



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Alalay continues to be very busy and this newsletter is a mix of fundraising activity and good news from Bolivia!

The “Night at the Opera” was a great success – thanks to the Rotary Club of Bristol and the Welsh National Opera singers. Many thanks also to Cara and James who managed to run, cycle and swim their way around the Bristol Triathlon course raising lots of money for Alalay, and to the Jones and Robinson families for their well-attended fundraising teapot quiz, walk and tea party. There really are so many ways of helping the ex-street children to help themselves.



We have just heard the great news that all of the adolescents who we are supporting through vocational training this year have passed every single module to date! Our three chefs have completed their latest stages (traditional bakery, confectionery and pastry making). One is now starting chocolate-making, and the other two are working hard on salads, where they are enjoying creating their own recipes.

Our two mechanics have passed the electronic injection, basic electrics, diesel and transmission modules. Now they are studying applied mathematics. Claudio's dream is “to be a famous mechanic one day” and he is very motivated and punctual! And our nurse is in the final stage of her training. She has finished the theoretical and practical parts of her course, and is now revising hard for her end of year exam in November.

All six of these adolescents are finishing their schooling during the evenings, whilst also preparing to become independent in the next few years, helping with the younger children at the welcome houses, doing homework and housework, having a social life ... and generally not getting enough sleep!

The serious economic challenges mentioned in the last newsletter have encouraged staff to explore yet more ways of generating Alalay's own income. During this coming month (their Winter holidays) they will be moving the bakery (currently located at the aldea) to the city, where the oldest children will learn to bake bread, both for internal consumption and for sale at local events. Clearly our adolescents studying to be chefs will be a great help in this! The carpentry workshop continues to flourish, with an entire bedroom suite, a dining table with twelve chairs and a set of benches, just a few of the orders for the coming weeks.

It's also recently been party time in Bolivia, for the Independence Day celebrations. This photo shows a girl previously supported by Alalay (she now lives with her family after successful reintegration) and her classmates, dressed in a variety of traditional regional costumes, ready for the Independence Day parade and dances at her school.



Annie Syrett, Bristol – August 2014

www.alalay.co.uk