



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

## *Autumn 2024 NEWSLETTER*



Alalay children having fun at Family Day

This will be the sixty-fourth newsletter that we've sent to our many friends and supporters over the past sixteen years. Our philosophy of sending just four newsletters a year, and normally limiting each edition to one-page, seems from the beginning to have been universally well-received in this busy world! For interest, we send out more than 800 newsletters each time and our website averages around 120,000 hits annually.

Over the next few months we will be putting much of our effort into the vocational training of Alalay teenagers – initially with seven students who are on courses including catering and cookery, events planning and beauty and make-up. The objectives of this training are that our young people will develop skills, demonstrate these by passing examinations and receiving authenticated diplomas, be helped to find and keep satisfying jobs that enable them to become self-supporting, and eventually having their own homes.

In other news, the Alalay Foundation recognised 13 August as “Family Day”, with the slogan “we are building a safer and more positive future”. Alalay is run as one big family (children even call staff “brother” or “sister”) and in addition many of our children still have living relatives and may one day return to be with them, if safe to do so and after a lengthy re-integration process. On that day in August more than a hundred children enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon with games, football and food – in many cases (again with their safety being paramount) joined by their biological families, and all focussed on preventing violence in society.

Finally, eleven years ago (March 2013) Michael Kevin Jones, a highly talented international cellist, played to a large audience at the very first “Friends of Alalay” concert, held here in Bristol, not long after he played for the kids themselves during his Latin American tour. We are thrilled to announce that Michael is returning to Bristol for a repeat performance later this year. Whilst we appreciate that many of our supporters and readers of this newsletter come from places far away and getting here would be extremely difficult, everyone is very warmly welcomed to join us for this very special event.

The concert will be held at St Matthew's Church, BS6 5TB on Wednesday 13 November at 7.30 pm. It will feature Michael on the cello and John Bryden on piano and include music by Rachmaninov. Please put the date in your diaries, and if you are within easy travelling distance of Bristol, come and enjoy a great evening.

**MICHAEL KEVIN JONES, Cellist**

**U.K. AUTUMN CONCERTS**

**JOHN BRYDEN, Pianist**

NOVEMBER 13th, FALMOUTH  
NOVEMBER 14th, TOTNES  
NOVEMBER 16th, ASHBURTON  
NOVEMBER 18th, CAMBRIDGE  
NOVEMBER 19th, OXFORD

Annie Syrett-Jones, Bristol – September 2024

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