

It is some months since our last publication, not because nothing has happened, quite the reverse, in fact. The more observant amongst you will notice that sometimes we express an intention, say to build a particular facility, and it may not actually happen, although we do try to keep you abreast of current events. The fact is that circumstances change, new opportunities occur and, as a Christian organisation, we believe that a mightier hand than ours is in control. This can lead to confusion from time to time but progress happens. Just a couple of months ago we produced our first accounts and report for the Charity Commission, as we are obliged to do by law. It was both encouraging and humbling to see what had been achieved in just over two years. Some of the information is available for public view on <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>. Just enter our registration number 1121411 to view it.

Phil Grainger, our Founder, and Paul Puttergill, Deputy Chairman, have just returned from a series of meetings in Paraguay to discuss visions for the future and gauge what is achievable. One such meeting, with The Minister for Children and Adolescents, gave us a real boost. We were told that our work at Quyuquyó (QQH) was the best example of its kind in the country and they asked whether they could send representatives of other foster homes to see how Osvaldo and Marie-Luisa run things on our behalf. They see us as a flagship and hope to secure international funding as a result. Hopefully we will benefit financially, although there are no guarantees. We still rely on your support on a daily basis and do exist on a hand to mouth basis, on occasions. Regular readers will know that our volunteers, (management committee included) are self-funding, so that the maximum finance is available for expenditure in Paraguay. However, it would be good to build up a fund for those emergencies which crop up from time to time, rather than rely on the generosity of individuals to help us out. If you are not on our list of regular givers, please consider it if you are able.



OSA Property in QQH



Extended Comedor



The Daily Meal

So where are we now?:

- The Comedor or dining provision is in use daily, during term time, providing a nutritious meal for up to 150 of the poorest children in and around QQH. Some of the food is grown on our own land.
- Our property and the safety of the children is now secured by a high fence, surrounding the newly extended Comedor, volunteers house and extensively planted land, complete with pig sties and chicken runs.



El Puente



Work in Progress



More Space

- A five minute walk away is El Puente (The Bridge), currently the Recalde family house, home to 17 girls from 1 to 16 years. We are in the process of extending and re-fitting the sleeping areas as 17 young ladies do need their space (although nowhere near as much as in UK!).



Container Contents Sorting



Belated Christmas Presents



Replacement 4x4

- The container in which we sent out 100 cases of clothes, shoes, tools, fabrics, and toys finally arrived at Asuncion in February and provided much needed supplies for the children of the village, plus belated Christmas gifts for our fostered girls.
- Unfortunately the 4x4 Chevrolet which we bought two years ago proved less than reliable and repairs were both expensive and difficult as parts had to be imported and most garages did not have the necessary expertise or equipment to solve the largely electronic problems. Thanks to a very generous gift we were able to replace it with a Toyota Landcruiser which should be much more reliable. It is in very good condition for a 12 year old vehicle.



Learning....



....Through....



....Play!

- The Toy library continues to be a major hit with the local children. It is now open once per week for, on average, 30 children from underprivileged families and twice per month during the academic year 100 children from Quyquyhó primary school have the opportunity to learn through play. The toys and dressing up materials which we are able to provide through the generous support of our readers, far exceed anything which is available locally

Future Plans: These depend largely on the financial support which is available. On a small scale we hope to set up a mobile burger bar at weekends and on special occasions, providing a place for young people of the village to meet safely, enjoy each other's company and buy burgers and hot dogs at reasonable prices. This will be run by our young people as part of a business venture intended to give them some commercial experience. It will not aim to make a huge profit, but merely to cover costs and provide a social facility.

Our first student has enrolled in a Higher Education course in Asuncion, studying design with IT. She will stay with her aunt during the week, returning to QQH at weekends. We are providing for course fees and transport. We are looking to provide our own accommodation in the future.

In the longer term we aim to provide a multi-use building on our land at QQH with IT facilities and space for training facilities to improve the employability of local young people. More of that in the next Update.