



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

## EARLY SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

This will be the first newsletter that I have sent from the UK for several years, as I am now home for two month's leave. One of the reasons for being back in Bristol was that I married earlier this month and I'd like to begin by thanking those people who gave so generously to my work with the street children (very many of them anonymously) as a wedding present. It really was quite overwhelming, and especially welcome as the recent weakness of £ sterling against the dollar and boliviano have made life at Alalay even more precarious.

Firstly some very good news about the panettone, which were made and marketed by the children over the Christmas period. They were all sold – to government, to the police, to churches, restaurants, shops and individuals and we made a profit of over £4,000 – much better than begging and stealing on the streets! Apart from the obvious benefit of income, this also provided a great opportunity to publicise the good work of Alalay in the local area.

Next, many of our young students have graduated recently; including some who have been training for a vocation in catering. We continue to support a number of children in a range of useful skills that will help them in future employment.



However, it's not all work for the children and they have a lot of fun too – a group of three were recently selected to take part in a local craft event and, in addition to showing off their creative skills, they each received presents to take home.

Earlier this year the children at Alalay had the opportunity to visit the local swimming pool where they also ate quantities of icecream, and a further group were invited to the local TV station to watch a live show.



Good publicity for the work amongst the street children provides leverage and gives us a great opportunity to help them further. During one of my visits to Bolivia at the time of a concert by the legendary singer Joss Stone, I received a useful introduction to the director of the Hard Rock Café in Santa Cruz. With help from local staff we were able to encourage the Café to take an active interest in the street children and, in addition to raising money to help them, they also give regular invitations to events there – all of which has helped to raise the profile of Alalay and the children.

As always, my grateful thanks for your substantial encouragement and support. Please, when you have a moment, do take a look at my website – address below.

Annie Syrett, Bristol UK – May 2017

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