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Documentary Film THE DEVIL'S MINER Enables German Non-Profit Organization to Raise \$1.2 Million For Children Working in the Silver Mines of Bolivia

**THE DEVIL'S MINER Opens in Los Angeles April 28, 2006
at the Laemmle Fairfax Theater, 7907 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90048**

Currently, 9,000 Bolivian miners work with primitive means of protection and equipment at an average altitude of 15,000 feet, fatal accidents are frequent and most miners fall victim to the black lung disease by age 40. Working in a maze of over 20,000 tunnels, the miners make it their mission to find any remaining valuable minerals overlooked during the Spanish rule. Many families participate in the infinite search, with hundreds of children working inside the mountain. Now, thanks to a remarkable film, *THE DEVIL'S MINER*, that documents the life of a 14-year old Bolivian silver miner, Europe's largest daily newspaper *BILD* has awarded a leading NGO—Kindernothilfe (KNH) "Help the Children"—1 Million Euros specifically for their children's program dedicated to youth mine workers in Bolivia. This grant comes at a crucial time because the U.S. Department of Labor is slated to complete its four-year educational initiative for Bolivian mining children in September 2006.

"KNH has been a small non-profit working with these children and families for years," said filmmaker, Kief Davidson. "They screened *THE DEVIL'S MINER* to raise awareness and won the hearts of *BILD* decision makers when they submitted the film with their grant proposal. We are confident, based on our observation of KNH on the ground and our continuing relationship with them, that every dollar will be spent directly helping these Bolivian children out of the mines."

Over the next six years, KNH plans to use the funds to liberate approximately 450 children from the dangerous mines. The program will include alternate income sources for 135 families and four new learning centers. To assist with the increasing problem of malnutrition in 1 to 6-year-olds, a special food provision program will also be created.

ABOUT *THE DEVIL'S MINER* Kief Davidson and Richard Ladkani's film tells the story of 14 year-old Basilio Vargas and his 12 year-old brother Bernardino as they work in "the mine that eats men." Raised without a father and living in virtual poverty with their mother on the slopes of the mine, the boys assume many adult responsibilities and dangers to provide for their family. They must work to afford the clothing and supplies vital to their education. Without an education, the brothers have no chance to escape their destiny in the silver mines.

***THE DEVIL'S MINER* is currently playing in select cities and opens in Los Angeles on April 28th. The DVD release will coincide with the film's broadcast premier on PBS' Independent Lens on May 23, 2006.**

ALSO: Special theatrical screenings of THE DEVIL'S MINER were recently arranged for 600 low-income, New York City public school children thanks to a generous donation from the world's largest silver producer, Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation. The Bolivian-American Chamber of Commerce connected the filmmakers to Coeur CEO, Dennis Wheeler, who enthusiastically underwrote the event. His company, based in Coeur d'Alene Idaho, will soon open a new mine on the mountain of Cerro Rico where the film takes place.