

## **VOLUNTEERS OF CHERRY TREE BOLIVIA GROUP**

At the end of 2004, at a Cherry Tree Management Meeting, the volunteers decided they would like to help a Third World Community. After much thought and discussion, we decided we would like to raise money for safe, clean water somewhere. We looked at a selection of projects and chose Bolivia as it has the highest level of rural poverty in the world.

In four years we think we have done the impossible. We have raised over £23,000 and have supplied four communities with safe clean water, and now have nearly completed fundraising for a fifth community in Ecuador.

We raise money in a variety of ways. We run stalls at our plant sales selling books, DVDs, homemade cakes and also have raffles, tombolas and sell original handcrafted Bolivian goods.

We organised a sponsored walk to carry water as they do in Bolivia, and walked a similar distance to that walked by Bolivian women just for the few litres they survive on each day.

A volunteer cuts hair for the other volunteers and the proceeds all go to the project. Another volunteer did some gardening work for the appeal.

Children can now go to school and lives are being saved every day because families are no longer forced to drink contaminated water. They also have no more need to walk many miles to collect their water.

This has been an amazing experience for all of us and has opened our eyes to the daily importance of water and its literally vital necessity. Water is a basic human right and we were astonished to learn that the people in the world who lack clean running water outnumber those of us who have it and take it for granted.

Our mission statement is:-

Our fundamental belief is to provide water to whoever needs it most.