



## IN BRIEF

Much has happened since our last Update. We have a completely new website with easier access to information, communications and giving. Our work in Paraguay now focuses almost entirely on the welfare of the girls in our Home, El Puente, in the village of Quyuquyhó and we are working towards compliance with the new Paraguayan regulations for Children's Homes which reflect a worldwide move towards deinstitutionalisation and the integration of young people into safe, loving family environments, whether the original biological unit or a new foster home.

October 2017 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of OSA as a registered charity and a glance at previous editions of this newsletter (all available for download from our website) shows how far we have come and what we have achieved. This would not have been possible without a dedicated management team in UK, a talented support group in USA, an amazing Paraguayan Director and Marie-Luisa, his wife and the generosity of a large number of individuals willing to give occasionally or regularly to help a small group of young girls whom most will never meet. Thank You, everyone!

## PROPERTY PROBLEMS

For a number of years our Girls' Home, El Puente, has been based in a property owned by our Director, Osvaldo Recalde, which OSA had extended and improved. Most OSA activities took place a few hundred metres away on our own land, where we have a Volunteers' House, Comedor (Dining facility), Utility Area, Caretakers House/Dental Surgery and Multi-use Education Building with classrooms, workshop and vehicle bay. Outside we have a large grove of mature mango trees, and an irrigated kitchen garden area with facilities for chickens and pigs plus a play area.

Earlier this year, following an unresolved ownership dispute, our girls were illegally evicted and we were forced to accommodate them on site in less than ideal circumstances. The two classrooms had to be changed to dormitories and some girls had to use the volunteers' facilities. Unfortunately the legal wheels grind very slowly in Paraguay so there is no immediate solution.

However it has always been our intention to house the girls in purpose built accommodation on our own property, in line with the new regulations, and thanks to a number of very generous gifts a building programme is under way. The pictures overleaf show our progress to date. We think you will be impressed!

## PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS

The new regulations on children's homes demand support from a team of professionals as many children have issues, and families need help and training to cope. We now have a Social Worker and Psychologist who work with the girls individually to instil confidence, set targets and develop coping strategies and are beginning to see encouraging results. We also have access to medical care, on site dental facilities and legal advice where required. On the domestic front we have a House Mother, Cook and Gardener who work under the guidance of the Recaldes. None of this comes without cost and we are so grateful for those who continue to support this vital work. As a charitable organisation we have no staff or offices in UK and our Management Team members who visit Paraguay regularly are all self-funded volunteers.

## NEW BUILD

We have just completed our first purpose built house. It has facilities for eight children plus a house parent. Some of the girls have moved in already. There is still some decorating to do but they are very pleased with their new accommodation. It's basic but its home! We hope to start New Build 2 in 2018.



## JOSELO'S PLIGHT



This is Osvaldo's son, Joselo. He is seriously ill with Leukaemia in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Although we feared the worst, thanks to a miracle he is out of intensive care but needs specialist treatment and dietary supplements. Osvaldo has to make an 18 hour bus trip to visit him and Marie-Luisa. Estimated costs for the next 3 months will be \$4,500. Unfortunately OSA's priority is the girls in our care, although committee members have made personal gifts to the Recaldes. If you would like to join us please contact us and we will see that your gift is passed on to them. They work tirelessly for OSA. It would be good to help them in their hour of need

*At this special time we would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year and to thank you for your interest and support, whether prayerful, or financial. If you like what you have read please tell others about our work so that we can continue to make a difference in the lives of a small number of young people. The OSA Team*

