



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

We must begin by expressing our gratitude for the very generous support that we received last year, which enabled us both to keep our children and staff in Santa Cruz relatively unscathed and free from Covid-19 and also to continue with our planned programmes.

People often ask how much we've managed to raise for the street children at Alalay since we first set up the Friends of Alalay charity - the total amount is now over £320,000, of which every penny has gone directly to help the children. My sincere thanks to those many people and groups who make this work possible, including many who give anonymously and therefore can't be thanked personally.

Last Christmastime we once more made and sold thousands of panettone in Bolivia; providing an income of nearly £16,000. Overall we continue to hold some funds in reserve, in case we hit more significant virus-related problems, in addition to the investment that we have made in related protective equipment and medication.

Despite the pandemic, several of our children last year completed their vocational training. Here is a brief summary regarding two of them – we'll mention more in the next newsletter:



Leonardo

Each of these students has also received a scholarship from Banco Mercantil and has a high chance of later employment with this well-respected bank.

Leonardo has completed his lengthy accounting course, has applied to university and has high hopes of success.

Delia completed her computer operating course and has now moved on to university, where her degree is entitled "Management and Entrepreneurship".



Delia

Looking forward positively to this year: we will continue to pay the salary of Darleny, a housemother, support at least four more students through vocational training, maintain essential buildings and once more (there have been many false starts on this!), if it is prudent and we can raise the funds, finally provide the children with a new playground

We appreciate that many people already use PayPal or Amazon. We are not seeking to promote either but, if you use them anyway, it's possible to for you to name us as your nominated charity to PayPal, and also to make your purchases through Amazon Smile and again nominate us. In each case we then receive donations from each organisation – which can amount to several hundred pounds or more each year.

Finally, please do take a look at our website – which currently receives between 8,000 and 10,000 hits each month

Annie Syrett-Jones, Tibú, Colombia – April 2021

www.alalay.co.uk