



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

In my last newsletter I showed the photos of four adolescent girls who we are helping through vocational training – indeed by now all of them should have finished their courses and I await the results with bated breath! A number of people emailed me and said that they would like to learn more about the earlier lives of the girls and I'm devoting this newsletter to the stories of two of them. There may be room to mention the other two in the next newsletter. Once more, these are not their real names.



Valeria wants to work in restaurants and has been on a catering course. She comes from a broken family, was a second generation street child, has never known her father and her mother was heavily addicted to solvents and has subsequently died. Whilst on the streets the family lived in awful conditions and she has two siblings, one also living at Alalay.

Before coming here she spent some time in another children's home and also with a grandmother and other of her mother's relatives.

Valeria studies very seriously and is determined to break the cycle of living on the streets and to improve her future life prospects. She is a "charismatic teenager, collaborative, outgoing and bold".

Mariana wants very much to work in a bank and is on a basic accountancy course. Her mother moved from a rural area to live in the city, where her father abandoned her whilst she was pregnant with Mariana. His whereabouts are unknown and she has one other sister, who is not at Alalay.

Because her mother needed to work she left her daughter alone and, before coming to Alalay, she was very neglected. However, it is hoped that she may one day return to her family.

Mariana is "good-humoured and very gregarious" and shows a great deal of responsibility.

These teenagers – whose prospects were hopeless – now have the possibility of satisfying and useful lives.



As most people who know our charity are aware, one of our goals is to help Alalay to become self-sufficient, by setting up self-financing projects. Sometime we fail but occasionally we manage a real winner! One such example is with regard to our bakery. In our Christmas newsletter I mentioned that we were funding the ingredients to make thousands of panettone and I'm delighted to say that, for the third year running, this was a great success. They were sold in police stations, offices, local government departments, shops and markets, and we made a profit of nearly £4,000 and gained much very positive publicity for the street children.

Finally, I am aware that we have a very loyal and supportive group of supporters for Alalay and I never want them to feel that I take them for granted. In many cases we know who they are and I'm able to write occasionally to thank them. However, there are also donors who give substantial amounts and who do so anonymously. I'd just like to say here that I also enormously appreciate their great generosity.

Annie Syrett – July 2018

www.alalay.co.uk