



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

## SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

The Summer months have been very busy for both Friends of Alalay and the street children themselves.

I have been to a number of important events, including: a Parliamentary working lunch with a visiting Bolivian Parliamentary delegation to discuss street children, and then a joint welcome reception for the same delegation and others in the Houses of Parliament. Both were co-ordinated by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Later the same week I attended a Latin American Charities Forum organized by the LATA Foundation, and I recently enjoyed a party hosted by the Bolivian Embassy for Bolivia's 188th Anniversary of Independence. These events were a great way to meet several key decision makers and discuss challenges and ideas for the future. They have opened up a number of interesting possibilities – watch this space! I am thankful to all the organizers for inviting me to participate.



Annie with members of the Bolivian Parliament

Despite many difficulties, all of our projects in Santa Cruz are progressing well, with the Prevention House programme to support local families proving particularly effective. The following brief summary comes from one mother, helped by Alalay to keep her family together: "My current relationship with Alalay is very good. I have learned to value my family and they me. Much of this has been achieved by helping us to communicate better with each other".



Alalay kids at camp

The Alalay children have also been having an active time at a recent "Winter camp" where children from each of the welcome centres came to the aldea for many teambuilding activities, games and good food!

We are pleased to announce that we have just received the final copy of a full-length DVD of our March 1<sup>st</sup> fundraising concert with world-renowned cellist Michael Jones. It provides a lovely memory of this fantastic event and we have DVDs available to buy for just £5. Please do contact us if you'd be interested in purchasing a copy.

Recent fundraising events have been very successful and include: a jumble sale in Faringdon and stalls at the Redland and Marshfield Fairs, as well as participation in the Norwich Triathlon – huge thanks to Deborah, Helena, Chloe and their supporters. The next few months look to be as productive as ever with a series of talks and events. Please do support my good friend Laura as she participates in the "Run to the Beat" half marathon through London. More information on these and others are listed on the "upcoming events" tab of the website as soon as we know about them, in addition to current information on the kids.

We have just received a fantastic donation of high quality card and envelopes for our Alalay Christmas cards. As in previous years, the children have painted individual designs onto material for these cards, and they are absolutely beautiful! We hope to get the cards printed and ready by September, so this is your early warning to place any orders as soon as possible - £1.50 each or five for £5. They will sell out quickly!

I should be returning to Bolivia later in the year for around a month to see firsthand how projects are progressing, discuss challenges and possible improvements, have lots of meetings with all levels of staff, and hopefully include some good playing time with the children!

We hope that you are having a great Summer – a few weeks ago it was hotter in Bristol than tropical Santa Cruz (although 24 degrees centigrade during their Winter is still rather warm!)

Annie Syrett, Bristol - August 2013

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