



Amigos de Potosí

# Documentary

stichting / fundación / foundation

Newsletter no. 16 | July 2016

[WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.COM](http://WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.COM)



## Celebration in after-school care centre Caracoles!

More than 20 years ago 2 Bolivian mining widows started the after-school care centre for children Caracoles, called after the mine on the Cerro Rico mountain. The mothers, who live near the mines with their children in abject poverty, try to make a living by sorting minerals or as a guard. The after-school care centre can provide for about 42 children or young adults. They will get a meal (the most important reason to attend) and home-work guidance. Moreover, the young people are stimulated to continue schooling instead of working in the mines.

This wonderful Bolivian project provides an oasis for those children who have no choice but to grow up in this polluted and unhealthy industrial environment. There is no running water on the mountain; the water is delivered by tank trucks and stored in the care centre's reservoir. This provided the monthly 5000 litres of water needed for drinking, cooking, washing, showering and sanitary facilities. The growing number of children however resulted in a water shortage that lasted a long time. This caused the showers to be closed and toilets had to be flushed manually. The poorer personal hygiene as a result caused contamination and unnecessary illness in its turn. In 2015 director Iveth of MUSOL which leads the centre

asked the Foundation Amigos de Potosí (AdP) for help in expanding the water facilities. Our local coordinator Enrique Paz joined forces with engineer Franklin Sunagua, analysed the problems and developed a plan with all concerned for doubling the water capacity. Costs of this project: € 8.500.

Unfortunately, the plans had to be adapted because of the mining activities which resulted in a major delay. But all's well that ends well: recently the renewed expanded water facility was ready for use. It includes a large storage tank (10.000 litres), a smaller distribution tank (2.000 litres), a water pump with cover, a new hand-basin outside and some new pipes and faucets.

On May 25th, the water facilities were officially handed over to its users; the children of the after-school care centre. The day started festively with the teenagers painting the big water tank in different colours, creating a wonderful spring landscape. This was made possible by the Foundation AdP which bought the paint. Not only was this activity fun, it also promoted ownership by the children, for which they are now co-responsible.

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Red Cross volunteers then taught the children about proper water usage and personal hygiene. Engineer Franklin explained the workings of the water facilities and pump and how to properly maintain the system. Then followed the official opening with a delicious celebration lunch for all.

The volunteers of Amigos de Potosí provided soap, shampoo and towels that were immediately put to use. Coordinator AdP Enrique surprised everyone with a video message from the Netherlands and many thanks and warm greetings were waved to us all the way from Potosí!



We want to extend our thanks to everyone who directly or indirectly has taken action for or in any way contributed to this project: Sophie and family Van Genuchten; Spark Holding; Willy Kamphuis & Hanna Gächter with their tip action in Gargellen; Jumbo Maripaan; Foundation One Earth; sponsors

of Cycling to Marrakesh / Ger & Paul van Lier and the donors of Amigos de Potosí. GRACIAS Amigos!

(More information and photo's: [www.amigosdepotosi.com/waterprojectCaracoles](http://www.amigosdepotosi.com/waterprojectCaracoles))

## Opening Centro Comunitario Laja Tambo

On the 28th of March 2017, a dream came true in Laja Tambo near Potosí: opening of the community centre. Everyone is very happy with this multi-functional building providing a simple kitchen, 4 public toilets with a septic tank and 2 hand basins. These are the first real sanitary facilities in Laja Tambo, which also benefits the students. Progress indeed!



*Enterprising women ask for our help - 2013*

### A flash- back

In 2013 things were very different in Laja Tambo... It was then that our coordinator Enrique Paz was approached by 9 enterprising village women of this hamlet of only a few adobe \* houses without electricity or sewage system, a small school, a basketball court and 2 public water taps. In 2012 the enterprising mothers had built a community room with their own hands and limited resources. This simple construction without windows and a simple zinc roof did not provide enough shelter from the cold Altiplano wind and rain. There was no floor, and no money available for building materials and the women asked for our help in finishing this building. We quickly discovered however that this type of construction would not be a good basis for further building and delved into the problems, wishes and solutions a bit deeper.

\*

*Adobe is a construction material which is a mixture of sand, water, clay and organic materials such as straw and manure. The mixture is pounded in a mould and sun-dried.*

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Fortunately, since it became clear that the women have plans. Not only do they need a community building for meetings about health and hygiene, childcare, civil rights and – duties and for weighing the children and preparing school meals. (Many children come from far away - a 1½ hour walk to school is no exception - and school meals are an important incentive.) The women also want to build a better future for their families and not be utterly dependent on mining. They would love to start a sewing – or knitting studio to make their own clothes and perhaps a small business in order to provide in their own incomes.

### Contributions from Bolivia and the Netherlands

Our coordinator Enrique and engineer Franklin developed a project plan involving the villagers so that in April 2015 the plan was accepted enthusiastically. It includes a sustainable multi-functional building (50 m2, with a simple kitchen, a separate toilet building (with septic tank) with 4 toilets and 2 hand basins. The local school may use the facilities as well. The inhabitants commit themselves to the project by contributing in labour, and the local government takes care of transport and supervision. Total costs of the project: € 24.000.

Fundraising started in the Netherlands and in November 2015 we organized a benefit party with

the fantastic theatre production 'Cerro Rico' and an auction. We received a premium from Stichting Wilde Ganzen/ IKON (1/3 of project costs) and contributions from Innerwheel Ambt Almelo, Spark Holding, Winabago and sponsors.

### Community centre according to plan

On December 5th 2016 construction started and was delivered well within time and budget on the 28th of March 2017, notwithstanding delays by roadblocks and other inconveniences. It is the very first development project in Laja Tambo and it means the world to the inhabitants that somewhere in the Netherlands there are people who think of them and help them to move forward! We want to express our thanks, also on behalf of the villagers of Laja Tambo, to all those (and there were many!) who contributed and worked for this wonderful project.

(More information and photo's: <http://www.amigosdepotosi.com/centroLajaTambo/>)

### Waffle sale in Oslo!

We were surprised again with an initiative in Oslo: on Labour Day the sale of waffles and lemonade made almost € 25 ! Thank you Furuhovde family for this great initiative!

### Do you want to help us realise their plans?

- For a single donation, please deposit your gift at: BIC: RABONL2U IBAN NL28 RABO 01622.37.871 Foundation Amigos de Potosí, Groningen, the Netherlands,

- Or donate your gift on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis.  
You can do this through internet banking!

Through our website you can also simply donate your gift through iDEAL or Pay Pal.  
[click here to donate online with iDEAL or Pay Pal](#)

Any contribution is welcome! Thanks for your gift and participation.  
Muchas gracias!

