

# Fairy Bricks – Cruces University Hospital donation (I)

By Legotron (A. Bellón)

Fairy Bricks[1] is a charity organization headquartered in the U.K. that raises money to buy new LEGO® sets which are donated to hospitals and hospices around the world with the goal of helping children during their recovery.

After the article we did with Kev Gascoine in issue number 20 of HispaBrick Magazine, Fairy Bricks got in touch with us about setting up a donation to a children's hospital of our choice. It was a new and interesting experience, so we agreed and got to work. Once you realize that what it is you are working on can help kids to forget about their problems, you go about it in a different way. It is definitely something that is worth participating in.

After a search for possible candidates, the center chosen was Cruces University Hospital, located in



Northern Spain, close to the city of Bilbao. We got in touch with the Hospital and after a few meetings they mentioned to us the possibility of doing a more elaborate donation. Their idea was to use the parts in the sets to make a series of permanent dioramas for the rehabilitation rooms, with the goal of making the



their families, rather than for just those who were there at the time the donation was done. After discussing it with Fairy Bricks, it seemed like a good idea and they got to work. With the idea of making some small City and Medieval dioramas, they selected the most appropriate sets to complete the task. We had a little mishap with the shipment, but thanks to the efforts of Fairy Bricks and Kim Thomsen Ellekjær, LEGO®'s CEE community support, we were able to receive all the material necessary to begin the building of the dioramas.

The Hospital had prepared a series of vitrines in which the dioramas would be placed, and we were to take care of building the dioramas themselves. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of some of HispaBrick Magazine's volunteering members, we had the team ready to begin the task. The truth is that it may seem simple, but it is not. We had to make the dioramas using only the pieces we had in the sets at our disposal, all the while adjusting them to fit the measurements of the cases. Of course, we had to build everything, which takes time, and even though it is fun (it's building with LEGO), it can become stressful when you know that you have a deadline and it must be met. All the sets that were not to be used (new and unopened) were to be put into a normal donation, we could not dedicate the time to open up boxes like lunatics in search of pieces. We were only able to open those that were necessary, knowing that only the pieces in those sets would serve the purpose.

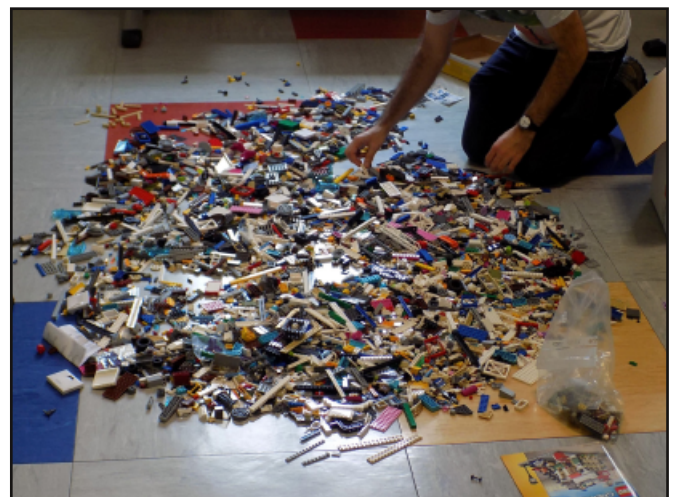


Some of the finished buildings before been placed in the diplays.

It was a very interesting activity while at the same time arduous. We even go to using the method of dumping the pieces on the floor in an attempt to find the necessary pieces to add the last little bit of detail. The rooms were full and we did the building on days where the rooms were closed to avoid disturbing the Hospitals normal operations. Many of the buildings and elements of the dioramas were those that came from the set, but others were improvised to fill in the gaps or to simply use all of the last pieces. Anybody that saw us in the last stages would not believe what they saw, a group of AFOLS searching like lunatics for the last pieces necessary to finish the diorama. Even those who have never done a collaborative LEGO diorama were left surprised by how much work goes into putting together a diorama.



The construction of the buildings for the City displays.



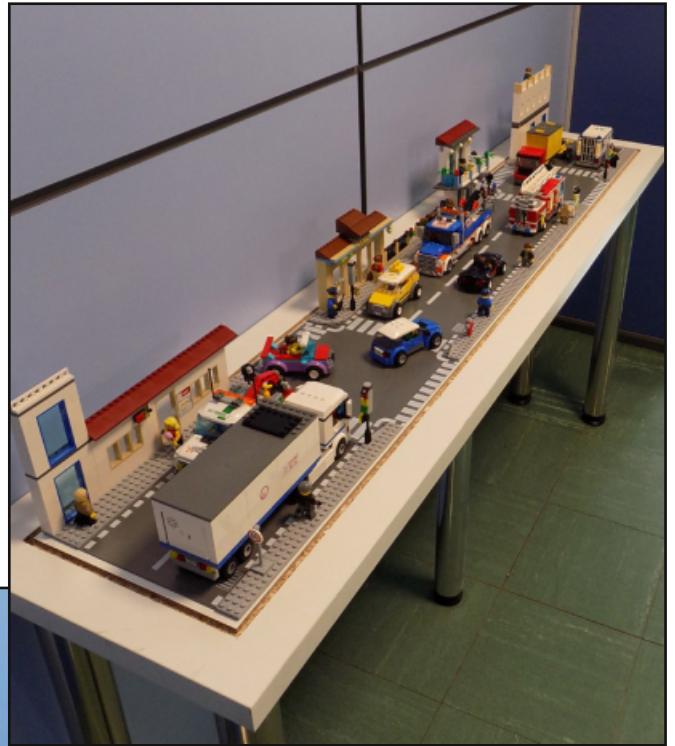
Parts on the floor for easy sorting.



By the time this issue is released, the dioramas will be done and in their place and they will have been formally handed over to the hospital, but that is something we'll leave for the next issue ...

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[1] Fairy Bricks: <http://fairybricks.org/>



Picture of the small City display.

Picture of the Castle display.



Picture of the bigger City display.