



Amigos de Potosí

WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.COM

# Newsletter



stichting / fundación / foundation

**nr. 6**  
december 2010

## Child labour in the mines

On July 21st 2010, Dutch Network television showed a gripping documentary about child labour in the Llallagua mines in Bolivia, which can still be seen on internet (<http://www.network.tv/uitzending/2010-07-21/kinderarbeid-bolivi-aanse-mijnen-kost-levens>). Many shocked viewers offered to support the children financially via the Network website so that they could receive education. The Foundation Amigos De Potosi was also recommended by a number of viewers as a good way of facilitating any possible help. Naturally, we were delighted with this recommendation and with the attention that this created for the problems young people are facing in the mineworking areas. In our reaction to the Network site, we explained that, even though individual cases are often poignant, we prefer to work towards a more structural solution, from which more children would profit: such as improving education and offering other sources of income. As well as donations, the television programme also generated several new contacts. We are currently examining how we can together contribute towards finding ways to stop child labour in the mines.

### Working visit to Bolivia

In October, Margret Kamphuis visited Bolivia to check both on the current and completed projects. A lot of consultation also took place with our local volunteers who had suggested new projects. As usual, they had prepared everything perfectly and after our visits to several country schools, we had a good picture of the problems and the suggested solutions. At the same time, we talked to various experts concerning the possibilities of improving education. Our plans are looking good!

### New waterworks in Chiutara Baja

Since the greenhouse was built in 2006, many crops have been enthusiastically harvested and the children and teachers have been able to enjoy the vitamin-rich fresh lettuce, tomatoes, onions and radishes. This is such a change from beans and potatoes! This July, the new piped water from the village to the school was ready for use. The school itself has placed a tap near the greenhouse so that pupils do not have to carry buckets of water any more.

## New projects needing funding:

### An extra classroom in Chiutara Baja

Because of lack of space, lessons cannot be given to the oldest children, thus the children leave school too early. Many of the boys finish their schooling at a school in a nearby village, but the girls stay at home. A teacher has already been allocated and with a new classroom, everyone will be able to finish the schooling!

### Warm coats for paper delivery boys to go to school

Many children have to work in Bolivia in order to supplement the family income (as shoe shiners or paper-boys) so that the school costs can be paid. We support them (with warm clothing, a hat and bag and supervision) and they are then duty-bound to attend school. The plan is to continue to keep track of these paper-boys and to further supervise motivated boys towards a technical job. This is important as there is, for instance, a need for builders: however, there is no good technical teaching in Potosi. In this way, we try to keep them out of the mines. This is a wonderful project that we are further developing step by step.



*The children (or their parents) who profit from our projects work themselves on these projects, as shown here during the laying of the water pipeline in Chiutara Baja.*

In the countryside around Potosi, our support has been requested by:

**Colegio Thomas Katari in Vitichi:** for showers, extra toilets and a water pump;

**Boarding school in Vitichi:** for a water pump, a greenhouse for vegetables and a small library.

**Colegio in Caixa D:** for a water pump, showers and extending the toilets;

**5 country high schools:** computer space for 10 computers and internet. The schools will find a place for the computers and someone to teach computer studies, who will also maintain the computers. The computers will be bought in Bolivia.



We think it is very important to support these schools as this will increase the young people's chances in the employment market. Better conditions in school will lead to better education with motivated teachers and pupils. If the parents also see the advantages of education, the chances will be greater that the children finish their full schooling and, where possible, can choose to go on to further education. This aspect will be demanding more of our attention in the times to come. With supervision and good trade and professional education, young people will have a better future perspective: we will therefore be helping, in a modest but important way, towards combating child labour in the mines of Potosi and Llallagua. There is still a long way to go, but we are on the right road.

### Amigos de Potosí in the classroom

"Werk aan de wereld" (Work on the world) is a project started by COS (Centre for Development co-operation), Groningen that contributes to the development of world citizenship among school-going young people. The Amigos de Potosi shall, in this connection, give a number of guest lessons in the Joh. Calvijnschool (primary school) and the Willem Lodewijk Gymnasium (high school), both in Groningen.

### Contributions from De Bron

PKN (church) De Bron in Beijum held a collection during Easter for the Foundation: this realized: € 755,21. And as proof that this was not just a one-off action, 60% of the Spetterende Spulletjes market collection on November 6th 2010 was gifted to us: € 1.400,-! This sum will be used for the paper-boys project in Potosi. ([www.pkndeb Bron.nl](http://www.pkndeb Bron.nl))



*Michiel, Margret and Annemie sell Bolivian Fair Trade articles*

### New website in the planning...

Our website is being renovated! More photos, more interaction and more information being presented in a clear, modern way will hopefully lead to more sponsors!

### Thank you for your support!

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year. With your help, donations and our (volunteer)work, many hundreds of mineworkers have drinking water, tens of children are learning to produce vegetables, hundreds of children can shower weekly and tens of children can hopefully in the near future NOT have to work in the mines. And every child whom we can help is worth it all!

**Your donation is very welcome**

**Rabo: 1622.37.871**

**From abroad:**

**IBAN: NL28RABO 0162237871**

**and BIC: RABONL2U**

**Account: Stichting Amigos de Potosi,  
Groningen, Netherlands**

### Appeal

In connection with the further professionalization of the Foundation and extending the projects and activities, we are urgently looking for support with: fundraising and translating (preferably by a native Spanish speaker). All work is carried out on a voluntary basis, and expenses are naturally paid. In addition, we would like to expand our contacts with Bolivians in Holland.