

## December 2013

### General Update

Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad from Aldes De Paz.

We've reached the end of another year now and just like all the previous it's been full of hard work but we've had plenty of fun too. The foundation is constantly growing and it's something we don't necessarily notice day to day but when we look back over the previous year we see how much has happened in 12 months. One of the main reasons we've managed to grow and achieve more is down to the hard work everybody puts in so a huge thank you to all who have been involved.

### Pachanga

The last week of lessons have had a distinctly festive feel to them and everybody got into the spirit of the holidays in many different ways.

Earlier in the week the younger children made Christmas cards to take home to give to their parents. They all created and decorated their own cards giving each one a personal touch with a variety of themes on each card.

For the older group to celebrate the end of the tri-mester we held a Pachanga.

This involved a trip to the bottom of the mountain where the class had a picnic.

Some of the children brought treats with them from home which were greatly appreciated by all, while Katharina and Lara-Maria baked some traditional German sugar cookies which also didn't last long !



The break also provides us as an ideal time for all those involved with the children's program to take several weeks to create new lessons and look at how each of the children have been progressing.

In the new year we will be able to introduce new subjects to teach after creating new lesson plans, and there will be more volunteers who always give extra input and ideas.

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### Trips

Lara-Maria, Bjorn and Aaron all made the trip to Angel falls this month. Despite it being in the dry season they reported back that the waterfall was still full and flowing.

Aaron and Nils also took upon a nine day trek of Roraima. They found the extended trip through a local indigenous woman who lives in the village. They will see more of the top and spend time in all three countries, Brazil Guyana and Venezuela. We're are hoping that further volunteers will take trips this way as it is just one more way to put back straight to the community working directly with the local people.



### Highlights of 2013

2013 has been packed full of events but here's just a few of our highlights.

This year we managed to raise \$5000 for Eillin to help towards a much needed operation. She's currently still in Caracas receiving advice on what needs to happen next.



The Multi-Media project has also continued to expand and in the new year we are hoping for more involvement with the Chriikayen community.

Our summer camp this year was a big success. It was good to have children come and take part in the four different themes we held for them, Earth, Wind, Fire and Water.

Our horse program is progressing well and now worker Daniel is also learning to care for the horses. It means there are increasingly more people to look after them.

Our presence in the barrios has also increased which is evidenced as more children.

We are hoping for even more highs in 2014, but wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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