

Two Years On: It seems incredible that OSA has been in operation for two years now, as such a lot has happened in that time. Who would have thought that we could be registered both in UK and Paraguay, the proud owners of a substantial property and still feeding over 100 needy children most school days? In addition, our sponsorship programme moves on apace. Many of the children fostered at the Recalde household are being supported by generous folk from UK so they have no concerns about school uniform, books or exam fees (or food, of course!). We even have youth and school groups offering to sponsor individuals. But there are still others in need of help, so if you're interested and able to commit a regular amount of money every month, or just want to send a one-off gift, please contact us.

Spreading Out: We expect our work to expand over the coming months as our toy library goes out into the surrounding villages. Many children have so little that they are almost overwhelmed when presented with a variety of things to play with. In fact, for some the very concept of play is almost alien. Often parents are too busy or simply unaware of the educational value of play, so the toy library is a new experience for them too. Many mothers are very young and inexperienced and often left to cope alone. Casual conversations at the toy library visit can give a good indication of need and provide an avenue for future help. By this means we can help these young mums become more loving and effective parents.

The Toy Library in Action



Building for the Future: In the last copy of Update we introduced the idea of building accommodation for the older girls in our foster home. We have outline plans for this and expect the cost to be in the region of £20,000 but our funds are fully committed at present. Our longer term aim to provide basic skills for work may also require a building project but initially more land than we have at present and we have begun negotiations at a local level. We hope that we can acquire adjacent land for a further £2-3000. These are large sums for a small charity, particularly when our supporters in the UK are struggling with the deepest recession in recent history but we are always optimistic and keen to contact individuals and organisations with a heart for helping others.

Shipping Out Again: For the second year running we have reserved space in a 40-foot container bound for Paraguay, leaving the UK in November. As we go to press with this newsletter we have begun the process of collecting goods needed in Quyuquyhó and elsewhere. Osvaldo Recalde has sent us a detailed list of items needed, from clothes to curtains, tools to textiles and from school equipment to sewing supplies. By the time you read this we will have sorted packed and labelled dozens of boxes and suitcases with generous gifts from our supporters in an around the West Midlands. Hopefully this year's container, generously provided again by Graham Aston, with support from the Paraguayan Embassy, the Friends of Paraguay and Luxfords of Weybridge, will have a more trouble-free voyage and may get to Paraguay in time for Christmas or the New Year.