



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2017 NEWSLETTER

Firstly, we have a number of very lovely Christmas cards, all hand drawn and coloured by the children, and they are available for just £1.50 each or five for £5, and secondly, if you live near to Bristol (and I know that many of you are thousands of miles away!) you are invited to a great concert at St Matthew's Church, Kingsdown, Bristol, BS6 5TB at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 December entitled "Birds, Bees and Beasts!".



Home in the drains

I thought that I'd take a moment at this Christmas time to remind everyone how awful life for children can be on the streets of Bolivia. Typically home will be one of the drainage canals where, if you are lucky, you may be part of a gang that will offer some protection, or be with a few of your other siblings. Meals will consist of what you can beg or find in hotel and other bins, and your main skills will be thieving or child prostitution and your main occupation trying to survive

Given that there are many thousands of street children in Bolivia, we are able to deal only with a small part of the problem at Alalay. However, I remain optimistic because: we offer a warm loving home to more than one hundred children, we provide an education and skills training, and later on we help the children to find jobs. In addition to the medical centre and volunteers' cabin we have established many projects (including textiles, vegetable gardens, bakery, livestock and so on), that wherever possible are self-financing. The list goes on and on, and it's all thanks to you!



Happy Alalay child

This year we have also paid the salary of a house-mother, funded all of the Alalay children through school and paid for and supported a number of teenagers in their vocational training (offering them futures that include cookery, accounting, secretarial work and hairdressing).

Next year, in addition to all of our current support, we are hoping to begin providing excellent quality educational material for use by our children and others in local schools – the standard of existing Bolivian school resources is somewhat lacking in imagination!

Please take a look at my website for more information.



Christmas cards

A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all from the children and me!

Annie Syrett, Eastern Ukraine - December 2017

www.alalay.co.uk