



## WELCOME

Welcome to our 'new look' Update, the newsletter which keeps you abreast of developments in our work in Paraguay. We are currently based in Quyquyhó in the district of Paraguari, where we run a home for 20+ young girls aged 3-17, all victims of poverty or abuse. On school days we also provide a free meal for children from poor families in the surrounding area. At our purpose-built Comedor they are given nutritious food and the opportunity to eat and play in safety. Numbers vary but currently average about 50.

The work is directed by Osvaldo and Marie-Luisa Recalde, an inspiring Paraguayan Christian couple who devote their time to improving the lives of young people in their home area.

Management and funding are under the control of a small committee in UK, with the help of many hundreds of generous folk who think that what we are doing is worthwhile and support us by giving generously and regularly.

Committee members regularly visit Paraguay and take small groups of interested supporters. However, all visitors pay their way and most make additional contributions to the work

## PRESIDENTIAL PRESENCE

Late in 2012 Federico Franco, the President of Paraguay paid an unexpected visit to Quyquyhó for the inauguration of the restored altarpiece at the local Franciscan church. Osvaldo took the girls to the ceremony, smartly dressed in their OSA t-shirts and sat them at the back.



When an official saw how well-behaved they were she invited them to form the President's welcome party. On arrival he greeted each one individually and afterwards allowed the only personal photos to be taken with them, seating Andrea, the youngest, on his knee. When asked later who was the man in the photo with her, she replied "He's my friend!". It's good to have friends in high places!

## FOND FAREWELLS

Almost since the inception of OSA our work has benefited greatly from the support of a British Couple, Rupert and Samantha Parsons. Sam initially helped us with communications, particularly translation from Spanish or the native Guarani. Later, with her background in teacher training, she was able to play a major role in supporting the girls at the Home, most of whom were disadvantaged by lack of schooling. Rup has skills in accountancy and IT and has produced some excellent freeware for schools, as well as setting up accounting systems for OSA in Paraguay. Both have had a significant effect on our work. and Sam will be particularly missed by the girls who see her as a friend, not just a teacher.

In December this lovely couple returned to UK to take on new challenges. They will be sorely missed but we hope that they will return to Paraguay. We wish them every success in the future and offer our grateful thanks for their huge contribution to the work of OSA. You can find more about Rup & Sam and their work with OSA on their blog: <http://rupsamblogroll.blogspot.com/>

