap, reliable energy to safely store life-saving medicines and vaccines while reducing local energy dependence on the use of diesel and kerosene.

Minaflores is a 5 hour hike from the nearest health clinic. It has no source of electricity and no prospect of being connected to Columbia's national grid. Currently the village gets by using one gasoline generator for emergencies and local midwives are forced to rely on candles and kerosene lamps, severely increasing the risk of complications during night-time childbirths.

The project would further transform villagers' lives by allowing them to install electric lighting and cooking facilities and also have mobile telephones for emergencies. Ten Hill Place hopes to raise £33,000 for the project from a discretionary £1 charge per night; a sum which represents the cost of each guest's carbon emissions.

"I am delighted that Ten Hill Place is the first hotel in Edinburgh to offer the Mercy Corps carbon offset program" said Joanne Hannah, Operations Director of Ten Hill Place.

"We have long been committed to managing our business sustainably and this offset program is one more way to deliver on that commitment. We are grateful to our guests for sharing in that responsibility by making this simple choice to benefit the environment."

Gary Burniske, Country Director for Mercy Corps in Columbia said: "This project is a great example of how a relatively small amount of money can go an amazingly long way to deliver real change to poor and vulnerable communities.

As well as transforming health care in the village the project will also help develop the local economy by allowing people to use the power for farming and business activities to generate income. Ten Hill Place deserves real recognition for choosing to support a

carbon offset project in a way that benefits such a desperately poor and remote part of Columbia.”

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Notes to Editor

About Mercy Corps:

Mercy Corps helps people in the world’s toughest places turn the crises of natural disaster, poverty and conflict into opportunities for progress. Driven by local needs and market conditions, our programmes provide communities with the tools and support they need to transform their own lives. Our worldwide team of 3,700 professionals is improving the lives of 14.5 million people in more than 40 countries. For more information, see www.mercycorps.org.uk

About Ten Hill Place and Surgeons Hall

Ten hill place hotel has been created by merging an elegant new building with a traditional Georgian stone terrace next to Surgeons' Hall.

Ten Hill Place and Surgeons' Hall are trading names of Surgeons' Lodge Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Royal College of Surgeons' of Edinburgh.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been the authority in its field since its incorporation in 1505. Famous names have passed through its doors, such as Lord Lister, Robert Liston and Joseph Bell (the role model for Sherlock Holmes) to name but a few. Surgeons' Hall has three museums which offer a fascinating insight into the history of surgery, dental surgery and pathology. But this is not some institution rooted in the past. Recent major developments such as the new Quincentenary Hall and ten hill place hotel are evidence of the College's modern outlook and forward-thinking.