

THE BEST CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME... AND THE POORER THE HOME THE GREATER THE THANKS

By Ruben Avellanera, South American Correspondent

After the departure of loved ones – often the most emotional feelings come well after the funeral...and a particular moment is when possessions of someone have to be dealt with – not necessarily worth much in monetary terms, but far too new and useful to be thrown away. Traditionally, we think of charity shops – who of course do a pretty good job- but may be fussy over what they need - and after paying for the running of High Street premises, the amount left for the cause will be reduced.

Other needy institutions like the Salvation Army exist, but wouldn't it be ideal if those unwanted items were put to full use by poverty-stricken end users who would never otherwise own such things. Overseas aid schemes often make the cynics amongst us doubt if anything ever arrives there – with transport costs, salaried charity executives and administrators – and of course foreign politicians and military zealots milking the gains for themselves.

However, the family of the late Doreen Simpson, mother of Castle Comfort Centre's boss Keith – had other ideas after their tragic loss last autumn. This lady, a founder CCC member, Company Secretary, and inspiration for the company's birth, like most meticulous and proud folk of her generation, had a wardrobe and drawers full of cared-for clothes, shoes, and other goodies. Several full suitcases, cheekily



Pictured – Argentine gratitude!

well exceeding plane and bus baggage allowances, were soon to be bound for South America. These 'Doreen goodies', from spectacles, teddy bears, clothes, cosmetics etc were personally taken by Keith and his travelling partner Liliana – herself Argentine born, to the far northern province of Jujuy near the Bolivian border – one of the poorest regions of Latin America.

From the expressions on their faces and the obvious appreciation of the lucky recipients – it seems pretty clear where charity best begins... and ends – in the **very hands** of the needy..... and handed over personally.

Doreen... would have been *delighted*.



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