



# FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

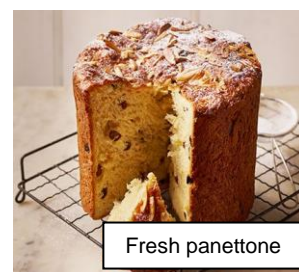
## CHRISTMAS 2024 NEWSLETTER

We mentioned in our Autumn newsletter that in November we were organising a concert to raise funds and awareness in Bristol, featuring Michael Kevin Jones (cello) and John Bryden (piano). The concert was a great success; St Matthew's Church was packed and substantial funds were raised to help our street-connected children in Bolivia. Our many thanks to the wonderful musicians and the very supportive and generous audience of supporters, including the Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff of the City and Council of Bristol. We were incredibly surprised to receive a High Sheriff of Bristol award "in recognition of great and valuable services to the community". We truly believe that this award is thus for all of you - our incredible, global "community" of supporters – without whom we could never have changed so many children's lives.



During the past few years, much of our work has revolved around providing vocational training for the older children and then finding and supporting them in appropriate employment. Here's a story written by an enthusiastic 15 year-old, who had a particularly tough start in life and we have named Salome to protect her identity: "I'm very interested in Events' Management, in particular in providing decorations for events, and I've just started a short module on general craft work, which will be followed up with one on balloon decoration. I'm determined to acquire modern techniques in decoration". These two modules should be completed by February 2025 and her lecturers say that "she is an excellent teenager, committed, responsible and punctual, and is making the most of all the opportunities presented to her".

Once more, we are funding the making of Christmas panettone for the children and staff to sell – in shops, offices, police stations, to local government and on the streets. We use the profit to support the vocational training of the teenagers - a very good example of self-help.



Finally, our children (like so many across the World) enjoy the excitement of Christmas, as you can see from the smiling faces below! As Alalay themselves said in their Christmas message for this year: *"The best gift is not the one you wrap in paper, but the one which you keep in your heart. This Christmas we celebrate what really makes Christmas magical: being together and making memories which last forever".*



***We wish you all a very Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year!***

Annie Syrett-Jones, Bristol - December 2024

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