



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

CHRISTMAS 2022 NEWSLETTER

This has been a momentous year for the street children at Alalay including, as described in the autumn newsletter, the all-girls' team reaching fourth place in the Street Child Football World Cup and taking part in the related International Congress to champion the rights of street-connected children worldwide. Following on from this great success, upon their return to Santa Cruz, the girls received a commendation and congratulations at a ceremony hosted by the mayor and other local dignitaries.



When I first went to Bolivia in 2006 and established the Friends of Alalay charity, it soon became clear that, if we only provided funds (necessary as that was), we would need to do this forever! Therefore, in addition to caring directly for the street children, helping to educate and train them, and ultimately find them jobs with which they could support themselves, we established a number of projects that would generate income and ideally become self-sustaining. Over the years these have included: providing a small herd of cows for milk production, buying thousands of egg-laying chickens and quail, setting up a piggery, a large irrigated market garden, a carpentry outlet to repair and make furniture, a textile unit, a bakery and many more activities. Some have been an enormous success (and some less so!).

One particularly successful and on-going activity involves the making and selling by the children (at a good profit) of thousands of Christmas panettone, which will be repeated this year.

One of our key projects for next year involves refurbishing our Boys' and Girls' Welcome Houses in Santa Cruz, to enable them to be let as houses at a commercial rate, thus generating further income. New children from the streets will instead come to live in separate cabins at the out-of-town aldea, where all of the other children live. We have managed to create this extra space at the aldea due to a carefully targeted programme to support the reintegration of many of our children back with their biological families (only when it is safe to do so, and with constant follow-up and support). This is all part of our general prevention activity, aimed at getting families off the streets.

Finally, I thought that you might like a photograph of our children getting excited about the prospect of Christmas – along with many children everywhere!



***All of us at Alalay wish you a very
Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year!***

Annie Syrett-Jones, Bristol - December 2022

www.alalay.co.uk



SOME OF OUR (MANY) INCOME-PRODUCING PROJECTS (2006 to 2022)



Bakery



Carpentry



Market Garden



Egg Production



Piggery



Chickens



Cows for milk



Textile Unit



Quail



Panettone