



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

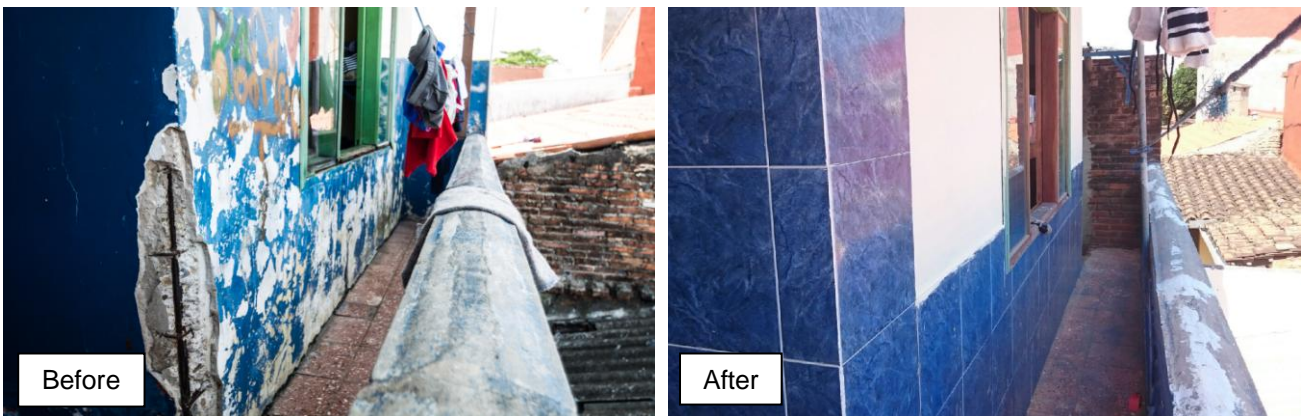
Registered charity no. 1123425

## SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

Once more I am sending this newsletter from Sievierodonetsk in Eastern Ukraine, where I continue work as a monitoring officer with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. However, the wonders of the Internet mean that I can continue to run my Bolivian charity from here!

A great deal of progress is being achieved currently at Alalay and we have been able to continue supporting some very important projects:

The refurbishment of the Boys' Welcome House is virtually completed (as shown in the photos below) and this now provides a much better introduction to home life when the boys first come off the streets.



Around fourteen adolescents are being funded again this year through their vocational training in a range of disciplines, including hairdressing, car mechanics, catering and secretarial work – which will mean that these children are likely to get useful jobs and support themselves when they leave Alalay. The carpentry workshop continues to flourish and, thanks to a significant gift from one corporate donor, we have been able to purchase more very useful equipment, which will help raise the productivity of our furniture manufacturing.

In January we held a very successful concert in Bristol with a pianist and baritone performing Schubert's "Winterreise", and on the 10<sup>th</sup> June there will be another concert, when the brilliant Harlequin Singers kindly perform in Bristol to raise money for my street kids (more information is always available on the website).

Friends of Alalay will reach its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of the year – by which time we will have raised more than £170,000! I am aware that this would not have been possible without the loyal support of a number of individuals and groups and I feel rather sad that I am not able to regularly write personally to thank each one of you who have donated time and money. Many of you first began giving regularly from the first days of the charity and, thanks to your unrelenting support and determination, we have been able to do so much in Santa Cruz, and change so many young lives for the better.

Later in the year, perhaps for my "birthday edition", I hope to list all of the many incredible things that have been achieved, thanks to your help.



Recent British volunteer with children

Annie Syrett, Eastern Ukraine – April 2016

[www.alalay.co.uk](http://www.alalay.co.uk)