

The Journey Begins On 11th July 2008 the first work party left UK for QQ, Paraguay, headed up by Phil Grainger (Founder) and two students, David McGrath and James Cole. They were soon joined by Hazel Browne (Trustee), Andrew and Ella Hardisty and Claire Burton our third student with Laurie & Sue Budd (Chairman & Trustee) forming the rearguard for the last two weeks.

Praise from the Management Imagine our delight as the last arrivals, to see so much work in progress by builders and volunteers alike. Much of the 1 hectare site had been strimmed and cleared. The new Comedor had been extended to provide space for food preparation and storage, with plenty of room available for the children to sit and eat. The Volunteers' house, soon to double as project office for Osvaldo and a classroom, had been painted inside and out and improved plumbing added. A new house for the caretaker (essential for security) was nearing completion. The old low well had been raised to a safer height for small children and dozens of fence posts covered with bituminous paint for protection.



The Volunteers' House & HQ



The Extending Comedor



Caretaker's House



Well Safe!

Caution needed It is easy to become complacent in what many describe as an idyllic environment but, as clearing was taking place, the boys found a large spitting toad and a dead dog with clear signs of a snake bite.

Transport of delight? The 9-seater Chevrolet 4x4 has proved very comfortable and ideal for moving small groups, although suffering a few problems in the clutch and gearbox, hardly surprising though, given its age and the daily battering it receives from the Paraguayan roads.

Anyone like to buy us a new one?

Nursery Rhyme rumours denied The Recalde residence could not possibly be described as “shoe-like”, nor are its occupants remotely “old” but the notion of having “so many children they don’t know what to do” with does ring true. Accommodation is reaching a premium as Osvaldo’s and Marie-Louisa’s “family” now numbers 15, including 2 of their own, and is expected to continue growing in the months to come as needs in the area become apparent. Therefore the Volunteers house may see some overspill and we are already looking at ways to extend it (even though the paint is only just dry!)

The hard work and hospitality of the Recaldes has to be seen to be believed. They work tirelessly to make a difference to the lives of so many children in a culture where life is hard and often regarded as cheap. Osvaldo is very much a man with a vision, but one which can only be achieved by constant support.

Food for thought The Comedor continues its success story at its current location, supported by OSA and another Christian group. We anticipate that the new facilities will be ready for the start of the new school year, in February 2009, although the children were introduced to the new venue on the Paraguayan National Children’s Day on Friday 17th August. Over 200 children had been invited and many came with their parents. Everyone worked extremely hard to make the day special, with live music provided by a Paraguayan band, games and teaching from a children’s worker from Asuncion, all supported by a regular supply of food and drink from 10am until 4pm. For most of the children the highlight was the present distribution, when over 170 gifts were given out, plus a new supply of bicycles on loan for regulars at the Comedor who have a long distance to travel (courtesy of our friends in Northern Ireland).



Children at Play



Live Entertainment



Thanks to our Sponsors

Care in the Community (QOO-style) The team took time out from the new property to “make a difference” to the lives of Victoria, an elderly lady and her “adopted” daughter, Christina, 13, who live in a three-room shack, with two starving kittens and a few scrawny hens. In 36 hours we managed to empty, clean, repair, rewire and redecorate the property both inside and out.

Victoria is senile and an avid hoarder, with no discernable income. In fact, Christina regularly takes her a meal from the Comedor. The biggest challenge was persuading her to part with a significant proportion of her possessions (to be burned or buried due to their state of decay) so that she and Christina had room to live. But we succeeded (with a little sleight of hand) and she seemed delighted with our efforts. Moreover, Christina now has a room and a bed of her own.



Spring Cleaning



Treasured Possessions?



Rationalisation



Nearing Completion



Our New Home