

FALL 2019

# TALITA CUMI NEWS

He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talita cumi!"  
which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"  
Mark 5:41



## TALITA CUMI

Located in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Talita Cumi is a place of refuge for orphaned, abused, and abandoned children ages 4 to 18.

"Talita Cumi" means "Child arise!"

It speaks to the spirit of these wonderful children, and children everywhere, whose resiliency rises above the apparent limitations and challenges of their situations.



# HASTA LUEGO DANIELA!

It's not goodbye....

In late August we said "see you later" to Daniela. Daniela is 19 years old and has lived at Talita Cumi since 2010. It was a bittersweet moment for all of us. We were sad to see her go, but we are overjoyed to see her enter the next phase of her life. Daniela moved in with a wonderful missionary family of four with whom she will be living for the next year. We had a special going away celebration for her and prayed over her. She shared with us that she had been praying for a family for nine years and she's thankful to God for answering her prayer. We are so proud of the young woman of God she has become, and she will always be a part of the Talita Cumi family.



Liliana, Daniela & Anayah at home  
decorating Lisa's (mum) birthday cake

"I am happy with my new family; I am learning many new things, especially about food and English words like 'so' and 'scones.' I am enjoying volunteering at Los Preciosos, a home for children with disabilities which is right next door to my house. Thank you for the farewell party, I miss you all!" Daniela



# US TEAM VISIT

In September a team of six volunteers arrived from the United States: Todd & Graciela Spence, brothers Tim & David Kanter, Daniel & Jennifer Fowler. The team painted the girls' bedrooms and living room, installed ceiling fans and storage racks in the boys' and girls' houses, fixed a couple of computers, and much more. The finished product is amazing, and our hearts are filled with gratitude for all of their hard work. Moreover, it was a blessing to see many of the children pitching in to help with much of the work. The team also invested personally in all of the kids during a pool day, taking them out for bowling and ice cream, and through conversations and lots of hugs. Thank you so much!



Before



After



"The highlight for me was some conversations I was able to have with Yesica, Helen, and Luis. You realize that even though these kids are growing up without a family, they're still just kids, with crushes and ambitious plans and lots of hope. It reminds me of the responsibility we have to help them keep that hope alive despite their situation." - Todd Spence



"I was especially grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with the children as we painted the interior of the girls' home. The girls seemed to take ownership and pride in updating their home and it gave us the chance to get to know the girls (and boys) better. We still struggled with the language but somehow managed to communicate. Because of God's great love for us we are able to share that same love with others. Love is one language that all can understand." - Jenny Fowler



"I had a number of highlights with the kids of Talita Cumi, but the one that stands out to me was the how the kids were willing to create deeper individual relationships. They seemed to search us out and when I entered Talita Cumi one morning by myself, the kids' on-going question was 'Where is Tía Jenny?' When they volunteered to work alongside us and be a part of the construction and painting process, I found it to be their way of expressing love and wanting to build a personal relationship." - Dan Fowler



# Academic Achievements

## Valeria

is 16 years old and is taking a course that combines two courses in one: secretarial studies and marketing. This course, offered through the international organization Save the Children, is designed for older children between the ages of 16 to 18. Upon completion of the course, Valeria will work as an intern for a month. This education and work experience will increase Valeria's chances of getting a good job in the future. In the past, Valeria struggled to study something that she was passionate about, but she is really enjoying this course and feels empowered.



## Luis

is 16 years old and continues to study English at the Minerva Institute of Languages. Monday through Thursday he spends 1 1/2 hours learning English with the hope of one day studying abroad in the United States. As a condition of the scholarship, Luis must maintain a 90% average in his studies at school. Upon the completion of the second quarter, Luis fell short of that threshold. Thankfully, he was given a grace period to improve his grades. Recently, Luis received his latest quarterly report card and, we are so happy to share, he scored a 93%. Well done Luis!



## Geraldine

is 12 years old and came to Talita Cumi a year and a half ago with her two younger brothers. When they arrived, all of them were completely uneducated. Even though Geraldine had to start from level zero, she put in a lot of effort and learned at a rapid pace. We are ecstatic to share that she recently earned the highest grades in her class of 35 students! She scored a 94%. In the home, Geraldine has a sweet and gentle disposition and gets along well with the Talita Cumi team and the other children.



## PRAISE

Helen is 14 years old and came to Talita Cumi three years ago. Due to the trauma that she endured as a result of human trafficking, she has had a lot of difficulty overcoming fears and trusting in people. Thank God, we've seen some amazing changes in her life. Starting about a year ago at camp she began to open up emotionally and communicate more, a trend that continues to this day. Beyond that, Helen loves to do art projects, make thank you cards, and share words of affirmation with visitors at Talita Cumi. She demonstrates a genuine interest in growing in her personal relationship with Christ. When she prays, it comes straight from the heart.





# JOIN US IN PRAYER...



**Lider 14yrs**



**Jennifer 7 yrs**



**Milagros 7yrs**

Please pray for LIDER. He had no formal education before coming to the home. He finds learning a challenge, and recent tests indicate that he has a learning disability. Lider has a tender heart and he tries his best at everything.

JENNIFER & MILAGROS are two very sweet girls who are full of smiles. Recently, both were exhibiting behavioral issues at school to the point that they were briefly expelled. We discovered that Jennifer was acting out due to being bullied and Milagros just needed gentle correction and encouragement. Both of the girls are back in school and doing well, but please keep them in your prayers.



**Mariel**



**Rosario**

MARIEL (14years old) is very artistic and excels at carrying out complex tasks that require a lot of concentration and organizational skills. Nevertheless, due to a court order, she and her brother Matías must visit their mom in prison once a month. Among other life factors, this process takes quite the emotional toll on Mariel and she often spirals downward after the visits: neglecting to wash her clothes, sleeping all day, and refusing to get out of bed or help around the home. Please pray that Mariel would find peace and consolation in Jesus and that the Talita Cumi team could guide her with wisdom and patience.



ROSARIO (9years old) is a very bright girl with an astounding memory-she never seems to forget anything she has learned. Please pray for her. She is given to constant stealing and lying-habits that were a form of survival when she was younger. She grew up in a broken and dysfunctional home that oftentimes forced her to leave the house in search of food. Please pray that we can shepherd her heart effectively and help her break these habits. She is trying to fill a void of emptiness that only Christ can fill.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We pray with each year of life, that your faith in God and knowledge of him grows as you grow older, and that you may always find comfort in God's love for you.

Wishing you many birthday blessings on your special day.



Christian 12

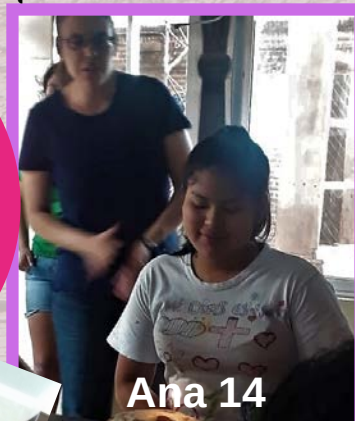


Rosita 8



Mariel 14

Mateo 11



Ana 14



Lider 14

September  
&  
October  
Birthdays



## VOLUNTEERS

My name is Clare Maier and I'm the new SALT volunteer. I arrived in August from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. I will be focusing my time on sponsorship work in the mornings and work with the children in the afternoon. I recently graduated from university with a degree in anthropology and hope to use my skills to serve God and those at Talita Cumi. I look forward to corresponding with many of you this year. I can be reached at [talitacumi@talitacumi.org](mailto:talitacumi@talitacumi.org)



Clare

### Derek



Hi, I am Derek. I've been serving at Talita Cumi on Saturdays for the past year and a half. I am partnering with Clare on the SALT responsibilities, such as posting photos to Facebook and translating the correspondence between the children and their sponsors. I also lead a weekly Bible study with the older boys. It's been a joy getting to know you, the sponsors, and I look forward to strengthening those relationships. If you have any questions, please contact me at [talitacumi@talitacumi.org](mailto:talitacumi@talitacumi.org).

A big welcome to Joanna! Joanna is an educator who is at the home for a three-month period. She returns home to Sweden in December. She has been working with Carlita on pre-Kinder activities, helping Cristian with math, and teaching Juan Pablo and Helen English. She has been a big blessing to us and connects really well with the kids.



Joanna