



Amigos de Potosí

Documentary

stichting / fundación / foundation

Newsletter 12 | February 2015



WWW.AMIGOSDEPOTOSI.NL

This is the first issue of our newsletter in a new style: "Documentary" with which we inform you about the projects in Bolivia. We will tell you about:

- 1. The projects that have been completed in 2014*
- 2. The new projects "in the starting blocks"*
- 3. The projects being set up: they will be started as soon as the plans are final and fully financed. These are the projects for which we request your help.*

In conclusion we will give an overview of all projects we have finished and transferred to the people in Bolivia for the past 20 years. It is turning out to be a good list!

Our base line is that the projects we support originate from the needs of the people there: they work on the projects themselves too. With as lasting goal that these projects eventually continue independently from our foundation.

Small projects Big effects

Completed projects in 2014:

1. Greenhouse primary school 1. De Mayo San Ildefonso-Potosi: lettuce at 4130 m!

The rebuilt greenhouse was completed in April. Excited the children got to work. Juan Carlos (ingeniero agronomo), who supervised the project, instructed and supervised janitor Margarita, parent representative Concepción, and the children in the first harvest year. It was a success! The lettuce harvest was bountiful and plenty of little tomatoes cheerfully dangled in the greenhouse. The children are very proud of their work!

In October the greenhouse has been transferred to the school and with that the project was completed, but it is going to get a little green ending: After the rain season Margarita, Concepcion and some children with a "green thumb" will go to Cochabamba to learn something extra (about fertilizing, disease prevention). And of course we will check in with them every once in a while...

This project was financed with the proceeds of events and tip actions organized by Helen Bachmann in Schruns-Austria- and by Willy Kamphuis in the nearby Vandans. Gracias and Danke schön!



furniture multifunctional centre Hornitos

2. Furniture for multifunctional centre Hornitos-Potosi, phase 1

In October 2013 we could make padre Efrain happy with a gift from "The Little White Church" in Haren (a small town in the North of the Netherlands) to buy furniture for the multifunctional centre that is being built.

In June this year we told you about the misfortunes that befell padre Efrain: the doors of the centre were stolen and the architect never finished his work. After intense meetings and intervention by the bishop the work was continued. A good gift from one of our donors made finishing the building possible. Phase 1 is now completed and the accompanying furniture has been delivered: 8 tables, 42 chairs, and 3 desks. Phase 2 will hopefully be finished before the end of this year, after which the 35 benches will be delivered.

A beautiful project with which the local furniture makers have had their work cut out for them!

3. Computer and internet project – high school in Ckara Ckara



It concerns a computer project at a high school in the country side where the 85 students, in addition to their regular diploma, can get a basis diploma metal building or computer science. This computer science projects was threatened to be discontinued because the equipment had grown outdated.

With 10 new computers, additional equipment and Internet, the youth are given amazing new opportunities!

The high school has a good infrastructure, a well-organized and very engaged team of teachers with a teacher in computer science present. In addition to the computer science program there is a popular technical program as well (in metalworking). Many girls take part in this as well. The youth in this mining area suddenly has an incredible amount of extra knowledge and information through the internet. A whole new world opens up for them! But that's not all: with the diploma "computer science" their chances to get a job increase dramatically. Better chances to get better work than in the mines.

In October we have transferred the computers in person and were treated to a delicious meal. This was prepared on a grill in a corner of the church we were visiting..

Project in the starting blocks:

1. Music project

The children in the outskirts of Potosi have usually been displaced out of their original surroundings: the country side. They have gone to Potosi with their parents for economic reasons: father starts to work in the mines. Often they don't speak Spanish - yet - and they have trouble expressing themselves. But dancing and making music with other children: that's a happy thing! And if you go to school happily, you learn more.

In the city environment traditional norms and values are not as present. Even so, keeping in touch with these is important for your identity. To keep up the knowledge of original music and the use of native instruments, a music teacher will be appointed for three months and the primary school "1. De Mayo San Ildefonso" (with 200 students) in Potosi will be given access to native instruments. What is needed? 1 drum with sticks, 34 zampoñas (panpipes), 1 couple of basins and a music teacher.

At first, 45 students (10-15 years) will be given music lessons. They will form a group for music which other students can join later on. A nice impulse for the primary school education to mineworker's children in Potosí.

Cost: € 355,- (already provided for)

This project will start at the beginning of 2015!

2. Bread baking project

To stimulate structural improvements in education in Potosi, we support initiatives to set up new - vocational - training programs that will attract

the youth. For student-bread bakers and bread bakers in Potosi a bread baking training program is being set up. It is our first coproduction with cooperation partner Fundacion Autapo, about which we wrote in newsletter no. 10.

The bread in Potosi is very poor quality, while it is an important part of daily nutrition for the poor. It's a double edged sword.

There are 150 people who can participate; the training program costs € 9 per person.

Training costs: € 1350. For 50 participants the costs have already been covered.

How many participants can you offer this chance?



Projects being set up:



1. Centro de madres – Lajas (centre for mothers)

In the small town of Lajas, in 2013, a group of about 15 madres (mothers) asked our help to realize a Centro de Madres, a place for them to meet, support each other, and who knows: start a knitting atelier.

The mineworker's wives had already made sure a little building was constructed, made from adobe (a type of clay stones, baked in the sun) and they asked for our support to finish and furnish it. They want to work on a better future for their families, and to be away from the mining, the only course of income in this region.

Now, a design is being made for a durable and multifunctional building with sanitation which also benefits the school nearby.

The local government has embraced this idea and has promised the plot, cooperation and support. The community will contribute with work (digging, loading and unloading of building materials), which is an absolute condition to start the project. That is good news!

We are also looking into the possibility to set up a training program to learn tile baking. An ancient craft that, in a new iteration, could find good outlets in the housing construction companies of Potosí. Work opportunities and income as an alternative for the mining that is exactly what one needs here!

Will you help to fully realize this beautiful plan?

2. Water for the children's day-care centre with the mine Caracoles-Potosí

20 years ago 2 Bolivian widows from mine workers started a day-care centre on the mountain Cerro Rico, so the mothers could go to work in the mines, to sort minerals for instance. In this centre, children and the youth are cared for, before and after school; on top of that, they get a meal and homework supervision from a teacher.

It is a nice, well running Bolivian project that is now seeking financial support to extend the drink water supply and improve sanitation. An excellent idea we really want to support.

While in Potosi the water and sanitation plan is being worked on, we hope to find support for this basic service we would like to realize in 2015.

Will you help us?



Report visit to projects in Potosí

During the special Amigos trip in October 2014, traveling Amigos have visited three projects from the foundation Amigos de Potosi (AdP) and seen with their own eyes what has been accomplished until this year. On the website you can find a report (in Dutch) written by one of the participants, board member Annemie Heesink.

Will you help realize these plans?

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

Become donor and make a monthly, quarterly, or yearly donation. You can set this up through internet banking or via your own bank!

(At the moment our English website is under construction. But very soon you can use iDeal or Pay Pal to make a gift online!)

Muchas gracias!

Finished projects:

1. 1994 Radio installation mine Candelaria Baja
2. 1995 Electricity mine Candelaria Baja
3. 1996 Water tank mine Candelaria Baja
4. 1996 Water tank mine Rosario Bajo
5. 1996 Water tank mine Santa Rita
6. 2002 Water tank mine Porvenir
7. 2006 Water tank mine San German
8. 2006 Water tank mine Colquechaquita
9. 2006 Music and sport supplies for primary school
10. 2008 Solar Shower and school greenhouse NT
11. 2008 Solar shower and school greenhouse CB
12. 2008 Intercultural students exchange
13. 2009 water tank mine 27. de Marzo
14. 2009 Waterworks school
15. 2011 Computer project secondary school
16. 2011 Washhouses/water pump boarding school
17. 2011 Water Pump high school
18. 2012 Lavatory primary school
19. 2013 Greenhouse primary school
20. 2013 Mediatheque high school
21. 2014 Computers and Internet high school
22. 2014 Furniture multipurpose centre

New Projects:

23. 2015 Rebuilding centre for mothers
24. 2015 Bread baking Education
25. 2015 Music school primary school
26. 2015 Water supply afterschool day-care



Negro Tambo



Chiutara Baja

Caiza



Projects in Bolivia