

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Argentina



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EDITORIAL

Country Director's Note - Inés Mariani

Hi all,

Welcome to the January edition of our Newsletter for Projects Abroad Argentina!

This newsletter aims to inform all of our volunteers about news and information on the latest happenings at our projects! We encourage everyone to join us by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us.

Feel free to join us on our Facebook group so we can be stay touch, before, during and after your trip to Argentina.

If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact:

solbaldi@projects-abroad.org

Best wishes from Argentina!



STAFF PRESENTATION

Armando Acosta Lera

Hello everyone, my name is Armando or "Lalo" for my friends. I'm 27 years old and I recently joined the Projects Abroad Team as the Law & Human Rights Legal Assistant.

I have a degree in Law and really enjoy social work, meeting new people and travelling.



COMMUNITY DAY

Hogar Infantil Belén & Copa de Leche

During the past few months, we helped out in two care placements: Copa de Leche and Hogar Infantil Belén.

"Copa de Leche" is a care centre dining hall located in Blas Pascal, a small neighborhood in the northern parts of Córdoba receiving approximately 20 children per day, between the ages of 3 to 11 years old, and it is the only care placement that Projects Abroad Argentina operates independently.



Hogar Infantil Belén is a day-care centre located in Las Violetas, also a very poor neighbourhood in Córdoba. The placement receives children between the ages of 1 to 4 years old.

Both placements were opened with the purpose of taking care of and providing for children from low income families, giving them a place to play and a good meal.



So, on the 23rd of December we went with 6 volunteers to Copa de Leche, and on the 11th of January we went with 8 volunteers to Hogar Infantil Belén. The final results were amazing. With only a few hours of effort, we could see a great change, which will make a difference in the children day to day lives.





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VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



VOLUNTEER STORIES

Marina Fächtemann - Germany

After finishing high school last July, at only 18 years old, Marina left her hometown, Gehrde, at the north of Germany, for a 4-month experience abroad.

When she was 6 years old, she started practicing acrobatics on horseback, and, at 14 she started to ride, which became one of her favourite hobbies.

Together with this, she did some volunteer work with children, making the Equine Therapy Project the best choice for her as it allowed her to work with both horses and children.



Marina works as a volunteer in the Fundación Cordobesa de Equinoterapia. The centre helps children and adults with various mental and physical disabilities to improve their lifestyle by doing therapy while on horseback.

She helps with several tasks: cleaning the place, washing the horses, and, what she enjoys the most, assisting in the therapy. She also rides with the children and guides the horses.

The centre receives around 20 patients, both children and young adults, some of them have mental disabilities like Autism or Down syndrome, and others have physical motor disabilities.



Marina has learned about each person who comes for therapy. For example Agueda, a girl with Down syndrome, always talks about her new boyfriends. Flopi, a girl with autism that has been going there for 14 years, rides and gallops almost any horse at the centre. When she's riding, she always stops to look in the mirror because she likes to see herself with the horse.

Patricio, a little one that barely speaks, always claps his stomach and sings when he is happy. When he started coming to the centre, he wasn't enthusiastic about riding the horses. Now he goes straight to the horses, touches them and wants to ride them.

Tania, a girl that has been going to the centre for a long time, was afraid of horses and refused to ride them. One day, with the help of Javi, one of the other children, she finally got brave enough to ride one. Javi told Tania not to be scared and helped her get up on the horse. For Marina, seeing two of the children helping each other was one of her project's biggest moments.



What she likes the most about the project is to see the children happy.

She says that the changes cannot be seen immediately, but the children find a place to distract themselves and laugh, and, in the long term, to gain self-confidence.

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