

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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EDITORIAL

Wings of a Bird

There is a fable about the way birds first got their wings. The story goes that initially they were made without them. Then God made the wings, set them down before the wingless birds, and said to them, "Take up these burdens and carry them."

The birds had sweet voices for singing, and lovely feathers that glistened in the sunshine, but they could not soar in the air. When asked to pick up the burdens that lay at their feet, they hesitated at first. Yet soon they obeyed, picked up the wings with their beaks, and set them on their shoulders to carry them. For a short time the load seemed heavy and difficult to bear, but soon, as they continued to carry the burden and to fold the wings over their hearts, the wings grew attached to their little bodies. They quickly discovered how to use them and were lifted by the wings high into the air. The weights had become wings.

This is a parable for us. We are the wingless birds, and our duties and tasks are the wings God uses to lift us up and carry us heavenward. We look at our burdens and heavy loads, and try to run from them, but if we carry them and tie them to our hearts, they will become wings. And on them we can then rise and soar toward God.

The heavy burdens when lifted cheerfully with love in our hearts will surely become a blessing to us. God intends for our tasks to be our helpers; to refuse to bend our shoulders to carry a load is to miss the new opportunity for growth. No matter how overwhelming, any burden God has lovingly placed with His own hands on our shoulders is a blessing.

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director



PROJECT UPDATES

VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER

On Saturday July 27th Projects Abroad volunteers took part in a volleyball game and fundraising event in the peripheral community of Nuevo Progreso, located about 20 minutes from the Projects Abroad office. The fundraiser was held to benefit a one year-old boy who is suffering from a chronic illness and the family cannot afford the high costs of the monthly medications he needs. The neighborhood, made up primarily of Peruvian immigrants, sold plates of traditional food for \$25 pesos, with the proceeds of the sales going directly to help the young boy and his family. The volunteers danced with the 'murga' a street band made up of local kids, ate lunch and later played a few games of volleyball against other people that came out to support the event. Though we didn't win the game, it was still a great experience for the volunteers and all for a great cause! At the end of the day the event raised money to cover the costs of the medications for one year – a complete success! Gracias to all who came out to support the event!



LEGAL OFFICE OPENS!



On Thursday August 8 the Law & Human Rights office launched the free legal clinic in the Blas Pascal community. Earlier in the week volunteers went door to door inviting the neighbors of Blas Pascal to come to the clinic to seek legal advice on any sort of issue they may be having. On Thursday at 6pm the doors opened and neighbors came with a variety of questions. After 2 hours the volunteers, with the help of Legal Coordinator Martin, had taken the first steps to help those that came. In the next week volunteers will research what needs to be done and how they can help, and will present the information to the families/individuals next week.

Volunteer Maggie Ashton writes: This Thursday we opened our legal advice clinic in Blas Pascal for the first time. We had handed out invitations to every house in the community on Monday, but we were convinced that

no-one would actually come. However, bang on 6 o'clock, our first client walked through the door and volunteers started to hear her story. Soon after there was another client, then another, then another...they were all so keen to tell us what was going on with them and ask for our help. Soon people were running back and forth from the clinic to their homes to fetch documents to

help with their cases. After an exhausting 2 hours we had dealt with people having disputes over property, people wanting help to access different benefits and someone in a potentially violent situation. The legal office will now research solutions to these problems for the clients. It was such a positive experience for everybody involved - although it was the first clinic and at times it

TWO WEEK SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS!

In July and August we welcomed over 40 volunteers to Córdoba on the Spanish & Care and Medicine & Care Two Week Special program. Both groups kept very busy schedules, but managed to learn and practice their Spanish!

The Care volunteers spent their afternoons at various Care placements where they organized different activities for the kids each day. They played games and did various arts and crafts with the kids. At the Copa de Leche dining hall, volunteers painted a beautiful mural with bright and welcoming colours.

The Medicine volunteers spent their mornings at various hospitals in Cordoba and surrounding towns, allowing them to see a variety of medical cases. They attended a workshop, shadowed local doctors, observed surgeries and saw how medicine really works in Argentina.

The volunteers did have some free time and managed to squeeze in a tango class and a night of bowling. On the weekends, they visited the childhood home of Che Guevara in Alta Gracia and then spent a day at an adventure park in La Cumbrecita. Muchas gracias to all of the hard work of this group! Nos vemos pronto!



VOLUNTEER STORIES

Mariangela Tripaldi
Italy
Care, One month

Mi chiamo Mariangela Tripaldi e sono italiana. Amo viaggiare e scoprire nuovi luoghi.

Questa volta, però, ho scelto di partire non come turista ma come volontaria grazie ad un progetto internazionale.

Un nuovo MONDO da vivere e da scoprire con spirito e occhi diversi. Ho aderito ad un progetto di missioni umanitarie con l'organizzazione PROJECTS ABROAD, in Argentina (Villa Allende e Cordoba), per un mese.

Il viaggio è stato lungo e non vedevo l'ora di arrivare in questa terra che conoscevo solo grazie ai libri di scuola. Una terra dai mille colori, profumi e suoni.

Il primo impatto.

Finalmente arrivata a destinazione! Mi dicevano che era inverno inoltrato ma ho trovato un caldo tramonto di colori autunnali e l'impatto positivo con lo staff organizzativo mi ha permesso fin dall'inizio di vivere questa esperienza con serenità.

La famiglia ospitante.

Da subito, mi sono sentita a mio agio anche nella famiglia che mi ha ospitato. Con la padrona di casa ho potuto condividere esperienze interessanti e molto ricche dal punto di vista culturale e umano grazie al coinvolgimento da parte sua in molte attività (cinema, teatro, letteratura, arte, musica). Mi sentivo parte integrante della sua famiglia e dei suoi amici. Grazie a loro ho scoperto la realtà del posto, una vita quotidiana intensa fatta di buona cucina, di tradizioni, di radici italiane, di colori intensi di gente accogliente..

Il mio ruolo.

Il mio ruolo era di affiancare il lavoro di professori nelle attività didattico-educative presso un Centro Educativo per 15 disabili adulti, UN LUGAR EN EL MUNDO. Ho avuto il piacere di lavorare con ragazzi veramente speciali che avevano, per la maggior parte, problemi di linguaggio e problemi psico-fisici, ma che si esprimevano molto bene con la musica, la danza, l'arte e lo sport. È stato molto emozionante supportare uno staff davvero efficiente e comunicare con i ragazzi con modalità differenti.

Il loro entusiasmo, i loro sguardi trasmettevano gioia quando danzavano e/o suonavano strumenti di vario tipo. A volte bastava una semplice carezza per far sparire di colpo la tristezza nei loro



visi.
il corso di spagnolo.

Non conoscevo nulla di spagnolo e grazie all'immersione totale nella vita argentina ho potuto apprezzare i suoni e la melodia di questa lingua (castigliano) grazie a tutti coloro che mi circondavano e grazie soprattutto alle lunghe conversazioni con la mia professoressa di spagnolo che mi ha fatto conoscere la realtà del posto evidenziando aspetti positivi e talvolta contraddittori di questo paese.

Escursioni.

C'è stato tempo per visitare anche posti meravigliosi come la Sierra Chica , La Cumbre, La "Cordigliera delle Ande" , "La Puente de l'Inca" e Mendoza, la capitale del vino. Ho avuto l'occasione di conoscere gente simpatica e allegra con la quale ho viaggiato e sono rimasta in contatto.

Conclusioni

Fine di uno straordinario viaggio

l' Inizio di un percorso di energia positiva

desiderio di abitare realtà sempre più nuove

dedicare una parte del proprio tempo e delle proprie energie ad una causa

spontaneamente, in modo volontario e gratuito

esperienza stimolante

passione inconsapevole

fare delle cose che si possono mettere a servizio di altri

rafforzare il senso di solidarietà e di cooperazione civile

amore

pazienza

discrezione e profonda motivazione.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

