



FOUNDATION TOTAL
HEALTH EDUCATION COMMUNITY SPORTS

FT News

October 2016



Back to school



Volunteers

MORE OVERSEAS volunteers have come to Bolivia recently to support the work at Fundación Totaí. Roseanne Sanders (UK, right) came for three weeks in August and September to support the Ear & Hearing service (see over for more details), while Melissa Olmstead (USA, left) arrived in late August for an extended period. Melissa is supporting FT's work in Education and administration, as well as helping at the local evangelical church, *El Jireh*.

FUNDACIÓN TOTAÍ'S 'Kids' Games' programme is under way for another year. Staff from the Education and Sports divisions, along with several young volunteers from *El Jireh* church, have come together to run a programme of R.E. lessons with a difference in a local school.

The Kids' Games classes take place one afternoon a week over eight weeks, a combination of fun games and activities with simple, evangelistic Bible lessons; the pupils in attendance are divided into small groups to discuss what they have heard each week, and sit an exam to assess their learning at the end of the eight weeks. This year, we are once again running the programme in a school in our community, working with around 60 children aged between six and eight years old.

The Education and Sports ministries also united in early July to organise the annual five-day club, which takes place during the school winter break. This took place in another of our neighbouring schools.

These ministries continue in their valuable day-to-day work on weekday afternoons, reaching children and teenagers through football and basketball training sessions, and the community classes. With a little help from new volunteer Melissa (see left), the children in the community classes have begun learning English.

Courses

FUNDACIÓN TOTALÍ is renowned in our community for the quality of health education programmes it provides, and in recent months we have staged two such courses.

In mid-September, we once again ran FT's week-long, WHO-approved Ear & Hearing Care course for healthcare professionals, this time meeting in Trinidad's local maternity hospital. Around 40 people attended and sat the exams at Intermediate and Advanced levels.

A few weeks earlier, we made the most of the visit of Roseanne Sanders (see over) by running a special one-day course on child language development at FT's headquarters. There was such high demand for the course that we added a second day to the schedule and in the end, 100 parents, auxiliary nurses, and teachers of young children attended over the two days of the course.

Roseanne ran the course alongside Mayerlín Garrón (pictured in above photo, left), with whom she was primarily working during her three weeks here. Mayerlín began working as an audiologist and speech therapist with FT in July. She studied in La Paz for five years with the support of FT partner Christian Blind Mission, on the condition that she would return to Trinidad to support FT's Ear & Hearing service for a period of three years. We've been greatly encouraged to see many patients taking advantage of this new service.



Appeal

OUR HEADQUARTERS

here in Trinidad endure a fair deal of wear and tear, due to the extreme climate. As a result, FT's water tower is in particular need of attention. Cement is crumbling from the structure, and the metal rods contained within are corroding rapidly. There is a danger that in the event of high winds, the tower could collapse at any moment.

A significant repair bill is required to sufficiently address this problem. If you are interested in donating or raising funds for this urgent need, please write to:

amandacunningham85@gmail.com

FT benefits greatly from one-off fundraising events. Those in the UK who wish to organise such an event to raise funds for FT can easily do so via our online 'My Donate' page. The address is:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charitiesfoundationtotai>

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that the funds may be put in place to address the water tower issue (see left).
- The annual surgical campaign has been postponed till December. Pray for safe travels for the visiting doctors, and safety for the patients.
- A number of staff in key positions are leaving FT or going on extended leave at the end of this year. Pray that suitable replacements might be found.
- Give thanks for the great support of our visiting volunteers.