

# PARTNERSHIP AMERICA LATINA

with the Little Sisters of the Assumption



Abundant crops, the obvious benefit of the tractor. Sr. Gertrude & Zee, treasurer of the Association.



Sr. Bride returned to Brazil to visit her projects there. She had spent 17 years of her life working in the desert of North East Brazil. Here she tells us about a young man called Gales.

'Gales, a father of 4, worked hard on New Year's Day 2013 on his farm. Hard work was no stranger to him as he had tilled this land for many years, confronting the mountainy terrain with just hand farm implements. Things were now looking really good as he had been able to plant a larger area of land in the past few months, due to the new tractor.

This tractor was purchased by funds from Misesan Cara (Irish Aid) and PAL for the benefit of 20 subsistence farmers and their families. **Pal donated €15,000 towards the tractor.** Although these had been given land they could only till a fraction of it as they only had simple hand implements. Finally it looked as if they were really going to be able to lift themselves out of poverty. As members of the Association of the Settlement of Good Hope, they now shared the use of the tractor.

Commenting on this he had said some months earlier 'It is like a dream come true.' With the new tractor, he was able to till and cultivate previously inaccessible steep hills, thus increasing considerably the produce he could sell at the market. They had good fresh fruit and vegetables to eat and for the first time ever, money left over!

But sadly, this young man will never see the full realization of his dream. He was brutally murdered on last New Year's night, as he sat at home after a hard day's work, watching TV with his wife and children.

These are the areas and social conditions in which Pal works. They are not burdened down by bureaucracy and red tape.

All money they raise goes directly to the projects in Latin America with no overhead costs. Here is some of what the people themselves said, as a result of having the tractor.

'I was able to harvest 35 bags of corn in 2012 due to using the tractor, as compared with just 3 bags of corn in 2011.'

'I was able to continue to transport my vegetables to the market during the rainy season.'

'I was able to collect manure for my farm using the tractor so my level of production increased.'

Pal supports three other projects in Brazil, including a Childrens' Centres in Umbaranas, in the semi desert region of Brazil where I worked for 17 years. The Childrens' Centre is staffed by local women trained by the lay volunteers of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, in the Montessori method of preschool education. They offer preschool education to some of the poorest children in an area where adult illiteracy is high, and where children lack support at home for their school work. Many of the 84 children aged 3 to 12 years who attend these programmes receive breakfast and a hot cooked meal at mid-day as many of them come to school hungry.

The Centres depend on funding from voluntary organizations within Brazil and from Ireland, to supplement the efforts they make themselves to raise funds.

**Pal donated €10,000 last year to this project.**



## Dates for your Diary 2013

### PAL - St. Patrick's Day Walk

Enjoy an outing in a magnificent setting, while helping a worthy cause.

#### Starting Place:

Glendalough Visitors' Centre Car Park.

**Time:** 11 a.m. Sunday, March 17, 2013.

**Come early for coffee and whiskey.**

#### Guided Walks:

At 3 levels: moderate, easy and for family/children. Boots and raingear required for higher levels.

Bring your own food and drink.

**Donations:** These will be gratefully accepted at registration on the day.

## Sale of Work

Geraldine Glasgow is running her famous Sale of Work on Sunday 26th May from 11 to 4p.m. at Kairos House, Sandyford Village.

She is looking for toys, bric-a-brac, jewellery, Cosmetics and household items – unwanted golf prizes, gifts etc – except clothes & furniture

These can be delivered directly to Kairos house after the 8th May but please phone Geraldine in advance at 087 4177433

## Christmas Fair 2013

Saturday 9th November

Stillorgan Park Hotel.

Contact Brid Cahir at 086 6800270

## Fun Challenge

### Women's Mini Marathon 3rd June

Run-Walk-Jog. Get fit and help raise funds for Pal on a fun day with 30,000 other women.

Book now with Clodagh Veale at 01 4976493 to receive T. Shirt, Sponsor Card and light lunch on the day.

## Powerpoint Presentation

Micheal Delahunty shares his beautiful views of Wicklow and Connemara on Friday 6th September, Landsdowne Hotel at 8.p.m.

Free parking from 7 p.m.

Refreshments available

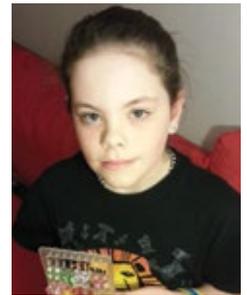
Contact Nollaig at 0871269538

## 3rd Art Sale & Fair



Thanks to Gabriel whose idea this was 3 years ago and who continues to paint beautiful picture for Pal & thanks to 'Paint for Pal' friends. To Mary, Marie and friends for a fantastic first cake sale.

To Evie & Eileen who made the wonderful jewellery for our Christmas Fair. To Sr. Finola for wonderfully painted glass. To Geraldine for running our gift stall. To Sheila for cards for our Projects. And finally thank you to everyone who supported Pal on the day and helped raise €7,000.



## Sr. Bernie goes to work in Peru

Sr. Bernie Donovan, Little Sister of the Assumption, who has just gone to Peru to support some of the PAL Projects there.



## Thankyou

### Thank you to Misean Cara (Irish Aid)

Last year Misean Cara approved grants of €256,000 for 8 of our Projects in Latin America.

## 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. Look us up at 'www.palcharityprojects.ie', contact us at 'info@palcharityprojects.ie' Find us on Facebook.

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**Wills and Legacies:** Copies of our leaflet available.

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