



Amigos de Potosí

WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.NL



stichting / fundación / foundation

Newsletter

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The sanitary block for the primary school in Caiza D is finished!

The primary school "José Alonzo de Ibañez" in Caiza D (250 pupils) had only a few very primitive toilets and most of the schoolboys would rather go sit somewhere behind a wall...

We supported the school's plan to build a simple sanitary block. The construction started at the end of May and it's been a lot of hard work. The construction continued throughout the winter, even in the evenings. But it was not easy: roadblocks, cement shortages and other setbacks made it a tough project for our volunteers. Unfortunately, it wasn't finished in time for my visit in October. There was a party but the completion of the sanitary block would not be realised until the 27th of November. It now is a cheerful building that became a positive contribution to the hygiene and health of 250 schoolchildren; brilliant! This project is supported by two personnel funds: Rabo Share-4More and an organisation who wishes to remain anonymous. Does your employer have a personnel fund? Let us know!



One of the washbasins in Caiza D

Some stop, we grow!

Assistance to the people in developing countries is under pressure, the government has other priorities and the Dutch authorities are gone from almost all South-American countries. This means that many small developing organisations will receive no more money for projects in these countries. We can still call on (private) funds but these funds are confronted with an increase of applications. Fortunately, we are supported by a (growing) number of donors and funds that like to see that their money is spent directly. Without money getting into the wrong pockets and without overhead. We are very grateful for all the support that we receive from our regular donors, occasional givers and the Pepergasthuiskerk fund raising. Unfortunately, a loyal and substantial donor has (forced by company results) withdrawn its support.

Communication consultancy "Statement" (www.statement.nl) supported us with free communication advice, thanks! I also want to thank the growing group "Amigos" who support us in different ways: people who always have good ideas and tips, people who are thinking with us, graphic designing (www.da-mar.nl), translating, writing stories, being sponsored during a 10km run, organising an activity. My Bolivian film material will be made into a documentary, our website is maintained and, last but not least, our story spread further afield!

We are very happy with this growing group of supporters and sympathizers. With all of us, we form a network of involved people which, if they can do something for the people in Potosí using whichever way possible, then they do. Very useful, thank you Amigo!



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Activities

The employees from the FNV Bouw can donate the value of their Christmas package to us! Let us know if your employer also offers this possibility. I would really like to contact them if so. A herd of sheep (pictured right) knitted in Peru and Bolivia is sold by the befriended foundation www.colour4kids.nl, at the Christmas fair in Garderen and Hotel Figi in Zeist (www.figi.nl). The proceeds go towards the computer project in Potosi, see below. The knife cuts both ways: here it benefits both knitters and school children! Thanks go to Colour4Kids, Maritza Mekkes, Arturo, Klaas Nuiver, Anouk Randag and Rita Clavijo for all your help! From the Bolivian children's drawings we have made beautiful Christmas cards: 6 for € 5!

Where does your money go?

Our new projects

Our volunteers in Potosi suggested three wonderful project proposals for 2013:

1. Computer and internet project (20 computers) for the secondary school "Pichincha" (800 pupils) in Potosi. In the school's library, there are a few bookcases with old encyclopaedias and reference works... The School would love to change this into a media library with 20 computers with internet so that the children can broaden their horizons.

At Pichincha, there are many sons of miners. In May 2013, there will be an activity held at the Praedinius Gymnasium School in Groningen in order to raise money for this project. As part of their MAS (social internship), pupils from the second class will participate in the activity to raise money for this charity, this solidarity is super! We hope that other students and parents will want to help. There is a short film being made and via Facebook, we keep in contact with Elias, a 14 year old miner's son. For this project, we will need € 15,000.



Elias

How you can help:

- Single donation to IBAN28 RABO 01622.37.871 att Amigos de Potosi or via the iDeal link on our homepage -
- Become a sponsor and make monthly, quarterly or annual donations -
You can easily oversee these donations yourself via Internet banking.
- Make full use of the fiscal opportunities to donate: put this clearly in a notarial deed -
At five annual donations of a least € 500, we can arrange this for you.
We have ANBI status and donations are tax deductible.



2. Rebuild the greenhouse at the primary school in Potosi. In 2006, I visited the primary school "1. de Mayo San Ildefonso" They proudly showed off their school greenhouse where they enjoyed growing vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, onions and parsley. They provided a very welcome vitamin rich supplement to their unbalanced diets (potatoes and beans). Unfortunately, the roof was torn off and the ground became exhausted. Cost: not yet known.

3. Rebuilding a crumbling bread bakery in the mining district at the foot of the Cerro Rico. A number of female miners have construed a plan to renovate the bakery so that this can be reopened. This plan is currently being developed. Cost: not yet known.

An account from my visit complete with photos can be found on our public Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/AmigosdePotosi>

Working Together

Both in the Netherlands and in Bolivia, we are combining our forces with a Bolivian (Sayjata) and Bolivian/Dutch foundation (www.Ayni.nl). Together we can go further!

Board Expansion

We expanded our board with Alie van der Schaaf, anthropologist and former director of the COS (Centre for Development Cooperation, later Noordbaak) Groningen. Alie is an independent consultant for fundraising, has extensive experience of South-American and she took over the position of president from Annemie Heesink. Michiel Randag handed over the position of treasurer to Pieter Fennema. Pieter is the group controller of the UMCG and he was also in the mines in Potosi! This gives us a wonderful extension of our knowledge, networks and enthusiasm! Annemie and Michiel remain on the board and I remain as the secretary in charge of daily management of the foundation, fundraising and supervision of projects. I'll keep you posted! Margret Kamphuis.

Do you want to know more?

Mail or call: margret@amigosdepotosi.com, +31/503189318 Small projects, great effects!