



## ***Eighteen years of projects which help miners and schoolchildren in Bolivia!***

*In May 2012, the foundation Amigos de Potosi officially celebrated its tenth anniversary. However, we have of course been working hard a lot longer than that! In 1994, we donated a radio to the first aid post so that they would be capable of contacting the emergency services if there was an accident. That's where it all began.*

*In the years that followed, we helped with another big problem: the shortage of water on the Cerro Rico, the mountain where the miners work. During that time, we built seven water reservoirs which were put to very good use as they provide water to hundreds of miners each day.*

*Another major problem is the use of child labour in the mines. We help combat this through investing in education, especially in the rural areas that surround Potosi. With computers, the internet, sanitation, greenhouses and other quality investments, education is made that much more interesting for both students and teachers alike. Through school and training, these youngsters have a better chance of finding a job outside of the mines. It's clear that nobody should do such dirty, dangerous work; least of all children!*



*donation of the radio, 1994*

### **And why does our concept work?**

It is their ideas that are executed. We don't come up with solutions because that's something they can do themselves and a lot better than we could. The people help themselves. They personally contribute in the form of manual labour and transportation of materials or meals. All this increases their involvement and responsibility. They are small manageable projects. One becomes the owner and there are no high operating costs. Our local volunteers supervise the project and regularly report to us. With regular reporting and photos, we keep donors and sponsors well-informed.

### **There is much to be done over the upcoming months!**

Three storytellers are working on a story/drama production; my cousin Helen Hesselink will soon organize a Zumba-event in Austria; Two professionals from the world of art and music have given their commitment to organising events; high school students will organize an event for charity, the website will be updated and there will be ideas developed and given to businesses who are interested in sponsorship.

There are so many great things happening with regards to attention and support for the work the foundation does!

Meanwhile, we receive more and more support from associations, organisations and clubs. This helps us spread our story even further.

We just want to stress that any and all help in any form are more than welcome!

### **Check your calendar:**

On the 11th of November, Douwe Draaisma will be holding a reading (in Dutch) in the Nieuwe Kerk, Groningen (NL). Draaisma is professor of the Theory and History of Psychology at the University of Groningen. The reading is an initiative from Rotary Bel Campo and a share from the revenues will benefit our projects! An invitation will follow.

### **Small projects, great effects**

*Join us, become an Amigo and support us!*

*Your donation is very welcome:*

*Rabo: 1622.37.871*

*From abroad:*

*IBAN: NL28RABO 0162237871 and*

*BIC: RABONL2U*

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

*On our website ([www.amigosdepotosi.nl](http://www.amigosdepotosi.nl))*

*it's also possible to make a one-time  
donation using Ideal!*

### Current project in Bolivia

Facebook users have already seen the photos: at the primary school in Caiza D, we are hard at work at building a new toilet block. In October, we aim to complete this and then the 250 children can finally come to class relieved and with clean hands! This project is co-financed through RaboShare4More (a personnel fund of Rabobank), an organization who wishes to remain anonymous and donations. There will be more about this in the next newsletter!



*the beneficiaries (parents) help out*

### New Projects

During my next visit in October, I am going to discuss possible new projects with promoters and our volunteers in Potosi.

There are currently two school computer projects that are being planned as well as a small bakery in the mining district that will be reinstated. Finally the people will be able to buy bread again in their own neighbourhood!

In addition to this, we are working to establish a foundation in Potosi.

### Help and Inspiration from home and abroad!

*More and more enthusiastic people are stepping up to support our work. This isn't just financially. It also comes from people thinking with us and people who aren't afraid to get hands on.*

*In chronological order:*

January: Information booth at the well-attended [Baobab-travel market](#) in Slot Zeist (NL).

February: A well-attended information evening (with South-American music) was held in the Van Starckenborgh tennis club's cafeteria in Groningen (NL). This yielded new donors, ideas, contacts and € 272.50 on top of that. Brilliant!

At the same time, my concerned and lovely sister Willy Kamphuis gave some information about our foundation at her job at the Liftstübli in Vandans (Austria). This resulted in a [tips donation drive](#) which yielded € 223!

[GaveDingenDoen \(Cool Things to Do\)](#): In Utrecht (NL), a group of creative youngsters came together



*the roof is closed!*

for an evening to brainstorm on how the foundation could become greater and generate a more consistent revenue. This resulted in many fun and practical ideas. One of these ideas was worked out within the same month: [8uurOverwerken \(8hours-Overtime\)](#): Young, creative and enthusiastic people from Groningen worked for eight hours after their normal working day was over(!), in order to put together an animation/promotional video. In 1 minute and 10 seconds, it's explained who we are and what we do in a fun and clear manner! <http://vimeo.com/39531494>. The video is also up on the homepage of our site: [www.amigosdepotosi.nl](http://www.amigosdepotosi.nl). There shall be an English voiceover coming soon.



*movie recording*

Furthermore, we also received some special gifts: during a farewell party (T. Roozen: € 140,-) and a wedding anniversary (H. and K. Hermans € 400,-) And I would like to thank Peter Broer (director Stiel) for all the informative and enjoyable coaching sessions!

And for everyone else who has helped and supported us over the last year: Thank you!

*Margret Kamphuis*