



## How is the foundation doing?

Great!

There is a lot going on, which is why this half yearly newsletter is a big one. The best news is that there are crops of lettuce growing at a height of 4130 meters in the school green house! And there are some beautiful new projects being set up that (directly or indirectly) help to keep the younger people out of the mines. All according to their own ideas. How? With a computer and internet training-centre, a (community) center for mothers, bread baking training, a watersupplytank and: musical instruments. But you can also read that not everything is always going according to plan...

In addition to this we are working on a foundation in Bolivia. Member of the Board Michiel Randag was there for a working visit.

We thank everyone who is helping us keep the youth out of the mines and give them a healthier future. We wholeheartedly hope that we can count on your solidarity again. Our thanks go out to all our volunteers who have contributed and especially to Enrique Paz, our local coordinator who has once again done a lot of very good work. Enjoy reading!

### Ongoing project: lettuce at 4130 m! Greenhouse primary school in miner's borough up and running.

Latest news from the greenhouse: June: By now the lettuce crops and tomato plants have grown so big they can be planted out. The children are enthusiastic and very proud. They hope they will be able to sell lettuce so they can buy new seeds for the next season!



Lettuce grows at 4130 m in the green house!

**There are 5 new projects we would like to realize and for which we are looking for financial support:**

#### 1. Computer and Internet Project at High School Ckara Ckara:



Ckara Ckara downtown

Last year I visited a high school in a mining area where pupils could get a metalworking or computer training certificate in addition to their high school diploma. The high school has a good infrastructure and its staff members are well organized and very involved. In addition to computer training there is the very popular metalworking training in which many girls participate. The computer training is in trouble because the equipment is very outdated. By investing in new computers, peripherals, and an internet connection, motivated youth are given excellent new opportunities!



Boys planting out the little lettuce plants

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An investment in this school increases the chances of these pupils to find better jobs and increases labor productivity in this area in the long term. In the fall the government will provide an internet connection so the 85 pupils will have access to an incredible amount of new knowledge and information. Look, I see a future for these youth!

Cost: € 9.113,- (Euros)

## 2. Project Centro de madres- Lajas:



*Madres in Lajas*

In 2013, in the hamlet Lajas a group of about 15 madres (mothers) asked our help to create a Centro de madres, where they could come together to weigh the children, exchange experiences, support each other, and who knows: start a knitting studio.

The miner's wives had already made sure a building was constructed made of adobe (a type of sunbaked clay stones) and asked for our support to finish the center and furnish it. They want to work on a better future for their families and find a way out of the mining industry. By now a design has been made for a more durable and multifunctional building which offers them beautiful opportunities to develop themselves and the community. At this moment the local government and the target group are being consulted on the contributions they can make to the project. I think this is the start of something beautiful. Would you like to help by contributing?

## 3. Project There is some music in that!

The children in the suburbs of Potosí have usually been taken away from their original environment: the country side. Because of economic reasons they moved to Potosí with their parents: father has to go work in the mines. Often they cannot speak Spanish yet and have a hard time expressing themselves. But what makes them happy? Dancing and making music with the other children! And when you go to school feeling well, you learn more. In the urban environment the traditional norms and values are under pressure. Keeping these norms and values is very important for the purpose of keeping your identity.

In order to retain the knowledge of the traditional music using indigenous musical instruments a music teacher is hired for three months and the primary school 1. De Mayo San Ildefonso (200 pupils) gets indigenous instruments to use. What is needed? 1 pair of drums with drumsticks, 45 zamponas (panpipes), 1 pair of basins. And, of course, a music teacher for three months. In the beginning 45 students (10 – 15 years) will learn music, they form a music group that can be joined by other children later on. A good impulse for the primary education to mine worker's children in Potosí.

Cost: € 450,- (Euros)

Who will help to make this possible?



*Musical instruments project*

#### 4. Project bread baking training

There is not much to say about the bread in Potosí: it is expensive, not very tasty, and unhealthy. Still it takes up a large place in the daily meals, especially for the poorest.

In order to invest in structural improvement in Potosí we support initiatives to set up new options for vocational training to attract the youth.

A recent proposal is to set up a project in bread baking training for both student bakers and current bakers, using the knowledge and experience from professionals from La Paz. A fine idea which is now being worked out. This will be our first co-production with our partner Fundación Autapo (Fautapo) who we mentioned in the previous newsletter. 150 students can participate, the training costs 9 euros per person

Cost: € 1350.

How many students can you offer this chance to?

#### 5. Project water tank number 8

Many single mothers (mine workers' widows) work as "guardias" (guards) of the mine entrances. They live in small adobe huts on the mountain - the Cerro Rico - with their children, in the unhealthy environment of the mines. On the mountain, however, there is no connection to the water supply. The government does not think this necessary because the mountain is considered to be an industrial area.

Halfway up the Cerro Rico, near the mine "Caracoles" there is a "center for education and nourishment" (childcare) set up for 30 to 35 children. They get breakfast, lunch, help with their homework and dinner. They are brought to school and then picked up again. The organization that set this up also offers education for adults for the mothers. The cost for all these provisions are covered by another organization (Musol).

There is a great need for a new water tank of 15.000 liter. That will be enough of a supply to send the children to school showered. The water that is left can be given to the mothers, under certain conditions, for instance taking work groups on health, hygiene and parenting. This would, after the 7 water tanks for the mine workers, be the 8th tank we build on the Cerro Rico.

#### Ongoing project: Furniture for the multipurpose center Hornitos

Sadly padre Efrain, a priest and street worker of sorts in a migrant district of Potosí is facing many difficulties. The project that has been made possible by a gift from "The little white church" in Haren, concerns the furnishing of the building. The building is not yet ready and now the doors have been stolen! What has been built so far is solid but it still needs to be finished. The furniture has been made by now but can of course only be

delivered when the building is finished. He is facing a shortage of € 2.600 (Euros). A very sad story from padre Efrain who is working so hard for the poor in Potosí; we hope a solution is found soon...

#### Also a foundation in Bolivia?

Board member Michiel Randag visited Bolivia in April 2014. The purpose of the visit – among others – was to find out how useful it would be to set up a sister foundation in Bolivia. He spoke about this, together with our coordinator Enrique, with some well integrated people in Potosí and a lawyer in La Paz. The outcome of these conversations was that juridically speaking it is very possible to set up a Bolivian foundation, with a board comprised of both Dutch and Bolivian members. We are searching for those now. It is also desirable because it offers the option to exert some more control on ongoing projects from Potosí and also to raise funds in Bolivia.

#### Dance XL City park Groningen, May 31

With 14 enthusiastic volunteers, a beautiful promotional video (<https://plus.google.com/u/0/>) near the main stage and many Bolivian friendship bracelets we were present at the sunlit festival. Organizer Van Gelder Catering offered us this possibility. We are very proud on our team who want to go out for us more often. Look, those are AMIGOS with capital letters!



#### Amigos to Bolivia!

In October 7 loyal Amigos will travel to Bolivia and I will be a tour guide once again... During the three week tour we will visit a number of projects and of course we will visit the highlights of this beautiful country.



*Mothers weaving friendship/Amigos-bracelets*

### Amigos-bracelets from Bolivia

A large group of Bolivian women had braided quite a number of friendship/Amigos-bracelets. A nice article of jewelry in the colors of the Bolivian flag: you can order them for 2,50 euros a piece or 5 for ten euros (excl. Shipping costs) through: [info@amigosdepotosi.com](mailto:info@amigosdepotosi.com).

With these bracelets you support our projects and these mothers directly!

### Tip action Vandans 2014

A great yield of 540 euros for the greenhouse recovery project! Thanks go to Willy Kamphuis and all the guests of the après ski bar Liftstuble in Vandans (Austria) for your contributions!

### Festive opening rebuild vegetable greenhouse

"During my working visit I (board member Michiel Randag) was present on April 14 for the festive opening of the vegetable greenhouse. This greenhouse had been heavily damaged shortly after it was built in the fall of 2013 by a tidal wave coming from the mountain. The walls have been repaired



*Unveiling the plaque in the greenhouse*

using concrete weir and measures have been taken to avoid having to face this problem again. Enrique (our coordinator) and I received a warm welcome at the school. It was a great honor to raise the flag while the national anthem was being sung. All classes in the school have danced, sung, or performed beautifully. After many speeches, Martha -the head of the school- and I cut the ribbon and revealed the plaque. The inside temperature of the greenhouse was well above the outside temperature... This, in addition to the frost free water supply should provide the school with many fresh vegetables soon. The festivities were concluded with a festive dinner (different kinds of beans, corn, onions, potatoes and chicken) for everyone who was involved in the construction. It was great to see how happy everyone was. The construction and repair of the greenhouse has been made possible by actions in Schruns (Helen Bachmann) and Vandans (Willy Kamphuis) which has been rightfully mentioned on the plaque."

Michiel Randag.

### We have been supporting Bolivians with initiatives for twenty years, are you in too?

*You can see: there are beautiful ideas that all deserve to be executed. But in order to do that we need money. We ensure that the money goes directly to the projects and is spent well, and have been doing so for the past 20 years!*

*Maybe you know a trust that makes grants for charitable purposes in the area of funding education and health? Or would you like to organize a fundraising event or make a donation?*

*Contribute to NL28RABO0162237871 in name of Stichting Amigos de Potosí.*

*Or send an e-mail: [info@amigosdepotosi.com](mailto:info@amigosdepotosi.com)*

*We appreciate every contribution*

*As you know:*

*Small projects, large effects!*

*Gracias Amigos,  
Margret Kamphuis*