



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

## SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Spring has arrived at last and I want to begin by thanking the many generous people and organizations who have supported my charity in so many different ways over the past year – financially or otherwise. You have made such a difference to the lives of the street children. Just to remind you, money still goes a long way in Bolivia. As an example of this, around £500 can pay for one year of a vocational course to train an ex-street child as a car mechanic, IT specialist, caterer, hairdresser or nurse's assistant.

Last month I helped to co-ordinate my second school working visit to Alalay, which proved to be another great success. A group of sixth-formers and staff from Tudor Hall School, Banbury worked very hard decorating children's cabins, organizing many sports and craft activities with the kids, and even managing to perform in a talent show on the last night!

I hope to be in Bolivia again in late May of this year to launch a new set of projects which may include: the on-site dental unit mentioned previously, a further extension of the textile workshop so that more clothing items can be made and/or sold, and additional cabin maintenance.



Work on the prevention house

The renovation of the prevention house has taken longer than planned, but all other projects, such as the English teaching, textile unit, vegetable garden and bakery are proceeding really well and progress will be described in later newsletters. I'd like to mention just two projects now in more detail - vocational training and the medical centre.



Carlos – Computer maintenance and graphic design

We are currently funding six adolescents through their vocational training. These include (names have been changed):

Carlos, a sociable, bright and helpful teenager, who loves football and playing sports and is being supported through his 18-month computer maintenance and graphic design course, qualifying in January 2013.

Guiselda, who has been in Alalay with her three sisters since early childhood. She is studying for two years to be a nurse's assistant, has the patience and ability to do well in her subject and often uses her medical experience to help the other children at Alalay. In her free time, she enjoys watching TV and walking in the park.



Guiselda – Nurse's assistant

The medical centre continues to provide vital help and save money – the following is an extract from a note written by the young Bolivian volunteer woman doctor who now runs the unit. "It was previously expensive to take the children to the doctors or to hospital, and little preventative action could be afforded. There has been a great improvement in the children's health since the centre opened".

Thank you all so very much for your continuing support. My website has now been totally updated with much more information – please do take a look. Suggestions for improvement are much appreciated!

Annie Syrett, Bristol, England - March 2012

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