

# ProjectsAbroad

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad **Bolivia**



## Editor's Letter



Carmen Herbas  
Country Director

Hi all,

Welcome to the February edition of our Newsletter for Projects Abroad Bolivia. This newsletter aims to inform all our volunteers with news and information about the latest happenings in Projects Abroad Bolivia, and the country in general.

We encourage everyone to join us in making it interesting and exciting by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us. Your stories and pictures will help others to understand and learn about Bolivia.

Feel free to join us in our Facebook group so we can be in touch, before, during and after your trip to Bolivia!.

If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: [bolivia@projects-abroad.org](mailto:bolivia@projects-abroad.org)

Best wishes from Bolivia!

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## Projects Updates

Looking forward to welcoming a new sensei!

Mariel Torrez  
Information Manager

One of our most successful teaching programs in Bolivia is our Japanese Teaching Program, thanks to the volunteers from the land of the rising sun that we've worked with during the past few years. The program has been growing to reach more and more young people eager to learn this language.

Among our applicants we have had some local manga lovers and also college students that wanted to apply for a scholarship in Japan, but lately we've been in contact with a local group (Ipo Ipo Group,) who are very interested in the Japanese culture in general and helped us to promote this program in town.

Next week, we are going to welcome a new sensei from Japan (Gaku Nishimura) and all of us (including the students) couldn't have been happier about this.





# Villa Esperanza Orphanage: Donation time!

Simone Batelaan  
Journalism, Netherlands

Many of the volunteers that come to Cochabamba want to do more than 'only' volunteer at their projects. They donate money, buy essentials at La Cancha, an in- and outdoor market where you can buy absolutely anything, or they make up extra activities, this being exactly what Ludovic Supiot from France at the age of 37, wanted to accomplish. Since the beginning of January he has been working at Villa Infantil Nueva Esperanza. VINE (Villa Infantil Nueva Esperanza) is managed by the Adventist Church with resources from Sweden and Norway, and offers a home to children aged between 0 and 14 years old. As the name says, they want to give new hope to children and young people who either do not have parents, have parents who are not able to take care of their children, or do not want to take care of them; by giving these children and young adults a safe home where their basic needs such as food, clothing, education and contributions to their upbringing can be met. The goal is to let them grow up to become good citizens who can contribute positively towards the Bolivian society.

The State provides the children with basic food products and the rest is obtained through the assistance of international sponsors. When the children are old enough, they go to school, except for during the winter and summer holiday, so their time is usually divided between school and homework time. For the children who are not in school yet, the institution has created an Initial Education Program similar to a day care.





Back to Ludovic; one of the things that he loves to do with the guys of VINE (and some of the girls) are to play a game of football with them. The children are always surprisingly fanatic and losing is not an option. During the past weeks, with lots of football, Ludovic noticed that a lot of times the ball got kicked with so much enthusiasm that it or disappears in the bushes or, if they are lucky, it ends up in the gutter. But here he saw a problem as the children would happily retrieve their ball back and will do whatever it takes to do so. Most of the times this goes well, but every once in a while the children would come back with scratches, ripped clothes and even crying faces just to mention a few things. There are also living scorpions around the gutter and this is a concern to their safety. So Ludovic came with an idea. Before he came to the placement, he saved up money to donate but without a specific goal. As said, he saw the children struggling with losing their ball since there is no fence or anything around the field. He mentioned building a fence around the whole field, high enough so the ball (normally) cannot get lost anymore and the children will no longer be at risk.

Of course everybody was enthusiastic and in the beginning of February the men (Ludovic, and the older guys from VINE) rammed the first poles in the ground. On the moment of writing this, the project is in full swing and if everything goes well there will be a beautiful fence around the field one of these days. Good job, Ludovic!







We said this before and we say it again: there are only a few places better for celebrating Carnival than Bolivia. To give volunteers a taste of what they will find when participating in the Carnival parades in our country, we organized a “Mojazón”, a carnival party, where you play with water and dance until you can do so anymore. Enjoy the photos!



## *Credits*

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Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this month's issue of the Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad Bolivia. If you would like to contribute your experiences, stories, photos or anything else to the next edition then please send them to:  
[bolivia@projects-abroad.org](mailto:bolivia@projects-abroad.org)

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