

EDUCATION “FOR LIFE” IN RURAL AREAS OF BOLIVIA

Pulmonaria Euroandina e. V. focuses on integral education, health and children and young people. We are currently trying to save a rural Bolivian school that provides integral education “for life” from closing.

LOCATION / TEACHING STYLE

The **Unidad Educativa Centro Piloto de Agrozootecnia** is located in Itapaya, a rural area of Cochabamba in Bolivia. **It is the only school in the area to provide an integral education to students.**

The Agrozootecnia School was started up by Father Antonio Bertha in 1994 and prepares secondary school students to become certified as agricultural technicians.

The students live on site and are between 12 and 20 years of age.

Each student has a small plot of land on which to practice the agricultural methods being taught and joins his/her classmates to work together and practice what they have learnt.

The school develops and promotes the students’ integral health, welfare and cultural development and so the director, **Engineer Jicela Panozo Perez**, has worked hard to streamline the organisational management and boost the teaching staff.

She has improved class times, ensured that the curriculum is recognised by the Ministry of Education, and negotiated the allocation of teachers qualified to teach each of the subjects offered at the school.

The school concentrates on instilling values, teaching conflict resolution and social skills, and working to raise social awareness. Apart from teaching the regular and technical curriculums, the school offers extracurricular courses on preventive healthcare, sex ed, assertive communication, self-esteem and values taught by a medical sociologist who works on a voluntary basis.

NEEDS

The support from the Italian people since the school was founded covers the most basic needs; the ceilings in the classrooms, dormitories, bathrooms, etc. were falling down and, thanks to the director’s tireless efforts and extra help from the Salesian community, were renovated at the beginning of the year.

Unfortunately, because of the school's strengths – tailor-made courses, and type of education provided - small classroom numbers mean that the government will only allocate a few teachers as it requires classes to have a minimum of 40 students before a teacher can be assigned.

Given the learning, cognitive, perception, environmental, emotional difficulties and family and social problems that many students face, the presence of an educational psychologist is required to motivate and equip those students who have learning problems with skills, and provide careers advice to all of the students.

Learning difficulties are understood as a lack of basic knowledge, difficulty processing information, problems with thinking, memorising and staying focussed, which leads to the student not assimilating and processing information to later be used in daily life.

During the rainy season rain and hailstorms damaged the school chapel. The 16-year old polycarbonate sheets have outlived their use and the gutters and downspouts need to be replaced. Some of the wood panels that cover the exterior of the chapel house are missing or are damaged. Likewise some of the shingles and ceiling sheets in one of the rooms to the left of the chapel are deteriorated.

There are no garden tools.

The school is in desperate need of an educational psychologist, teaching resources, office supplies, cleaning supplies for the classrooms, a laptop, bookshelves, repairs to the chapel roof and one of its wings but there are no funds available.

YOU CAN HELP REFURBISH THE SCHOOL AND PREVENT IT FROM HAVING TO CLOSE.

Together we can make a difference, thank you for your support!

Itapaya, 2014

ONE-OFF EXPENSES:

| AMOUNT | DESCRIPTION | UNIT IN BOLIVIANOS | UNIT IN EUROS | TOTAL IN BOLIVIANOS | TOTAL IN EUROS |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | Metal bookshelves 1.85 x 1.20 x 0.40 | 2,900 | 311 | 8,700 | 936 |
| 1 | Laptop | 5,580 | 600 | 5,580 | 600 |
| 1 | Metal extension ladder | 1,975 | 212,50 | 1,975 | 212 |
| REPAIR WORK | | | | | |
| 6 | 8 mm polycarbonate sheets | 1,488 | 159,50 | 8,688 | 935 |
| 60 | Metal hangar for polycarbonate sheets | 2.50 | 0.26 | 150 | 16 |
| 10 | 4" gutter tube/downspout | 80 | 8.60 | 860 | 87 |
| 1 | ½ litre adhesive | 36 | 4 | 36 | 4 |
| 10 | Downspout elbow | 9 | 0.96 | 96 | 10 |
| 7 | Duralit roofing sheet | 106 | 11,40 | 742 | 80 |
| 42 | Metal hangar for ceiling sheets | 2.50 | 0.26 | 105 | 12 |
| 7 | 9 mm sheet for false ceiling | 195 | 21 | 1,365 | 147 |
| 1 | Bag of cement | 70 | 8 | 70 | 8 |
| 1 | 25 kg bag of lime | 35 | 3.80 | 35 | 4 |
| 1 | Garden tap | 45 | 4.90 | 45 | 5 |
| 2 | Sprinkler | 70 | 8 | 140 | 16 |
| 1 | Pruning shears | 95 | 11 | 95 | 11 |
| 1 | Metal rake | 45 | 5 | 45 | 5 |
| 1 | Lawnmower | 680 | 74 | 680 | 74 |
| 140 | Hardwood post for the fence | 8 | 0.86 | 1,120 | 121 |
| 5 | Roll of fencing mesh | 835 | 90 | 4,175 | 450 |
| 6 | Roll of wire | 15 | 1.61 | 90 | 10 |
| 4 | kg staples | 35 | 3.80 | 140 | 15 |
| 1 | 400W bulb | 710 | 77 | 710 | 77 |
| Total expenditure | | ----- | ----- | 35,642 | 3,836 |

EXPENDITURE OVER 2 YEARS:

| AMOUNT | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT IN BOLIVIANOS (per month) | AMOUNT IN BOLIVIANOS (per year) | AMOUNT IN EUROS (per month) | AMOUNT IN EUROS (per year) |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Educational psychologist (1 st year) | 30 | 360 | 323 | 3,876 |
| 1 | Educational psychologist (2 nd year) | 30 | 360 | 323 | 3,876 |
| Total Expenditure (2 years) | | ----- | 720 | ----- | 7,752 |

EXPENDITURE PER SEMESTER:

| DESCRIPTION | IN BOLIVIANOS | IN EUROS |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Teaching material: Scissors, coloured cardboard, coloured paper, sellotape, drawing pins, Eva rubber, marker pens, unlined white paper (A4), ink for printer | 575 | 62 |
| Classroom cleaning supplies: brooms, mops, buckets, rubbish bins, liquid soap, detergent, rubber gloves | 2,800 | 302 |
| Total Expenditure | 3,375 | 364 |

TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURE:

| DESCRIPTION | IN BOLIVIANOS | IN EUROS |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| One-off expenses | 35,642 | 3,836 |
| Teachers' salaries (2 years) | 720 | 7,752 |
| Hygiene kits (4 semesters) | 3,375 | 364 |
| Total Expenditure | 111,017 | 11,952 |