

## SAN LORENZO

San Lorenzo is a very poor area with little work. Dusty earth roads are a quagmire during periods of rain. Some roads are on an incline so that deep ruts are formed, subsequently setting rock hard making the movement of vehicles extremely difficult.

As in all similar areas, there is plenty of rubbish lying around especially the ubiquitous plastic bag. But as usual there are plenty of smiling children and people eager to greet us. A mixture of housing, some built of huecos (large clay bricks), others a mixture of old corrugated iron sheets and bits of timber with earth floors and no piped water, electric or drainage systems. Much of the housing is built under large overhead power lines, which would of course never be allowed in the UK/Ireland because of health reasons.

One house where we have employed a builder to reconstruct is home to a woman with 4 children the youngest being 4 months. The house is a single room about 8 ft square and constructed with holes in the roof and walls - this is only one of many.

The children's club, a small building of about 6ft by 8ft floor area, is on a piece of land which through the generosity of the Mission Paraguay supporting churches, we are arranging to buy to enable a larger structure to be built hopefully next year to expand the work. On the experience of the short time which we have been here it is evident that there is a huge potential for work with children and families. Last week



*Mission Paraguay volunteers with children*

there were 85 children attending the events as well as a continual stream of women taking part in the sewing workshops and knitting classes. A lot of boys 10 years upwards were eager to learn to knit. The children's work has been going on here every week for 8 years led by Tao Rivas the Administrator for the Anglican Diocese, his wife and a team of dedicated people.

One of the jobs completed this week has been the building of a perimeter wall to improve security to the Club site - this provided employment for a local bricklayer. Members of the group repaired the concrete floor and whitewashed the buildings. Next week we will be building a base for the well which supplies the water to the site.

Please pray for Tao and the team together with the discussions to take place in late August about the possible construction of enlarged facilities.

David Orritt  
Co-ordinator of Mission Paraguay.

## REFLECTIONS FROM EVA BURTON Mission Paraguay volunteer

Living at Luque the church here has an upstairs flat where we are staying, with three bedrooms and two toilets - one with a shower! Luxury indeed!  
We have electricity, calor gas and ceiling fans to keep us cool. Even though it's winter in Paraguay, the weather is warmer than our summer in England. Lovely!



The week of sewing and knitting has now ended and was extremely successful. People who have never used a sewing machine before have completed simple garments. Mostly these were 'pantalons'/trousers - not only for children but also for their parents. Some people made sheets, pillow cases, shoulder bags and even a dress. It was wonderful to see their delight as they completed each item. The knitting circle was so enthusiastic that on the last day, a crowd of children literally ran into the room as soon as the doors were open! Many

of them had knitted a scarf or a headband and had learnt how to cast on and off as well as how to knit plain and purl stitches - and many of them were boys!

Altogether this workshop was a HUGE success and couldn't have happened without the support of what was given by such generous people in England. So an enormous THANK YOU to everyone who gave anything. There will now be an opportunity for people here to carry on this wonderful work when we all return home.

Thank you.

Evab

Eva Burton from Christ Church, Warminster

## REFLECTIONS FROM MOIRA LINDSAY Mission Paraguay volunteer



Wonderful, fantastic, brilliant and any other superlatives you can think of are how it felt to be able to show ladies from a shanty town called San Lorenzo how to make garments for themselves and their children. The look of sheer ecstasy on their faces was amazing as they learnt and completed the task. In the end several pairs of trousers were made. One elderly lady looked resplendent in a pink suit (jacket and skirt). Her daughter and granddaughter had made trousers and inserted a zip. Children and adults made scarves.

In Paraguay nothing is wasted and scraps were tied together with string to make dusters.

This has been an amazing experience.  
Thank you God, for giving me this opportunity.

Moira Lindsay  
From St.Saviour, Church of Ireland, Co.Armagh.