



PARTNERSHIP AMERICA LATINA

With the Little Sisters of the Assumption

NEWSLETTER – March 2012



Dear Friends of PAL

On the weekend of 5/6th February 2012, I had the great joy of visiting a Settlement of 18 families in the south of Brazil to see their newly acquired tractor.

These families once were landless, but now have a settlement on which they live and cultivate the land.

When I first got to know them, I was very struck by the sheer difficulty they had in cultivating their land.

Each family has 14-15 acres but could only cultivate a few acres as no one had machinery and all work was done manually. The families cultivate beans, corn, sugar cane, coffee, and some fruits such as bananas and oranges for consumption and for sale in the local markets.

Their great dream for many years was to have a tractor, but it was beyond their financial possibilities.

*Now, thanks to the partnership between **PAL** and **Misean Cara**, (Irish Aid) it has been possible for them to buy a tractor on 4th January 2012. This will make a very big difference to them, in terms of the extra amount of land they will be able to cultivate.*

*They are particularly grateful to **PAL**, because **PAL** entered into this project in an emergency situation, when the local Municipal Authority which was to be the second partner, reneged on their written promise to help co-finance the tractor.*

That is not surprising to me as I have worked in Brazil for the past 17 years, and have been involved in similar situations where the local authority reneged on written commitments to fund community projects.

So this experience shows how vital it is to have organizations such as PAL which are willing to help some of the poorest people in the world in times when their own people won't help them. The truth is that this Association would have lost the tractor project had it not been for the quick action of PAL, who, on becoming aware that the commitment to co-finance had fallen through, stepped into the breach and donated the amount outstanding. This is an excellent example of the importance of non-governmental organizations which have the flexibility to meet needs as they present themselves, without a mountain of bureaucracy. So well done to PAL and to all its supporters. Keep up the good work

kind regards,

from Queiroz, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Sr. Bride Counihan L.S.A N.B. *On her return to Ireland Sr. Bride will be working with **LSA/PAL** on our projects and will be replacing Sr. Mairead Linden (see page 2).*

Wills and Legacies

If you would like to learn more, See our attached wills leaflet or Phone Brid Cahir at 014900829 or email: bridcahir@eircom.net

..Look us up at www.palcharityprojects.ie
Also see us on **Facebook**.

Friends of PAL!

Please pass this Newsletter on to a friend who might like to help us in some way. **PAL** members are all volunteers who try to help our Brothers and Sisters who live in poverty.

Greeting Cards for all occasions, hand-made by the people in our Latin American projects; the sale of these cards are a great source of income for them. The cards are available from Sheila Birkett ph: 2968692/0857316580



Our Mini Marathon Fund Raisers

Would you and your friends like to volunteer for this fun event this year. You don't have to be a fully fledged runner, you can walk with the rest of us and have a great day out! Contact: **Clodagh Veale** at 01 4976493

Marathon Men

Thank you to **Dominic Gallagher** who ran for **PAL** in the Dublin City Marathon and to **John Mc.Kevitt**, Carlingford who raised €600 by running in the Berlin Marathon.

Dates for your Diary.

17th March: Charity Fun Walk in Glendalough (flyer enclosed)
27th May: Sale of Work in Geraldine Glasgow's home.
4th June: Womens' Mini Marathon



Geraldine Glasgow, in photo, is hosting her sale of work in aid of PAL, on **27th May** in her own home, **Kairos House, Sandyford Village**. Geraldine has also given over one of her rooms to our art group for their painting for PAL. If you have toys, bric-a-brac, cosmetics, household items, unwanted gifts, books etc. (except clothes) - She is accepting items now. Contact Geraldine at 01 2953631



Successful fundraising events...

Thank you Friends

A beautiful patchwork quilt donated to our Art Sale by Pauline Bradford; made with her friends Aileen Greene, Rose Murphy, Siobhan O'Tolle, Pauline Waddell and Josefa Ryan. Hours of dedicated work for **PAL**.

If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please contact Maura Roche at 012986862

Sr. Mairead Linden of the Little Sisters of the Assumption with **Mary Roberts** from Peru. Mairead has worked tirelessly on the Projects for the past four years and is now taking up a new position in her Congregation. Sr. Mairead has been a constant source of encouragement to all of us during these times of hardship at home and abroad and never gave up hope. We wish her all the best in her new post and thank her sincerely for her hard work and support; she is a great loss to us.



Bea and Marie from the Paint for Pal group at our successful Art Sale. A special thanks to Gabriel Ennis and family, without whom this sale could not take place.

