



## FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

### LATE AUTUMN 2012 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from a rather cold Georgia! I've decided in this newsletter to concentrate on some of the very exciting work that is just underway, or is about to start, at Alalay. This is in addition to everything else that we are supporting! Up-to-date details are on my website – please look, and encourage others to look also.

It is clear that financial resources are very tight for the organization, as many overseas donors have been forced (as a result of the global recession) to cutback on their giving. However, this gives me renewed hope that the several self-financing projects that I have implemented are the right way forward.

After much discussion, and several revised business plans, we are planning to launch a quail farm, which should result in significant income for the street children. Quail eggs are a particular delicacy in Bolivia and command a good price, and we anticipate substantial orders for what can be produced.



The prevention house continues to do good work in helping to keep families together and stopping the children from being forced on to the streets.

We are supporting a further three older street children through vocational training – in cookery and bakery, in banking (photo of Alejandro on the left) and in beauty care. This means that we are now helping a total of ten children through college, with the result that they have a high chance of employment and the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives.

The English teaching classes continue at the Welcome Houses and are currently being extended to the out-of-town centre (the "aldea"). The very enthusiastic Bolivian lady teacher was joined in October by a volunteer from England, who will help with the teaching programme for the next eight months.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the medical centre was thriving – here is one of the seven children who were fitted recently for the first time with spectacles (which they wear with pride!). In addition, over 100 pairs of shoes have been bought for the children.



The carpentry workshop is being re-equipped and should also generate additional income for the children at Alalay, as well as being a useful training centre to help develop their skills. The workshop will repair furniture, window frames and so on at the aldea, and produce new furniture for sale.

On the downside, our chicken flock has been hit by disease and we have lost a number of hens – once the disease has been eradicated they will be replaced with healthy stock.



I have just one hundred Christmas cards left, hand-made by the children and on sale for £1.50 each or £5 for five. Please contact me quickly if you would like to purchase some.

Finally, world-renowned cellist Michael Jones will be playing in a charity concert for the street kids at St Matthew's Church, Kingsdown, Bristol on Friday evening 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Please put the date in your diary.

These are challenging times and I continue to be very grateful for your support.

Annie Syrett, Zugdidi, Georgia - November 2012

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