



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

CHRISTMAS 2019 NEWSLETTER

As you may be aware from the media, this has been an eventful year in Bolivia - including a great deal of political unrest and uncertainty. I'm pleased to say that things now seem to be calming down and all is well with the staff and children at Alalay – I should be able to report first-hand on the situation when I return to Bolivia early in the New Year.



Panettone sales

Once more we have invested heavily in the production of panettone for the children to make and sell and we are hopeful that, as in past years, we will both create a sizeable profit and raise the profile of Alalay still further in Bolivia.

Whilst on the subject of self-sufficiency and creating income, there is a good chance that next year we will purchase machinery to dehydrate and package items that have been grown and/or produced at Alalay. We are awaiting a convincing business plan from our Bolivian colleagues before we finally commit the investment.

We are delighted to report that the boys have moved into the completely renovated Boys' Welcome House. This was originally scheduled for completion in August but, as we reported previously, the work was finally finished in October. The children now have a lovely home for when they first come off the streets. Initially we didn't have the money to undertake this major building work so we are very grateful for the donations that we received this year from many generous supporters, specifically for that project.

In the coming year we have agreed to continue funding one of the house mothers named Darleny and to pay for the vocational training of at least a further four students. In addition we are also advanced in our plans to rebuild a play area for the children. Things have moved a long way since as a family we built the first playground from wood and materials purchased from a local timber yard – this equipment will be constructed from steel!



A new home



Looking forward to Christmas

Please do take a look at our website, which contains more up-to-date information.

I remain enormously grateful to the many people and organisations that have supported our work during 2019. A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all from everyone at Alalay, and also from me!

Annie Syrett, Bristol - December 2019

www.alalay.co.uk