



## FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

### **AUTUMN 2019 NEWSLETTER**



One of the major projects this year has been the complete restoration of the Boys' Welcome House in the city of Santa Cruz – a major undertaking and about three months behind schedule!

However I'm very pleased to say that it is now finished and the boys should be able to move back in very soon. Here are just a couple of

“before and after” photos to give you some idea of what has been achieved. This Welcome House is a very important place – it's where boys go when they first come from the streets and, as you can imagine, it takes a fair amount of rough treatment. This is why it is so important that we've been able to undertake the renovation.



There is just one boy on vocational training who I've not mentioned in previous newsletters. He is Leonardo, aged nearly seventeen years and on an administrative/banking course in addition to continuing with his secondary education. He says that he wants to develop his career in this direction, work in a larger company and learn how to manage money!

He was originally placed at Alalay by local government staff because he was found homeless, wandering the streets and selling ice cream in parallel with being taught how to steal by other boys. He says his hobbies are reading and “trying to know everything about everything” and he is currently planning to enter the Bolivian Scientific Olympics!

He also says that his life has been transformed since he came to Alalay and that he feels that he is in a safe place, where he can realise his dreams.

You may recall that last year we sold many thousands of panettone in Bolivia and made a significant profit – all of which went back to help the children to help themselves. Thanks to much generous giving we are able to repeat the project this year and hope for similar success.

Finally, our stock of Christmas cards (each hand drawn and painted by a child) are running down rapidly and we have just a few left. Please do contact me if you would like any.

Annie Syrett, Bristol – October 2019

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