

John Wyon Fund in the Hope Through Health Endowment

John Wyon (1918-2004)



John Wyon is one of the founders of our organization. He mentored Henry Perry from 1979 until his death in 2004 and is the intellectual architect of the census-based, impact-oriented (CBIO) approach. John provided medical care in Ethiopia during World War II and then served as a medical missionary in northern India in the 1950s. He then began, in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health pioneering field research focused on community-based epidemiology using data derived from routine systematic home visitation. The pioneering book arising from this 10-year study, *The Khanna Study: Population Problems in the Rural Punjab*, provides part of the foundation of CBIO. John spent two summers in Bolivia (in 1982 and 1983) helping the Andean Rural Health Project develop its initial program in Carabuco, and later returned on multiple occasions to assist in the further development of the work not only in Carabuco but also in Mallco Rancho/Sipe Sipe (in the Cochabamba Valley) and in Montero. John continued with his strong support for our work, repeatedly reminding us (quite correctly!) that we were pioneers. John served on our Board of Directors from 1989 to 1997. His spirit of compassion for the health of underserved populations throughout the world, his passion for community-oriented public health (“helping communities to improve their health,” as he termed it), and his kind, generous spirit was an inspiration to all of us in our organization who had the privilege of getting to know him and working with him. Our staff in Bolivia came to love him and called him “Tata Illampu.” Tata in Aymara means father, and Illampu is the towering mountain (the highest in Bolivia, at 20,892 feet) that overlooks the area on the Northern Altiplano where our program began. This appellation takes particular significance when one realizes that John was 6 feet 3 inches tall and, as the photo here shows, had a snowy white towering mantle. John’s extensive field experience and his long career as a professor in the Harvard School of Public Health brought credibility and stature to the work we were struggling to initiate.

The total value of this fund as of 1/31/2022 is \$20,898.