



Esperanza Update December 2016



Season's Greetings to All ! Now that we have passed the first Sunday in Advent I know that it is time for me to put together an update to let you know what has been happening in the Esperanza Foster Home in Asuncion, Paraguay over the past year.

The first thing to highlight would be that Esperanza has been home to 6 rather than 5 children for much of 2016 and that some of these have grown from toddlers to primary school children during their stay in the home as their legal cases have been so complicated and slow to be resolved. This is the case for sisters K and N. Their very difficult past has meant that adjusting to life in school has been particularly tricky for them and so sessions with a child psychologist have been organised, although finding the funding for these has not been easy for the Esperanza committee. Sometimes when particular health needs arise the Paraguayan Social Services become involved in providing services and sometimes contacts known to the Esperanza Committee will volunteer their services pro bono. Support from Paraguayan Social Services has been inconsistent this year, for example no nappies or milk were provided for a 4 month period despite the fact that this provision is part of our original agreement with the Adoption Centre. Fortunately, several local donors were able to provide the nappies and milk during this period.

Even though there will always be challenges, there is much to celebrate too. At the very end of last year siblings J and M were able to go to their new adoptive family, little M in particular having made truly amazing progress during her time in Esperanza. The Paraguayan team were very reassured by the success of the match with their new mum and dad, especially as their new mum is a nurse. Birthdays are always celebrated, as is the anniversary of the home, now 11 years old. As prices rise, the team have been proactive in local fundraising to supplement what we donate from the UK. They held a charity lunch and have made a fundraising video which I hope you will be able to see on ...

https://youtu.be/SHY9U2YNc_c

Links with the nearby San Andrés Anglican School have also led to generous donations, for example one class recently held a bake sale with the proceeds going to Esperanza.

There have been several changes in staffing over the last year but this seems more stable now with the current "aunties" being Ana, Karina and Vicky. Volunteers come to help at the weekends, including Juana who was the original house mother for many years. Teresa, Pastor Agustin's wife, who has been a faithful supporter and volunteer since we began planning the home, has now retired and has moved to live in the village of Aregua. It can take an hour and a half for her to get to Esperanza on the bus but she is still very involved.

We are so grateful to all the members of the Paraguayan team who have enabled the project to continue for so long. We are equally grateful to all our UK donors. Your continued support is invaluable in providing a secure base that enables consistent love and care to be provided to these very disadvantaged children, no matter what challenges the team are facing month by month. Thank you! We wish you every blessing during this Christmas period and for the coming year.

If you would like to give a further donation, or increase your planned giving, please get in touch. All donations continue to be processed by the South American Mission Society of the UK and Ireland. If you are making a donation via their website please remember to specify that your gift is for the Esperanza Foster Home in Paraguay.

This comes with our love

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