



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Thanks to your help we have now sold many hundreds of the Alalay Christmas cards (individual and hand-painted by the children) and are down to our last thirty or so – thank you all for your great generosity.



Looking forward to Christmas

I thought that you might like to see a recent photograph of a few of the children looking forward to their Christmas in Santa Cruz – they will each be as delighted with the small gift and perhaps T-shirt or other clothing that they receive, as Western children are with their sacks full of computer games and other goodies.

The Alalay children and staff have worked hard and we have recently produced

around 10,000 panettone, which are being sold by the children and others in the area. Last year we made a £4,000 profit and this year we are looking to do even better.



This has been a successful twelve months for the charity – in addition to the panettone 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 much more optimistic and satisfying futures). However, it's still a struggle, especially since current political and economic events mean that every £1 that we might have raised ten years ago would today be worth only 63p in equivalent Bolivian currency.



Existing kitchen

Especially in the light of that last comment, I'm pleased to say that we are still living hopefully and have agreed to fund the major renovation of one of the houses in which the children live, at a cost of £8,000. The photograph here is of part of the current kitchen area and shows how big a task we have on our hands. We feel that it is very important to provide the children with a comfortable, clean and attractive living space when they come off the streets. After all, with our help they should one day have accommodation and families of their own, paid for from their own employment !

Thank you for all of your support during 2018 – we couldn't have done it without you. A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all from the children, the staff and me!

Annie Syrett, Bristol - December 2018

www.alalay.co.uk