

## *La Escuela Anexe The Annexe School Asuncion, Paraguay*

**I**n 1972 it was suggested that a school for the shanty town area of Asuncion should be started, using money which came from the St. Andrew's College. The school was initially for the San Vicente and San Felipe areas of the Chacarita, which house some of the poorest people in the world. A house was rented in the area near the railway, close to the Chacarita, and the school started with just two classrooms. In 1974 land was bought and a purpose-built school was erected. The first group of pupils received their diplomas eight years later.



Education is free to the children of the shanty town. This education is a real way for the people of the Chacarita to break the cycle of poverty and to gain a better quality of life for their children.

Many of the children in the Annexe are badly under-nourished, and so the school provides pupils with a breakfast each morning. This is why the Annexe school is so crucial to the area, it provides more than education but also a meal for a child who would often go hungry.

As a means of heightening awareness of the needs of those around them, each child of the St. Andrew's College is asked to provide one meal a week for a child of the Annexe. This provides those who are well off with a means of realising the difficulties that others (even those on their own door step) face, and shows them that their lifestyle is not "normality."

As well as providing education and food, the Annexe School hopes in the future to provide badly needed health and dental care for these children.

The Annexe School is a state supported school, but additional funds are supplied by St Andrew's College. These additional funds are vitally important, providing slightly better wages for the poorly paid teachers and extra resources for the

pupils. State schools are usually badly funded, with few books, and other basic resources and very large class sizes. SAMS Ireland in the past has raised awareness and financial support for the Annexe school through its Sunday school projects.

These projects are a very effective means, not



only of raising money, but of increasing awareness at home of the needs of the children in the Chacarita school in Asuncion.

One of the many ways that the school assists the poorer people of the Chacarita is through jumble sales. Clothes are supplied by the pupils and parents of St Andrew's and are sold to some of the poorest families associated with the Annexe School, who are invited to attend the sale.



The selling of clothes in this way has a twofold effect:

It provides the people of the Chacarita with a means of buying good clothing at very cheap prices. The purpose of charging a small amount is to enable people to retain a sense of dignity and a feeling of responsibility for themselves and their families.

It also gives the "well off" section of the community an opportunity to help those around them. In the past, money from these jumble sales has gone to an Orphanage in the Asuncion area.

The teachers from both the College and the Annexe are working together to help break the misconceptions that their respective pupils have of each other. Within the school year there are opportunities for the children of both schools to get together for special celebrations and days of

sport and friendship. In this way, children from very different social backgrounds can meet on equal terms, friendships can begin to form and mutual respect can have the chance to grow.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

140+ Children attend the school to receive a primary education.

9 Teachers.

Teaching is in Spanish.

Teachers from St. Andrew's College go to the Annexe each week to teach Bible lessons to the children.

£0.30 will supply a basic meal for a child

If you would like to prayerfully or financially support the Annexe School please contact:

South American Mission Society

SAMS House

1 Irwin Crescent

Lurgan

Craigavon

BT66 5EZ

Tel: 3831 0144/ 3832 2044

E-Mail: [info@samsireland.com](mailto:info@samsireland.com)

Web Site: [www.samsireland.com](http://www.samsireland.com)



***La Escuela  
Anexe***

***The Annexe  
School  
Asuncion,  
Paraguay***