



PARTNERSHIP AMERICA LATINA (PAL)

With the Little Sisters of the Assumption

Newsletter

October 2010

Last June 18 of us set off on a study tour of our projects in South America. We visited 4 Projects in Peru and 4 of our team went on to Colombia to visit 6 more. Each person paid the cost in full and in addition, raised over €40,000 to bring out to the Projects. In this newsletter we discuss three projects we visited in Peru. Please come to our Irish Aid Day on the 30th October to hear about all Projects.



PAL with the Fraternidad Committee

Fraternidad - Lima: Being disabled in a developing country usually means having no education because there are no transport facilities for the disabled; public transport is so overcrowded it is impossible for them to travel to school.

Furthermore, the person feels a burden to their hard pressed family as they cannot earn money. Isolation and depression are a natural consequence of this.

But enter Sr. Cristina, Luzmila and their team of disabled people, called the Fraternidad. By a process of one to one counselling, seminars, courses, workshops and support groups they have reached out to over 500 disabled people and transformed their lives. They build up their self esteem, restore to them a sense of dignity and enable them to become active members of society. Some have set up micro-enterprises and PAL is spearheading an initiative to help more disabled people work as this gives them some economic independence.

Manthoc is a centre for worker children in Lima, Peru. The all live precariously on the side of a hill in makeshift dwellings, like a human ant hill, most without water and electricity. Children from the ages of 6 or 7 have to sell items on the streets everyday to earn money for the family. There is no social welfare here. Most come from broken and violent home backgrounds. These young vulnerable children face many kinds of exploitation as they peddle their small wares on the streets of Lima. The area is noted for violence and drug addiction.

The Centre provides them with a safe haven, away from the violent environment in which they live, for at least for 4 or 5 hours a day. They also receive a nutritious meal as many of them are mal nourished. They can also have a shower once a week in the centre. Education plays a big part in the Centre and children are able to study in peace, with constant monitoring by teachers. It is through education that most will break free from the never ending cycle of poverty and marginalization. 100 children attend the Centre every day.



Shanty Town where the Children live



Siloe

The 'school for children without school' is an initiative set up by Sr. Celmira in Cali Colombia. She is 80 years of age now. The aim is to give children who are outside the educational system because of violence, exclusion, discrimination, poverty, attention deficit and forced displacement, a chance to return to education. The children are from dysfunctional families where in most instances the father has left the home. With one to one teaching and psychosocial help the children are prepared for return to mainstream education.

This year six of them returned to ordinary school. Student volunteers help with this project at present but what is required is a full-time dedicated teacher who can put a plan in place to help the children and their mothers. Unfortunately the Government does not support such projects. We need €6,000 per annum to keep this project going.

During our trip, as agreed in advance with the Projects, €67,000 was transferred to them to assist with their development plans: €6,000 for worker children in Lima; €6,000 for Educational Project in Arequipa, Peru; €30,000 towards the provision of an Income Generation Centre in Bogota; €3,000 to Fraternidad for disabled people; €7,500 to el Hogar to purchase a car, to transport wheel chair patients to Hospitals for treatment; €4,500 for deprived children in Sucre, Colombia. We also transferred €10,000 to Manthoc, kindly donated from Electric Aid to reduce malnutrition among the children. It was great to see the difference monies already sent have made to each project, thanks to Friends of PAL and Misesan Cara.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Barbara Young receiving her prize of a photograph on Canvas of "Glendalough" by Angela Murphy from Eibhlin O'Scolláin. Eibhlin organized a super Bridge morning and Lunch in Killiney Golf Club which raised €3,480! Go raibh mile maith agat a Eibhlin.

Geraldine Glasgow donated to PAL €3,073, half the proceeds of a monster sale of work in her home! Thank you Geraldine.

If any kind person would like to organise a fund-raiser for PAL please contact Nollaig O'Ceallaigh @ Nollaig.pal@gmail.com or phone 087 126 9538 / 01 28 06494



Camino Fund Raiser

Thank you Friends of Pal who donated €9,370 and all 36 had a Buen Camino. Who knows maybe Mexico next year?



Marathon

Our Ladies Mini Marathon Team headed by Teresa O'Flynn raised over €3,000 and enjoyed also themselves in spite of rain. Thank you Teresa and Sandra.



Card Making workshop

Thank you Louise Glennon and Rachel Kelly for a fun Cardmaking Workshop with afternoon tea and cakes made by Rosleen Glennon. €507 was raised for PAL.



We need more 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 are living in poverty.

Cards for all Occasions !!!

Hand made in Peru!

If you want Christmas Cards, Individual Greeting Cards or Birthday Cards that are made by disabled people why not buy some from:

Sheila Birkett
296 8692 / 085 731 6580

Dates for Your Diary

Gabriel Ennis and his Paint for Pal Group will exhibit and sell their work in Stillorgan Park Hotel on Tuesday 16th November 11am to 9pm. Please come along with your Friends.

Dominick Gallagher will run for Pal in the Marathon on Bank Holiday Monday, all sponsorship support welcomed. It's his 42nd Dublin City Marathon!

Trip to Mexico in planning stage for September 2011, if interested phone Fergus 01 2986862.

Donations to PAL

Little Sisters of the Assumption,
42 Rathfarnham Road,
Dublin 6W

Bank details

Little Sisters of the Assumption,
PAL account,
Allied Irish Bank,
Terenure,
Dublin 6W

Account no: 04846553
Sort code: 93 13 30

All monies go direct to the Little Sisters and to their projects.

Partnership America Latina
Invite you to join us

For a Presentation of our
Trip to Peru and Colombia

in the Irish Aid Centre
O'Connell & Cathal Brugha Street
Saturday, October 30th,
from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served

Please bring a friend

This is not a fundraising event