

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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Testing For Gossip

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, “Do you know what I just heard about your friend?”

“Hold on a minute”, Socrates replied. “Before telling me anything I’d like you to pass a little test. It’s called the Triple Filter Test.”

“Triple filter?”

“That’s right”, Socrates continued. “Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you’re going to say. That’s why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?”

“No,” the man said, “Actually I just heard about it and ...”

“All right”, said Socrates. “So you don’t really know if it’s true or not. Now let’s try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?”

“No, on the contrary...”

“So”, Socrates continued, “you want to tell me something bad about him, but you’re not certain it’s true. You may still pass the test though, because there’s one filter left: The filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?”

“No, not really...”

“Well”, concluded Socrates, “if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?”

Un abrazo para todos!
Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director



PROJECT UPDATES

FOOD COLLECTION FOR AREA DINING HALLS



On Saturday the 15th of February, we held a food collection to help the various dining halls that Projects Abroad works with. Volunteers went door to door in the Cerro de las Rosas neighborhood asking families to donate nonperishable foods. The food will be distributed to various dining halls in Córdoba that prepare meals and daily snacks to children of their neighborhoods.

Volunteers received a positive response from the neighbors and collected a generous donation of food in a short time. Muchas gracias to all those who participated!

CULTURAL WORKSHOP

Each week we hold a Cultural Workshop at the Projects Abroad office for new volunteers. It is aimed to help new volunteers in their adjustment to a new language, culture and experiences, here in Argentina.

The workshop is held by the local staff and explains a brief history of Argentina, to help volunteers understand how the country got to where it is today. It covers the various cultural norms such as the beso (kiss) on the cheek when you greet somebody, the art of preparing and serving mate, the famous Argentine asado and the famous music - *cuarteto* of Córdoba.



It is a great opportunity for new volunteers to share the experiences they have had in the first few days and to help feel their way through the good and different things that they experience while in Argentina!

VISIT TO THE ANATOMY MUSEUM

Medical volunteers had the unique opportunity to visit the Anatomy Museum and view a human dissection performed by university medical students. The Anatomy Museum is part of the National University of Cordoba and after a brief tour, volunteers headed downstairs to meet with medical students who were examining a human corpse. The students explained the parts of the body and let the volunteers take a closer look and touch. At one moment they even held a human brain! Though the smell of formaldehyde was quite strong, the volunteers seemed to enjoy the day!



TWO WEEK SPECIAL PROGRAMS!

Though it's only February, we are already preparing for our 2014 Two Week Special programs! This year Projects Abroad Argentina is offering 4 different Two Week Special programs for high school-aged students. Each program (with exception for the Animal care program) combines the project with daily Spanish lessons to help volunteers maximize their experience living and volunteering in Argentina.



For the first time this year, we are offering a Law & Human Rights Two Week Special program where volunteers will help work with and learn how to support victims whose human rights are being abused or individuals in at-risk communities. They may be involved with educating disadvantaged children about social equality, working on a project advocating for homeless people, making young prisoners aware of their basic rights, and conducting research on human rights cases.

The other new program offered is the Animal Care program, where volunteers will work in the town of La Cumbre at the Primate Rehabilitation center. There, volunteers will live and work on site for the two week program, working closely with howler monkeys; a vulnerable species whose natural habitat is endangered in Argentina. Volunteers' work will include feeding and caring for the monkeys, maintenance to the facilities, studying the monkeys in their habitat, and helping feed as well as care for the many other animals that live at the shelter. <http://bit.ly/lclface>

Like in years past, we continue to offer the Care & Spanish as well as the Medicine & Spanish two week programs, and also a four- week Medicine program. Here is a testimonial from a Spanish & Care volunteer from last year! <http://bit.ly/laweapn>

We look forward to meeting all the Two Week Special volunteers in the next few months!



VOLUNTEER STORIES

MARTE TEIEN

NORWAY

CARE & EQUINE THERAPY

“«Seño, seño» I can still hear the happy children voices when we arrived in the street of Juana Azurduy. They are all excited to spend the afternoon with us – thankful for every second we will spend - giving them our attention...”

I am a 19 year old girl from Norway, who has been working for one month at the care placement called Juana Azurduy, a daycare center (community center), located in a very poor neighbourhood. The center was opened 20 years ago with the purpose of not only taking care of children, but also watching them as they grow up. Unfortunately, not every parent has their children as their first priority. As a volunteer, you will see that the children really appreciate the contact they will have with you.

My colleges and I were the first volunteers from Projects Abroad who started working at Juana. Since we started our work in January the teachers at Juana were on holiday. A local lady called Marina was with us all the time to open the building and to help us. If you are not working in the holidays, you will probably be working with the teachers and follow their plans. In January the center was open for children between the ages of 6 to 12 years old. They arrived in the afternoon around 15:00 pm and the center closed approximately 18:00 pm. Our day started with saying “hola” to all of the children (around 20-25 children showed up every day). The children always greeted me with the lovely Argentinian kiss on the cheek. It was really interesting to see that the sceptic boys and the tough “teenagers” who didn’t kiss us at first, started doing so after gaining our trust. Even the coolest boys came to say goodbye or follow us to the bus when we left in the evenings.



We always started the days with drawing. The main activity we have been doing is drawing. I will say that if you are a good drawer, you will absolutely survive the childrens “big test”. The children love to paint, especially the things we drew for them. I think that I drew almost 40 mermaids, horses, princesses and castles every day. The children also loved when we wrote their names in big letters on their paper so they could color it. More activities we did with them was bingo, treasure hunting (make the children wait outside, hide some candy and let them search – make

sure you have some candy left for just in case some of them can’t find any), make dolls out of toilet paper rolls, make bracelets, make dough to shape figures and then paint them, read books, sing, do the jumping rope and paint nails.

After drawing and doing the activity for the day we served a snack for the children. It is important that all of the children clean their hands and that they are seated before serving the snack. The snack is usually a biscuit or on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we serve fruit salads (some of you need to get 100 pesos from you co-ordinator and go to the fruit market every Tuesday at 13:00 pm nearby the office). The children also got something to drink, often a juice or sometimes soda. If the children are thirsty before or after the snack time, make sure you have a



big bowl of water with ice for them in the kitchen (remember the children are not allowed in the kitchen, so let them know they can ask you politely if they want something to drink).

After the snack we often did the jumping rope or was outside with the children singing or talking. My tips for you is that you talk to your colleges about sharing the tasks – communication is extremely important for a good working situation. It is also important that you use the lists your co-ordinator will give to you, so that the tasks will be shared in a fair way.

During the days at Juana you will also have to clean the cups and kitchen, the floor, toilets, tables and every room that the children are in. A tips for you is that you split the work so that some of you are cleaning one day and some are keeping the childrens attention outside (if not the children will get bored and go home early) and then change it up for the next day.

Every week you will have a meeting with you co-ordinator at the office to plan the activities for the next week. You will write this down on a schedule that you can hang at Juana (it is smart to copy this one so everyone has it at their accomodation). Sometimes it happens that we forgot what to do one day and then didn't bought or picked up the stuff we needed at the office. At the meetings it is important to have a lot of ideas and be interested in making the week as fun as possible for the children.

Buena suerte and enjoy every day at Juana – you will never regret it.

JUMPING ROPE-SONG FROM ARGENTINA:

*Para preparar ensalada buena,
Se nececitás*

Sal, aceite y mucho picante, picante, picante...
(then do the jumping rope really fast after
«picante»)



My tips to new volunteers:

Make sure you have a lot of energy while working!
Show the children you are a person to trust and they will open their hearts to you.
Learn how to draw!!!
Try to learn the names of the children and use them when you speak to them or write it at their paper when you have been drawing something for them.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

