

PARTNERSHIP AMERICA LATINA

with the Little Sisters of the Assumption



Sr. Bride with some of the Nede family.



Sr. Bride recently visited 4 of our projects in Brazil. Here she gives us a flavour of life on the ground for the Sisters working in Latin America. Meet some of the families they work with.

This is a family with the mother of 8 children. The father deserted. Four of the children suffer from a severe condition which is described as something similar to AIDS, in that the blood lacks some essential ingredients. The condition is treatable and with good medical attention a lot of improvement is possible. However, these children have had almost no treatment and therefore four of them suffer the worst effects of the disease. Some cannot speak, and some cannot walk and none except the girl of 14, has ever been to school. A lot of improvement in speech and walking is possible with proper school attendance at a school for children with special needs.

***Mariana, 3 years of age, has the full-blown illness, does not speak and one eye is badly turned outwards.**

***Renata, aged 6 years, has traces of the illness but it will not become full-blown.**

***Ana Julia, aged 10, has the full-blown illness and does not speak.**

***Junho, aged 11, has the full-blown illness and does not speak. He also has wounds.**

***Alison aged 13, has the full-blown illness, does not speak and cannot walk properly.**

The family lives literally underground, in a roughly constructed premises. There are no windows or front door. The family survives on a pension which Alison aged 13 is entitled to because of his deformities. Four of the children use nappies as they have not been toilet-trained. They get regular food hampers from the Church and from the St. Vincent de Paul society. The Little Sisters have been supporting the family over the years, but have felt unable to get to grips with the two major problems, which are lack of medical attention, and lack of schooling.

Pal has agreed to fund a programme which will enable the family to secure the medical attention they need and to help them access some form of education.

This is a young mother with her 5 year old child. She also has an infant of just under 2 years. She is a single mother aged 22. Her life has been precarious since her adolescence. She left her family of origin because of severe conflicts at 16 years of age and lived rough on the streets of Umburanas, with no income whatsoever. She suffered severe rejection and serious bouts of depression and lived in abject poverty, not knowing where her next meal would come from.



When she became pregnant with her first child, she continued with no fixed abode, and friends and other people of good will tried to help her. As she matured a little, she was able to rent a room and begin to try to build a life for herself and her child. Being in such a vulnerable situation and open to sexual exploitation, she became pregnant again with her second child. Her income today is the Bolsa Familia, which is a government income for people who have very little or no income at all. She gets €40 per month for herself and her two children. From this she pays €24 rent for a small one-bedroomed house. She pays €6 for water charges and €3 electricity monthly.

This leaves her approx. €8 for food for herself and her two children per month!





When I visited, we found this mother with medical prescriptions for her little girl who had a very bad mouth infection. She told us she had bought three tablets for her but had no money for any more.

We took the prescriptions to the local chemist and paid €16 for them.

There was no way this mother could have bought this medication herself.



This photo is of a mother and her three children. The little girl aged 5 is just finishing in preschool and is going to primary school next year, and the other children are aged 3 and 1 year.

This little girl has several infected wounds on her body which basically come from lack of hygiene.

The house is a very poor house, made of the cheapest material, and with little or no furniture.

The whole family sleeps on one mattress on the floor.

The mother had medical prescriptions for the little girl which cost €26.

She only managed to buy the medication because she borrowed half of the cost.

This family lives on the government Bolsa Familia of about €60 per month.

P.A.L. Charity Walk, St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2014

Starting Place:

Upper Car Park, College Road, Marley Park.

Time: 11am, March 17, 2014.

Guided Walks:

At 2 levels, a moderate walk along the Wicklow Way up to Kilmashogue (Grades 3 and 4, at Grade 4 pace) and a flat Ambler walk around the park which would also suit families and children.

Come early for coffee and whiskey

Donations:

These will be gratefully accepted at registration on the day.

Have an enjoyable outing while helping a worthy cause.

Enquiries to: Sean Lowry: 01-295 1397
Clodagh Veale: 01-497 6493

Christmas Fair Success

The Christmas Fair was a great success and raised over €5000 for PAL. Many thanks to all those who supported it and especially to the stall holders who worked hard on the day and on the preparations leading up to the event. A special thanks to Brid Cahir who organised the event.

Columbia Visit

Good luck to Kathleen Forde and Sr. Bride who go to Columbia on the 3rd March to visit 5 of our projects there. They will report back in the next Newsletter.

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.

We have no paid staff.

Look us up at www.palcharityprojects.ie

contact us at info@palcharityprojects.ie

Little Sisters of the Assumption, 42 Rathfarnham Rd, D6W

Wills and Legacies: Copies of our leaflet available.

Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter. email eileenkelly@eircom.net, phone 4555851 or text name and the message *unsubscribe PAL* to 086 3804739

Thankyou

Many thanks to Geraldine Glasgow who has raised over €12,000 for PAL over the last few years and who has been an invaluable support.

