



PARTNERSHIP AMERICA LATINA

With the Little Sisters of the Assumption

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER – October 2011



A hot meal: Below - Maria & Rosario



Siloe is an area on a hill in Cali, Colombia, where most families survive in makeshift dwellings. This project was set up by **Sr. Celmira**, Little Sister of the Assumption, for children from displaced and dysfunctional families who are unable to avail of normal schooling, displaced by the internal conflicts that have ravaged Colombia during the past 15 years. (After Darfur, Africa, Colombia has the most displaced people in the world, an estimated 3 million).

Two years ago, **PAL** applied and was granted money from Misesan Cara (Irish Aid) and combined with money from PAL a special school and playground was built. **PAL** has committed to funding the teaching for the next 3 years and we are grateful to the **Irish National Teachers' Organization** for a generous contribution pledged for the same period. The local University also provides assistance to the Teacher. The children are provided with a cooked meal each day as they are often too hungry to concentrate. The objective of this school is to assist children to eventually access main stream education; they achieve this by giving individual attention to each child and their family. Already this year 10 children have been enabled make this transition. Siloe, where they live is a violent drug ridden area; one of the pupils was used as a human shield by a drug dealer and the boy was shot dead, less than one hundred metres from the school. **A big thanks to all Friends of PAL and especially our Direct Debit Friends, as it enables us to plan long term.**

Fraternidad Lima, Peru:

Fraternidad is a voluntary organisation in Peru that tries to help disabled people: this organisation is actually run by the disabled themselves as there is no government help. PAL has in the past funded the refurbishment of a toilet block and supplied computers and other equipment and now through the generosity of one **Friend of PAL** we have funded 3 disabled people on a two year college course on Leadership and Social Awareness, in order to effect change amongst their 160 members. Photo:- Maritza, who is chairperson of the Fraternidad and her two disabled companions, Antonio and Gaston, at a course for leadership in Lima.



The Philippines

Four Little Sisters of the Assumption who work in the most deprived area of the Philippines recieved a grant of €20,000 from Misesan Cara (Irish Aid). They run a very successful Health Clinic, with six trained Community Health Workers and offer medicines at a reduced rate. The Clinic monitors children and offers a deworming programme. They also provide an Education Centre for children and young men and women. They have started an income generation Centre which to date has created some small projects that now employs 23 people.



Income generation project



A dangerous place to live

Wills and Legacies

Leaving a gift in your will to PAL will help us to continue our work for the benefit of the marginalized in South America. If you would like to learn more, phone Brid Cahir at 014900829 or email: bridcahir@eircom.net for our wills leaflet and special legal package through Pal's solicitor

Our new **website** is up and running. Look us up at www.palcharityprojects.ie
Also see us on **Facebook**.

Become a Pal Volunteer.

- Have you IT skills?
- Can you write applications?
- Have you Spanish or Portuguese?
- Are you a good organizer?
- Can you help with fundraising events?

A few hours a week can make a big difference to alleviating poverty and fighting injustice.

Contact Fergus at 01 2986862 or email fmroche2@eircom.net

THIS CHRISTMAS:- TWO WAYS TO DO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL!

1st - Beautiful Christmas cards, handmade in Peru and Colombia. €1 each. Also Greetings Cards, blank inside, suitable for all occasions. €1 each.
2nd - Christmas Gift Cards available at €10 & €25 each. These gift cards state clearly that a donation to PAL has been made in your name. Order form enclosed. Both you, & the recipient, will appreciate that, by using these cards, you are giving support and encouragement to the micro-enterprises that struggle to survive. You are moving them to self-sufficiency and out of the poverty trap that currently rules their lives.

Sheila Birkett @ 01 2968692/ 085 7316580

Somalia Famine Relief.

PAL has sent a €1.000 for famine relief to the Spiritan priests who are in the middle of the drought. Here is an excerpt from their report. **Sickness and Hunger.**

• Under a tree one young woman nurses her six-month old child who is sick from malaria. She has two tablets that she tries to dissolve in water so that the infant can swallow. The other young children remain in a death-like silence. Liz and Naduma visited a neighbouring household. As they entered, an old person who had died from hunger was being taken out for burial. A small school child collapses; he had not eaten for three days.

Date for your Diary

Art Exhibition and Christmas Market.
5th November, Stillorgan Park Hotel, 11am to 5pm

Free admission and Free parking. This is your next opportunity to assist with fundraising.

- Buy a painting for a friend or even treat yourself!
- Come & enjoy a sense of Christmas, bring or buy a cake.
- Contribute your unwanted gifts.
- Display enclosed flyer
- Do come along and bring all your friends

Contact **Maura Roche** @ 0863140957
or mauraroche2@eircom.net

Mini Marathon

Our Womens Mini Marathon headed by Finola McDonald raised over €4,700. All enjoyed themselves in spite of rain. Thank you Finola and Co.



Would you and your friends like to volunteer for this fun event next year?

Contact **Clodagh Veale** @ 01 4976493

Good News

Sr. Bride Counihan from Cork has completed 15 years in drought ridden North Eastern Brazil working with the poor, helping them develop water preservation systems as it only rains once a year and developing a network of educational facilities. Now she is returning to Ireland where she will work fulltime on the **LSA/PAL** projects from early next year. She is currently visiting all our projects in Latin America to develop a better understanding of what is needed and at the same time strengthening relationships. She will be a great asset to **PAL!**

Many thanks to Nollaig O'Ceallaigh who has just completed 3 years as Chair person of PAL. He was our first Chairperson and has steered us through the growing pains of a new organization and has set us on a course for a bright future. He is remaining on the committee as correspondant for Redesol in Colombia.

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