



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

## CHRISTMAS 2020 NEWSLETTER

We really do have so much for which to be thankful in our work with the former street children at Alalay. It's certainly been a very difficult year, and the COVID-19 virus is rampant in much of Bolivia, but our own children have remained almost unscathed by the virus and our many loyal supporters around the World have generously helped us to continue our work. In addition many of our young people have had great success in their education (another two "graduated" from school last week) and can proudly stand alongside others who've had a much more positive start in life.

So I'll deliberately end 2020 on a very upbeat and optimistic note!

Firstly, here are two photos of our children enjoying the excitement of Christmas.



Secondly, we've once more funded the production of thousands of panettone this Christmas-time. These are being sold by the children and staff in the local area and will both raise the profile of our work in Bolivia and should make a good profit. This will largely be used to fund further education opportunities – one of the most precious gifts that we can give – allowing our young people to work towards satisfying jobs and independence.



In other news, I'm writing this newsletter from my new home in Colombia, where I'll be working with the UN for at least the next few months. It's great to be back in Latin America and I hope that I can soon go to Bolivia to see the Alalay kids once more. I shall continue to manage Friends of Alalay remotely (with a lot of support from my team/charity trustees back in the UK), so I hope that you won't notice too much difference. We have lots of exciting initiatives in the pipeline for 2021 and look forward to sharing these with you soon.

All of us at Alalay wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, full of Hope.

*Annie Syrett, Tibú, Colombia - December 2020*

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