

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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EDITORIAL

Hola amigos!

Summer is winding down in Córdoba, schools are back in session and the warmer weather is quickly leaving us. Teaching and sports volunteers are returning to the schools to work in their placements, and the care volunteers are back to schedule at the day care and children's homes where they have been working. The vegetables are growing quickly in the community farm project and our Law & Human Rights volunteers are reaching out more and more to the community of Córdoba to raise awareness of the human rights of Córdoba's citizens!

In March we welcomed a visit from International Development Officer, Mircea Samoila from Romania, and the Country Director of Projects Abroad Jamaica, Bridgette Barrett. The two joined us for one (very busy) week and spent the week getting to know the volunteers, placements and how we work here at Projects Abroad Argentina. They attended the care and cultural workshops, visited the Primate Rehabilitation Project in La Cumbre, ate a typical Argentine asado and of course danced a few steps of tango in one of the many outdoor spaces of Córdoba. Gracias Bridgett and Mircea, we hope to see you soon!

March has been a very busy month – read on for more details on all that went on this month! Nos vemos pronto!

Stephanie Wall
Social Manager



PROJECT UPDATES

CULTURAL WORKSHOPS!

In an effort to help new volunteers in their adjustment to a new language, culture and country here in Argentina we have begun to hold a weekly Cultural Workshop for all new volunteers. These workshops cover a bit of everything – from history, pop culture, geography and customs – in the hopes that it will help volunteers ease into their new life in Argentina, and for them to realize that these new things are not good or bad, but they are just ...*different*!!



FUNDRAISING FOR LOS PIMPOLLOS!



Before arriving in Argentina, PRO teaching volunteer **Karen Hendriks** raised money in her home city in the Netherlands to donate to her teaching placement in Córdoba. Karen signed up to various Christmas markets in and around her home town, and set up a stand with information about Projects Abroad and explaining the volunteer work she was going to do. People could buy chocolates, taste Argentinean wine and play a game to guess how many jelly beans were in a jar. She also sent an email to family and friends explaining the work she was going to do and asked for donations. In the end Karen raised 2400 Argentine pesos!! This money was put towards the purchase of paint and supplies to repaint the large dining hall and classrooms at the Los Pimpollos care placement in the Jose Ignacio Diaz neighborhood where Karen volunteered in the summer months teaching English to the kids of the neighborhood. Great work Karen y muchas gracias!

INTERNATIONAL FOOD TASTING!

To celebrate the 50+ volunteers and the 13 countries represented here in Córdoba, we held an international food tasting at the Projects Abroad office in March. Volunteers were asked to prepare a dish typical of their country – whether it was a pastry or main dish. In the end we had a feast! Among the many dishes prepared, Danish volunteers made frikadeller (meatballs), German volunteers made kartoffelsalat (potato salad), the Norwegians made kanelsnurr (cinnamon buns) and the Americans made macaroni and cheese. There were many more delicious dishes. Gracias to all who participated!!



BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR CECAM!

On Saturday March 16th we held a dirty day bake sale fundraiser to collect money for CeCAM, a correctional facility for teenage girls. The activity was headed by the Law & Human Rights volunteers who have been working with the girls since January. The girls at CeCAM presented the idea to our volunteers about the idea to paint a mural illustrating their rights as women – a reflection of what they have learned since working with our volunteers.

With this great idea in mind we organized a fundraiser to raise the money needed to cover the costs of the paint and supplies needed to paint the mural. This activity was also a lesson for the girls of CeCAM. The girls wanted to sell alfajores, a traditional Argentine sweet, and were involved in the planning of the activity from start to finish. Though they cannot leave the facility to help sell, we left that to the job of our volunteers!

During the week the Law & Human Rights volunteers helped make the cookies that will serve as the bases of the alfajores. On Saturday March 16th, volunteers gathered at the office to help assemble the alfajores – that meant putting the dulce de leche filling, placing them in little bags and getting ready to sell.

Because the weather was not favorable to be outside in one of Cordoba's many parks, volunteers gathered in the office and in teams set out to canvass the Cerro de las Rosas neighborhood going door to door selling the alfajores.

After about 2 hours, all were sold! In total the volunteers raised \$767 pesos that will all go towards the cost of the paint and supplies to paint the mural. Muchas gracias to all who participated in this dirty day! It was a valuable lesson for the girls of CeCAM who really enjoyed being a part of it!





ASHLEY LEMA CANADA (CONSERVATION, 3 MONTHS)

While I was finishing up my exams at the local College I attended, I was wondering to myself what will I do next? With my new diploma in Agriculture Technology- Plant and Soil Major, I wanted to find something I could apply my freshly accumulated knowledge to. I wanted to put the last two years into practice!

I came across the Projects-Abroad web site and started to explore the countries they offered. I found the Community Farm Project in Argentina and thought to myself that it would be perfect! I could learn about the differences and similarities in agriculture in another country, all the while getting to work with my education. I applied for the project and before I knew it, I was planning and arranging my departure to arrive in January 2013.

As soon as I saw the garden, the gears in my head started to turn. With my background knowledge in agriculture I knew there was much potential for this small piece of land. There were aspects of the garden that I thought were really great, but also some features that had the opposite effect. I was excited to try new practices and to teach the locals about sustainable management practices.

I spent many days working hard in the garden. Turning the soil, preparing the seed bed for planting, changing up some materials and showing the children at the orphanage how to dig up the dirt! I met many people throughout my three months and have enjoyed working with all of them!

A lot of the work was trial and error. I would scatter seeds and not see a single plant emerge from them. At times it was discouraging, but I learnt what worked and what didn't. I learnt to be patient. On the other hand, one of my most rewarding times was when I would see growth from the potatoes I planted.

On my weekends and holidays I would travel to the different towns outside Cordoba and experience the culture and small town living here in Argentina. I really like my host family and have made many memories with them that I hope to never forget.

These last three months have been gratifying and I am very happy with my experiences in Argentina and with Projects-Abroad. I hope that the future volunteers enjoy their time with the garden and continue to contribute their own hard work and knowledge towards the Community Farm Project.



SOCIALS & DIRTY DAYS



International food
tasting



Bowling!

