



Amigos de Potosí

Documentary

stichting / fundación / foundation



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WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.NL

Dear Amigo's,

On November the 21st we celebrate our 21st anniversary, and we are celebrating it well, with a stage-play made especially for us, a spectacular auction and: a party! Make a note of the date in your calendar; in this newsletter we lift a corner of the veil.

In April I was in Potosí and we were able to present the definitive concept for two new projects: The Centre of Mothers in Lajas Tambo and the water supply for the after school care Caracoles. Everyone is very enthusiastic! Over € 25.000 is needed for both projects combined, so we will be working hard. All contributions are very welcome.

We visited Padre Efrain and finished phase 2 of the furniture project for the community centre Hornitos, which marks the completion of this project.

Also, an interview with our coordinator in Potosí: Enrique Paz, and a taste of the workshop vegetable gardening in a greenhouse for pupils of the school San Ildefonso.

Have a pleasant read!

Margret Kamphuis

Caracoles

The after school care is an OASIS on the mountain for the youth living near the mines. The care centre was started over 20 years ago by 2 palliris (women who work in mining) and consists of a central room, a kitchen, a homework room and a courtyard.

The plan concerns the extension and improvement of the water supply and the installation of sanitary facilities. It was officially presented on April 6th by civil engineer Franklin Sunagua. It will be a concrete 15:000 litre cistern, offering enough capacity for the next 20 years (based on a usage of 32 litre per person a day and a growth up to 52 people). A costly construction and operation, also because of the arduous terrain. The tank will be placed high up so there is no need for a pump. We make agreements on the maintenance of the installation and instructions for the children and mothers. They are very enthusiastic about the plan!

Requested contribution: € 6.300

Centro de Madres- Lajas Tambo

Franklin, the engineer, holds the project presentation using a blackboard; there is still no electricity here (yet). The construction drawings



presentatie Caracoles

circulate and everyone nods in agreement. This is what they want, a multifunctional building where one can get instruction (for example on hygiene, childcare, women's rights, civic duties, etc.) and start a sewing or knitting workshop. The accompanying toilet building with a septic tank and double washbasin is also very welcome: the roof blew off the current 2 (only!) toilets a couple of months ago.

Requested contribution: € 19.000

For an elaborate report and pictures, see: Blog-Margret-Bolivia-2015

Fundraising party with stage play: November 21st at 20:00 hrs.



The preparations for the fundraiser are already well on their way: storyteller Herman Kruize wrote the story “Cerro Rico” about a family of mine-workers in Potosí. Together with Frank Odijk (director), they turn it into a play, complete with actors, dancers and live Andean music by Caminante! The hall opens at 19:00, the play “Cerro Rico” starts at 20:00.

And an auction...

What follows is a sprightly auction conducted by auction master Hans Burgerhof. You will be able to place bids on auction items on the website beforehand, or on the evening itself. These are mainly sponsored services. Would you also like to make something available for the charity, something we can auction? A day trip with you on your sailboat, a weekend in your holiday home, a beauty treatment, help with garden design, help with logo design, a few hours of coaching, homework guidance, tutoring, babysitting, legal advice...? Contact us at: info@amigosdepotosi.com.

Afterwards a few drinks and an enjoyable party!

We close off with a nice dance party with DJ Maarten. More information will follow on our website in the near future.

Me Creative Company sponsors the communications of this event and the proceedings of the evening are for the project **Centro de Madres - Lajas Tambo**.

Greenhouse project San Ildefonso

Accompanied by Margarita (genitor), Elba (teacher) and Enrique, 6 pupils went to Cochabamba for a workshop “gardening in a greenhouse”, where employees of the Alerta Verde foundation provided

an outstanding course. The children were ecstatic and learned a lot during this special outing! At their primary school in Potosí they will pass on their knowledge and apply it in their own greenhouse.



Amigos de Potosí compels children to think about their futures



I'd like to introduce you to Enrique Paz (48), our coordinator in Bolivia, and ask for your support in his fondest wish: a motorcycle.

Enrique was born in Potosí, studied (philosophy) and worked in La Paz and Cochabamba, but lives since 17 years again at 4090 meters altitude. His work is his hobby: visiting small communities and work on projects with the population. He doesn't like to talk about himself, preferably he talks about the people and their traditions. He is a walking Wikipedia and always manages to fascinate me with his knowledge... When he has time he goes hiking or cycling, and loves music and classic cars.

Why do you do this work?

When I graduated it was a very difficult time for Potosí: the prices of silver and other minerals went into a free fall, many mines closed and the people had to look for other jobs and left. For people that couldn't leave, the only thing that remained was what they had already done for generations: work in the mines under medieval conditions. And that's how they, with their lungs, subsidised the prices of silver and other minerals. I was deeply touched by this.

What do you do and since when?

I have been with AdP since 2008, when we started focussing more on educational projects. Since 2012 I am coordinator of all our activities in Bolivia, which starts with receiving and assessing project

requests, for example from a school with no sanitary facilities. I assess if the project fits within the objectives and the policy of the foundation and perform problem analysis to research if the desired project is the correct solution for the existing problem. If that is the case, I talk with them about the conditions under which the project could be executed. Furthermore we discuss the way they could help themselves with the realisation of the project, and how implementation and maintenance should be organised. Together with them I expand this into a project proposal which I then present to the foundation. After provisional approval, the project plans are developed further with a budget, which is then again presented to the board.

I talk with a lot with people about their wishes and expectations, and about what the changes mean for their lives. I guide the execution of the project and lend a helping hand where I can. On the other hand I maintain the contact with the foundation's board in the Netherlands and take care of the project reports.

Why do you work for AdP, and why do you think AdP provides a good contribution?

AdP takes on very concrete tasks for a specific target group. AdP remains loyal to its objectives and is goal oriented in its acts for the population that lives in the world of the mining industry. AdP offers chances for a better quality of life and a better future, based on the population's own initiatives to escape poverty and marginality.

How does one know how to find you in Bolivia?

Because of the projects we have already done; good news travels fast!

Because of this I get lots of proposals, of which a large part are immediately denied since they don't fit within the objectives: they are agricultural projects, they are too complex, or they are too secluded making transport an even larger problem.

Why an even larger problem?

Transportation is very expensive in Potosí: especially when it comes to difficultly accessible roads (river beds) in the countryside; taxi's don't like that. I have no motorcycle or jeep, and with public transport you only have very limited coverage. A motorcycle would be ideal, also to ride up the mountain to the mines. Physicians and officials from the government or other organisations often use motorcycles, preferably European makes: those are stronger and more durable. It would make my work a lot easier...

Is there a future for the youth in Potosí?

We can't tell yet (at this point), but luckily we already notice that children, parents, teachers and authorities concern themselves more with the future. We also notice that, because of the improvements (such as computers and internet) in the educational system, they indeed do have better opportunities for the future. This is a

huge motivation for me to continue with this work. We start something, give people confidence and perspective: that really changes something.

Enrique wants to buy a motorcycle and we want to give him a contribution.

Would you like to support?

Wire or transfer your gift to:

Stichting Amigos de Potosí:

NL28 RABO 0162237871

quoting "motorcycle Enrique".

Thank you so much!



Gracias new Amigos!

Sophie van Genuchten made wonderful promotion material and sold shampoo on Kingsday (also her birthday!): € 11,50! The birthday guests of **Former van der Ploeg** donated € 150 and **Ingeborg** and **Kari Kristensen** (7 years old, Oslo) sold toys and waffles on their sidewalk: € 40! The tip jar of **Willy Kamphuis** and **Hanna Gächter** in Après-skibar D'r Schirm in Gargellen grew up to: € 420! Last year **Herman Steigstra**

worked hard on the improvement and exposure of our website, and also completed the English site; have a look: <http://www.amigosdepotosi.com/en/> **Olivia Ormo** translated the newsletter into Spanish and **Hugo Aleixo** (the guy who translates faster than I write) translated my blog into English during my work-visit and also translated this newsletter.

Thank you all so much for your contribution!

Will you help realize their plans?

- Make a one-time donation to BIC: RABONL2U IBAN NL28RABO 01622.37.871 on the name of Amigos de Potosi,

Or:

- Become donor and make a monthly, quarterly, or yearly donation. You can set this up through internet banking or via your own bank! Or you can make a gift online: [click here to donate online with iDeal or Pay Pal](#)

Thank you!