



As the year is ending, I would like us to look at what we have achieved so far and our projects for the future. Many thanks to our volunteers and to all those who donated so generously, enabling us to convert these people's dreams into reality.

Small Projects, Big Effects! *Three projects completed; four new ones in the making...*

Computers Project Finished!

One year after our pledge, 20 PCs with Internet connectivity have been delivered to Colegio Pichincha (a secondary school with 800 pupils) in Potosí. A big thank you goes to the (now) 3rd year pupils from the Praedinius Secondary School in Groningen who raised a grand total of € 5,252 towards this project. Other benefactors included the Van Leer Foundation, the Jephcott Foundation, Colour4Kids, and the Internet provider COTAP, all of whom helped bring this proposal to fruition. This is a great step forwards for education in Potosí and will provide the (mine worker) youths with many more opportunities. The city of Potosí contributed 15 computers, the students won 8 in a competition, bringing the total to 43 altogether. Now we're getting somewhere!



library turned into computer lab

New Greenhouse for San Ildefonso Primary School nears Completion!

During a severe storm in 2012, the pupils' greenhouse was sadly destroyed. Furthermore, the surrounding soil had eroded over the course of time, making it unusable. Over the last few months, the greenhouse has been renovated, the topsoil replaced and the drainage in the surrounding area improved. The teachers and pupils will receive lessons in agriculture, learning about the importance of a healthy, vitamin-rich diet. The greenhouse is a superb project that has been made possible through family and friends in Austria. My cousin, Helen Bachmann, organised a terrific event in her hometown of Schruns, involving the whole town and church. My sister, Willy Kamphuis, raised money in neighbouring Vandans. Well done!



toilets then and now

Toilet Block for Caiza D Primary School Completed!

The construction of the toilet block started back in May 2012 but was fraught with setbacks. Road-blocks, cement shortages and other misfortunes conspired to prevent the work from going ahead but thanks to the determination and perseverance of our coordinator, Enrique, it was finally completed. Now there is a cheerful building with 13 toilets, 5 urinals and washbasins with which we make an important contribution to the health and hygiene of 250 school children. The project was supported by two Personnel Funds: Rabo Share-4More and ETWA. On behalf of the Caiza D pupils and staff: muchas gracias!



greenhouse

lees verder

El Alto Potosí: Fortune Seekers in the Mines

Migrants from the countryside have settled themselves under very primitive conditions on the outskirts of Potosí (Alto Potosí) to search for lead, zinc and tin in the mines. For many, this is a hazardous venture: unaccustomed to city life, inexperienced and working in dangerous mines, most workers speak little or no Spanish and wages are uncertain and low. Violence, alcoholism, school truancy and crime are prevalent. In June, I visited Padre Efraín in Alto Potosí, who has already been working in this community for some years. He gives advice to mothers, encourages children to attend school and works towards enabling people to support themselves. In addition, he has built a church and a community centre where he can meet people and where courses and workshops are given. Most of the buildings have been completed. Now he needs money to furnish the community centre.

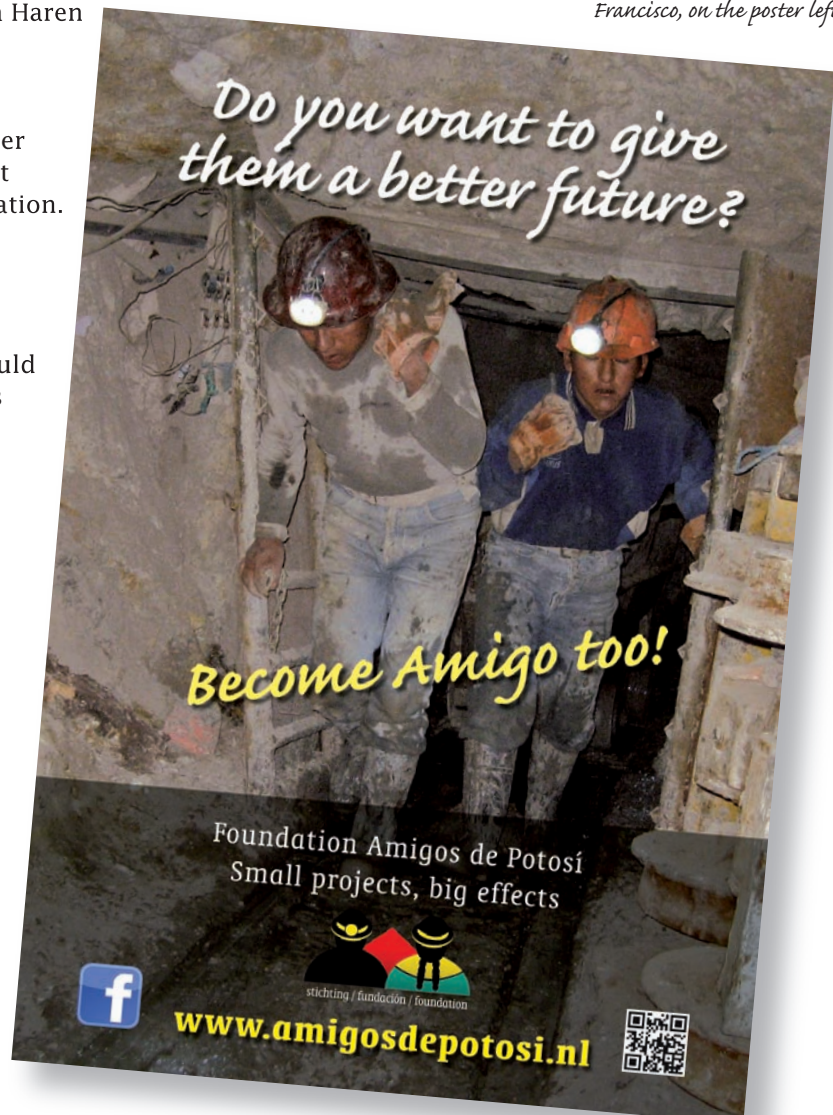
This has been made possible thanks to a generous gift from *De Vereniging van Vrijzinnige Protestanten (the Association of Liberal Protestants)*, *Het Witte Kerkje (the White Chapel)* in Haren and the paper recycling campaign organised by *de Raad van Kerken (the Churches' Council)*.

On the 13th of October, board member Michiel Randag acknowledged receipt of a cheque on behalf of our organisation. I was able to hand it over to Padre Efraín that same afternoon! Local carpenters and furniture makers are now busy manufacturing the simple furniture. If you (or your church) would like to help Padre Efraín continue his good work, please get in touch.

Francisco the Student Mine Worker

Back in October I interviewed Francisco (then 28, see our poster: the miner on the left). Every day he works as a miner in the Cerro Rico Mountain, in terrible conditions. He is now 34 and has worked in various mines for 10 years, often suffering from sickness and injuries due to his work. It is extremely difficult to break away from the miners' culture because the men need an income. In spite of this, Francisco wants to stop mining at the end of this year and finish his studies. He has already followed a course in tourism at night school for two years, hoping to become a tour guide. Francisco is a member of a study group who encourage each other to keep up with their studies. They are impressed with what we've done for the youth in Potosí and would like to help us. We have provided them with some basic guide work at their library, to support their initiative. So that Francisco, and all other youths in his position, can begin studying and leave the mines. Forever.

Francisco, on the poster left



New Projects Requiring Funding

With your contributions we can implement local plans together!



enterprising women

1. Centro de madres – Lajas

In the settlement of Lajas (with only one school), a group of 15 madres (mothers) requested our assistance with the completion of a building. Here they would be able to come together to weigh their children, share experiences, receive medical advice, support each other and who knows, perhaps start up a knitting business? The miners' wives have already arranged the construction of the adobe (sun baked mud bricks) shell of the building, but that's about it. There is no floor yet, no windows, and the walls are broken. They need funding to finish and furnish it. A few tables, benches or chairs ...and perhaps to round things off, a knitting machine? They came to us with hope and expectation; do we see something in their plan? I found the vigour and enthusiasm of the women infectious - I really think that something special could come into being! But then it is apparent to us that much more is needed than this simple building. Don't you agree?

2. Computers for Khara Khara (Cotagaita)

A secondary school with a technical division in the mining region of Cotagaita has an urgent need for ten new PCs and a photocopier for their instruction in computer science. The college already has a good infrastructure and organisation at their disposal, and a successful technical division (metalworking). This investment should

result in a rise in work productivity for the whole area! So we really want to support them, will you help us?

3. Pailaviri Knitting Workshop – Potosí

A lot of poor miners' families live at the Pailaviri encampment which is at the foot of the Cerro Rico. Claudia is married to a 'perforista' (driller) and they have two young daughters. She, along with other miners' wives, wishes to start a knitting business so that they are not dependent on the unpredictable income (and future) of their husbands. Often, life expectancy of miners is not more than the age of 45. The women have already begun a course and are receiving help and support with this. Now they just need the funds to turn a suitable space in a workshop and to obtain the needed materials. A brilliant enterprise by these women – based on their own ideas and their own plans to improve their future and that of their children. We are in full support of their efforts. How about you?

4. Porco Sewing Workshop

The miners' wives in Porco (the oldest silver mine in Bolivia) also see an opportunity to set up a sewing business. They would like to produce work clothing and sportswear. We'll know more about the initiative in the near future and will of course keep you informed.



Fautapo: more employment opportunities through training

Collaboration with Fautapo

At the beginning of 2014, we'll start our collaboration with Fautapo. They are a Bolivian organisation that aim at the development of skills and education. More employment opportunities are provided through training, which at the same time increases the productivity at firms. With Fautapo we can make a more structured contribution to improve schooling and work opportunities. Together we will dedicate ourselves to helping the miners' families and men in Potosí!

New Amigos!

New volunteers: Jacky Van Geffen, supporting our PR & Communications department and Marjan van Til, helping with drawing up minutes/communications. We are delighted with these new additions to the team – we can really use their help! Change in chairperson: thank you and goodbye to Alie van der Schaaf and welcome to Taeke Mindertsma! Sadly we had to take leave from

Alie as she has moved away from the area. Her replacement, Taeke Meindersma, has been active at an international children's welfare organisation in The Hague where he was responsible for all foreign projects, communication and fundraising. He will provide new guidance for the marketing and communications division. In addition to his enthusiasm and drive, he has a pool of relevant knowledge and experience at his disposal.

I'll keep you posted! Margret Kamphuis

Volunteers' Party: Sunday 19 January

Keep that afternoon free! An invitation will follow.

Periodic Gifts: from 1 January 2014 donation documents drawn up by a notary will no longer be required

The Dutch tax office will be publishing a donation agreement on their website that you, the tax payer, will be able to make use of.

How you can help:

- Make a single donation to IBAN NL28RABO 01622.37.871 att. Amigos de Potosi, Groningen, Netherlands.
- Become a regular supporter and make monthly/quarterly or yearly donations.
- You can arrange this yourself via Internet banking

Want to know more?

Mail or telephone: margret@amigosdepotosi.com, 0031-(0)50-3189318