

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer and the fourth son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted.

The second son said, no, that it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful. It was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them. He said it was ripe and drooping with fruit - full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that comes from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up! REFLECTION: One can never judge the lives of others, because each person knows only his pain and renunciation. It's one thing to feel that you are on the right path, but it's another to think that yours is the only path. When one is able to resist the temptation to judge others, he can see them as teachers of forgiveness in his life, reminding him that one can only have peace of mind when he forgives rather than judge. The secret of attraction is to love yourself. Attractive people judge neither themselves nor others. They are open to gestures of love. They think about love and express their love in every action. They know that love is not a mere sentiment but the ultimate truth at the heart of the universe. Don't judge anyone too quickly. Love, forgive and forget.

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director



PROJECT UPDATES

BIENVENIDO MARTIN!

Hola! My name is Martin, I'm the newest member of the Projects Abroad staff in Argentina. I am working as the Legal Coordinator for the Law & Human Rights project. I'm very excited about the possibility of working with Projects Abroad because it allows me to help my community and meet and work with people from other parts of the world.

I was born in Córdoba 26 years ago and studied law at the National University of Córdoba. I am currently serving as a lawyer, advising and litigating in various fields. I am personally and professionally committed to the promotion of human rights; I believe that with hard work we can make a change.

In my free time I meet up with friends, play sports – especially soccer. I love music, and am learning to play the guitar, and currently singing in a local choir.

I am at your service and hope we can learn a lot from each other!



FUNDRAISING IN THE PARK

On Saturday May 18th volunteers hit the local parks of Córdoba to sell homemade cakes to raise money for the CeCAM center for adolescent girls. The activity was headed by the Law & Human Rights volunteers, and was organized to help raise money to purchase materials and equipment needed for the physical education classes the girls have on a daily basis.

Volunteers made the cakes together with the girls of CeCAM on Friday afternoon, while others prepared them here at the office. On Saturday afternoon, three teams of volunteers set out to the various parks in Cordoba to start selling. It was a beautiful day and there were many people out enjoying the afternoon. Within a short amount of time, each group sold every last slice of their cakes - all collecting money for a great cause! In total the volunteers raised \$421 pesos, all of which will go towards helping CeCAM! Gracias to all who participated!



DENTAL HYGIENE DAY AT THE COPA DE LECHE

At the end of April volunteers at the Copa de Leche care placement organized a lesson with the children of their placement to teach them the importance of brushing their teeth.

The Copa de Leche is a dining hall located in a very poor neighborhood of Córdoba. The dining hall offers neighborhood children an afternoon snack, a drink, and a safe place to play. The volunteers not only prepare the snack and juice for the kids, but are also responsible for organizing activities for the children, varying from sports, games and arts & crafts. The kids have a lot of energy!

The volunteers spend a lot of time with the kids at the Copa de Leche, and noticed that many have very dirty teeth and at a young age, many were already losing teeth due to decay and lack of care. The volunteers decided to turn this into a learning opportunity and took it upon themselves to educate them on the importance of dental hygiene and how important it is to have healthy teeth.

The volunteers made posters with illustrations of the mouth and the teeth. With the help of their volunteer coordinator they explained the importance of daily brushing in Spanish. They showed them how to brush their teeth using the illustrations. After this they went outside with glasses full of water, 45 toothbrushes and 45 very excited children. They kids loved it and some kids really didn't know how to clean their teeth. Luciana, a 6-year old girl brushed her teeth for about 20 minutes and was really happy with her new toothbrush. Ramiro,

also six years old, showed us the rest of the day his very white teeth and kept repeating: two times a day, in the morning and before going to bed.

See more pictures here!
<http://on.fb.me/ZlhMFy>



MANDY VADÁSZ GERMANY (CARE, 2 MONTHS)

After more than 13 years of stressful working with a lot of overtime and also only trouble in my private life I decided to break out from my daily routine and stop the unhappiness. And the pin fell on Argentina.

I wanted to do something really different - normally I work in an office as an assistant - but with a helpful background and also something just for me, for example to improve my Spanish and see more of Argentina because on my first trip to this country I only saw the waterfalls of Iguazu and Buenos Aires. I wanted to know what else this beautiful country has to offer and what life is

like there. After everything was clarified at work - I got three months vacation - I flew to Córdoba and plunged into a different world. My ten week adventure started.

Cuca, my host mum gave me a warm welcome and made me comfortable from the first second at her house.

In the first three weeks most of the things were new and different to my "normal" life, for example, it starts with the daily thing to stop a colectivo (bus) AND standing in a line for boarding the colectivo. Then the 45 minutes bus ride to/from the placement. I also learnt to wait for everything and everyone. It is not usual in (Northern) Europe to let you wait more than 15 minutes. It is impolite! I made a lot of other discoveries, but just find out for yourself.

At the placement I worked in the afternoon shift with 30 - 45 kids aged between 7 - 17 years. My Spanish knowledge is only at a basic level and yes, the motto was: "Just do it!" We did a lot of painting because they loved to color pictures or we tinkered paper ships or planes, played memory games or, just with the bigger ones, "hangman" (looking for words and you have only a few tries) or other word riddles. But there was also "feeding time." I write this really like it was, because it felt like a zoo - some of them ate without cutlery just from the plate with fingers or the mouth or throw their food through the whole hall!

I also worked in the morning shift with the little ones; this means the kids are aged between 2 - 5 years. But here I was also confronted with no behavior and found that the kids were really rude to each other. Our challenge almost every day was to separate the fighting kids and try to give them a sensible exercise or just the possibility to play or paint something to let them get out their energy. And the second challenge was: You have to handle it on your own, because sometimes you will not get a lot of support as you would like from the "Señas" (the teachers) which are working there. In the garden of the daycare center the swing is the main attraction and "sharing" is for many of the kids a foreign word.

But we managed it, that they share the swing. Every



kid got five minutes on the swing and we stopped the time and after some days they knew - OK I have to share after this time and maybe I get again the chance to have a five minutes ride on the swing.

The boys loved to play with the ball and I think I met the next "Messi." Every day when we are out in the garden, Micaías, the little boy with the curly hair, got a ball, his eyes began to light and he was starting to play football and defended HIS ball and of course, was happy to make a goal (just meet the wall). Hopefully he will get some support or training - I wish it to him.

But at lunch time I made the same experience like with the big ones. Eating with a fork or spoon seemed really foreign but we do not give up trying to teach them how to use this aids. And after about four weeks almost every kid was able to eat with a spoon or fork. Done!!



The highlight of my time at the placement was the visit of the petting zoo - Granja Zoo. The little ones met the goats, ducks, bunnies and also the big cows, lamas and a donkey. They learnt to make their own bread and made a short horse carriage ride. So many impressions for the kids and on this day they were really well behaved. But to my surprise after this little excursion the kids had day totally changed the next day. They played AND helped AND were really friendly to each other. This was a magical moment for me. Thanks a lot!!

Yet I also want to share with you other nice experiences I made during my time in Argentina. I read a book and the story is about the Argentinean way of life and the reaction of the Germans. I found myself again in some of the told situations and just in this moment I knew, I also reacted sometimes in the wrong way, because I was captured in my usual structures and not open enough just to live the Argentinean way of life. After this knowledge, I also had a really nice experience that

I was asked on the streets and other places in whole Argentina which I visited, if I'm an Argentinean!! OK my Spanish is really good now and I understand almost everything.



So my tip to everyone who comes to Argie - just learn Spanish at least and you will be welcomed with double open arms and it would be easier for yourself. And for sure try to leave your routine you know and be flexible and just improve in every situation and accept it and then you will have THE BEST TIME of your life!

Now I'm only some days back in Germany and I already noticed that I have changed too and to find myself back in my "former" life - I sometimes missed in Argentina, - perhaps there will be another new adventure...

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

For a look at all that went on in May, check out
our Facebook page!
<http://on.fb.me/1aF3Wc5>



