



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

This is our 20th year as a charity, and by its year end we should have raised a total of more than £460,000 - our target is to reach at least £500,000 by next year! Please remember everything we raise goes directly to help the children help themselves - nothing goes on administration.

Local supporter, Elli recently ran in the Bristol Half-Marathon, raising nearly £700 for the street children. We are so grateful for this generous help and will use the money towards the vocational training of one of our oldest children, offering careers ranging from hairdressing to law; giving the person independence and the possibility to make different choices in their future lives. This is great news, especially when we remember the alternative. Current statistics tell us that 1 in 6 children in Bolivia are living in extreme poverty. Here are photos and brief notes about two students who (along with others) have graduated this year – names have been changed:



Elli at the end of her run



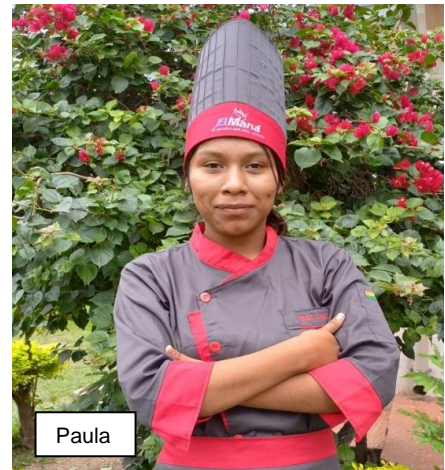
Juan

Juan Pablo was first mentioned in our newsletters in 2022, worked hard on several advanced courses and has now graduated in National and International Gastronomy. He is passionate about cooking and has been consistent, punctual and responsible throughout his training. Juan continues to study and in the meantime is looking for a weekend job where he can apply his culinary skills.

Paula is Juan's sister and has also just graduated in National and International Gastronomy. She is an enthusiastic teenager, active in social and sports programmes, collaborative with

her classmates and determined to succeed in the culinary field. Paula bakes pastries for special events in the nearby village and sells products every Friday during team meetings.

As in previous years we also continue to pay the salary and other costs of an outstanding house mother, named Darleny, so that she can continue to support our oldest girls, who are extremely fond of her (and she of them!)



Paula



Art exhibition

It has always been critical for us to enable our kids to share their experiences in their own words. Over the last months, they have been very busy doing precisely that. Firstly, through an art project, where they worked with prominent Bolivian artists to produce and exhibit paintings on cardboard (perhaps a reminder of the material that kept them warm on cold nights on the streets?). And secondly, through the screening of "Diary from La Paz", a "production that immerses us in real stories of resilience, hope, and transformation", filmed by Alalay-supported former street-connected

children. After the premiere, two of them spoke, sharing their stories and calls to action. You can watch a short video (in Spanish) of the screening [HERE](#).

Annie Syrett-Jones, Bristol – July 2025

www.alalay.co.uk