



PooFest 2011 raises over £4,000 for water projects

The Pootings Music Festival - PooFest 2011 – which nominated the LATA Foundation their charity of the year took place on Sat 3 Sept and was attended by approximately 700 people of all ages. It was an enormous success. There was face-painting and activities for children, stalls selling merchandise, cream cakes, ice-creams, pizzas, curry dishes and burgers. The bar sold a choice of beers from the local Westerham Brewery, Pimms, wines and other fine refreshments. There was an excellent line-up of 12 acts which started with a 20 piece ukelele orchestra from Tunbridge Wells, and included the Standard Lamps and the well-received Pete Shoulder. The Charlie Rivers Band closed proceedings.

Our chairman, David Gilmour, announced a new project at the event to raise funds for a water project in Nicaragua to install a pump to provide safe, clean drinking water to people living below the poverty line near Granada.

Thanks to the PooFest, the LATA Foundation will be able to install the water pump in Nicaragua within the next couple of months. Not only that, but the PooFest has raised additional funds to help provide clean water in Mexico too. The LATA Foundation already has a good track record in Mexico, having constructed a water fountain in Puerto Vallarta earlier this year. It yields over a million glasses of water and is being used by 500 people every day.

In addition, a number of people at PooFest bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a luxury holiday in Argentina. This helped to raise an additional £116 for the dental clinics we are supporting, providing free treatment to disadvantaged children in Buenos Aires.

For further information about the PooFest please see: www.poofest.co.uk.

NICARAGUA WATER PROJECT

Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central and South America. Almost half of the population lives below the poverty line on less than \$1 per day. A staggering 79% live on less than \$2 a day.

The LATA Foundation has announced a project to install a new water pump to provide clean water to over 1,000 people in the impoverished community of La Prusia, southwest of the city of Granada. Housing, education, jobs and health care are all pressing issues that the local NGO, Casas de la Esperanza, has identified which need to be addressed. But the most urgent of them all is safe, clean water.

The water pump costs \$3,000 (£1,840) and is a crucial part of a \$30,000 (£18,400) project to replace an antiquated, inefficient and unreliable system which often breaks down, leaving the community with no water for days at a time. The project will eventually require 3 miles of pipes and a second pump.

Thanks to PooFest 2011 we will be able to have the water pump installed within the next two months.

ARGENTINA SUMMER RAFFLE

We are grateful to all those who bought and sold tickets for our summer raffle. The raffle has raised £2,030 for the Sonrisa dental clinics in Buenos Aires, run by Todos Juntos, providing free dental care to disadvantaged children.

Sonrisa III opened with our support in 2009. So far this year Sonrisa III has provided over 16,000 treatments to 2,778 children and by the end of the year the three clinics will have provided dental care to some 5,500 children (around 30,000 treatments all told). Our support provides approximately 10% of the annual running costs of the Sonrisa clinics.

The draw was held at the Argentine Embassy on 5 Sept in the presence of the Vice-Consul. The LATA Foundation is grateful to the Embassy of Argentina, Aerolineas Argentinas for the flight tickets and to Branding Latin America for sourcing the accommodation and ground arrangements and to all providers for their support.

Details of prizes and winning ticket numbers are available on our website.





NEWS AND EVENTS

Latin America Travel Association

Our friends at LATA have recently agreed to cover the minor administration costs that the LATA Foundation incurs. These include bank transfer costs and our monthly fees for our justgiving website. This means that all donations go directly to our projects with nothing at all spent on administration.

Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles

Roger Johnson of the Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles recently presented the LATA Foundation with a cheque for £1800 in support of the Alalay children's home in Bolivia.

MEXICO PROJECTS – A CHANCE TO MEET PHILIPPA VERNON POWELL OF NEW LIFE MEXICO

The LATA Foundation currently supports two projects in Mexico run by New Life Mexico. The water fountain is being used by 500 people every day and the sewing school for which we provided 12 sewing machines opened in April 2011. The water fountain is just one of 15 that New Life Mexico has constructed since 2010. They also work with street children and have instigated a drug rehabilitation programme. New Life Mexico is helping to transform people's lives. The NGO is run by a remarkable and very capable woman, Philippa Vernon-Powell.

Philippa Vernon-Powell of New Life Mexico will be speaking at an informal supper we are arranging.

Venue: Ida's Restaurant, 167 Fifth Ave, Queen's Park, W10 <http://www.idarestaurant.co.uk/Ida/IDA.html>

NB. Ida's is easy to get to, just 5 minutes' walk from Queens Park underground on the Bakerloo line.

Date: Monday 3rd Oct at 7pm.

Cost: £20 for a delicious 3 course meal (drinks are not included). This will include a £4 donation to the LATA Foundation.

If you would like to attend, please contact events@latafoundation.org by 1 Oct. N.B. Cash only.

Reforestation in Peru

We are grateful to the Adventure Company for their donation of over £2,000 towards reforestation this year. The new tree-planting season in Peru begins in November. Last year ECOAN, the local NGO, planted ten thousand trees on 1st Dec, a further ten thousand on the 4th, an additional ten thousand on the 11th and eight thousand trees on the 15th. They usually need around 600 volunteers on planting days. As soon as we know the dates of planting we will post the information on our website.

Information in Spanish

Our website now contains information about our projects in Spanish. We are grateful to Elena de Mera Gallego in Madrid and Eliza Infant in London for their help with translations.

OUR PROJECTS

We have supported 14 projects to date but are constantly looking for new projects to help. It can take a while to turn an outline concept into something manageable, workable and verifiable and we particularly like projects where we can start off on a small scale and build upon it using our contacts in the travel industry locally. We have published guidelines and an application form on our website.

If you know of any project which may be suitable please contact our projects team: projects@latafoundation.org

DONATIONS:

None of our projects would be possible without the support of individuals and organizations. If you would like to support our work you can set up a one-off or a monthly donation via justgiving: www.justgiving.com/lata

There is also a link from our website: www.latafoundation.org

