



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

In this newsletter we are describing two very different projects that have been undertaken during the past six months – one involving a building and the other a person.

Firstly, we had intended to renovate the old (now unused) Girls' Welcome House and to let this in future for rental income. In the event, after months of discussions, the building was shown to be in such a dreadful condition that it would almost require a rebuild – which was not thought a sensible spend at this time (and would also need additional permits from the city Mayor's office). Instead, we have completely restored one of the Cabins at the aldea, in which some of our girls live. This also was in a poor state of repair but is now almost completely restored and provides a smart modern home for the girls - who love it, as you can see below.



Restored Girls' Cabin

Secondly, we continue to pay the salary and other costs for one of the housemothers, named Darleny. Here is something more about her in her own words:

"this has been a great year, with many opportunities for my girls to continue growing into confident



Darleny and some of "her" girls

young women. In a number of instances, Alalay has been able to successfully reintegrate them back into their biological families – which, if it is safe and right to do so, is really the best option and has brought us and them great joy.

The development course for staff in July 2023 provided enormous benefit for house-parents like me, and others. The theme of the training was "respectful parenting" and it has had a great impact on the way that I care for the children – it certainly gave me

the opportunity to learn but also to "unlearn" some things that were not helpful. I very much hope to learn more in the follow-up course this year. I so much want to be the sort of mother that the girls need, in whom they have support and understanding".

Annie Syrett-Jones, Bristol – July 2024

www.alalay.co.uk