

# ProjectsAbroad

The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad **Bolivia**



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## Editor's Letter



Carmen Herbas  
Country Director

Hi all ,

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter for Projects Abroad Bolivia. This newsletter aims to inform all ur 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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Mariel Torrez  
Desk Officer, Bolivia

There are decisions that take you to unexpected places and change the way you see life without noticing it. This was the case of Jessica Berger, a 19 year old girl from Germany that decided to see a little bit of world before going to college in her home country.

“I love travelling and I always wanted to travel after finishing school. I started talking to other people about my plans and, since I enjoy getting to know other cultures better, I also wanted to combine my travel time with something useful. A friend told me about volunteering in Bolivia, and I thought it was a really a good thing, therefore I decided to do that”.

This was a bold movement because not only has she chosen a country quite different from her own without knowing much Spanish, but she also decided to work as a volunteer at our local university teaching English to young people like her, whose backgrounds and interests were as diverse as it could be expected in a country like ours.

“It was really interesting to see how it is, from the perspective of a teacher, like I used to be a student, and say: learning and teaching ohhhhh, teaching, you know, but I really like it, so it's really interesting to find out how the students are”.

Jessica recalls that she began as a teaching assistant for some English professors at the Linguistic Department, but pretty soon she was given her own classes to teach which she enjoyed very much.





“Well the bottom line is”, she explains, “that the students do not speak a lot in English, so they understand English pretty well, depending on the student, but they can’t speak it at all, so I tried to make extra activities where they could speak and improve their English. I also tried to make them interest in helping the teacher as there are a lot of people in one class and she can’t help every single student”.

However Jessica admits that she learnt from the students as much as they did from her. Not only did her Spanish improved a great deal, but also, she had the opportunity to hear firsthand what these young people from the other side of world thought about many issues.

“Once I prepared a whole speech about Germany, to get a speech from the students, and we had a really good discussion afterwards since Germany and Bolivia are really different. For example, the life here and there, so we talked a

lot about it, and still students after class they came to me, they wanted to talk about it, so I think it showed me that it really interested them on that, so I loved that”.

Now that her journey is about to end, and she must pack to make her way back home, Jessica feels that she is taking many things with her from this experience despite closing a chapter on her life.

“In Germany, for example, we have a really good economy because everyone is working really hard and everything has to be perfect. Here they showed me that singing, dancing, and celebrating is a really big part and really important. I’d love to take that back to home and try to have more parties with the whole family, coming together, because that’s really something they are really happy about, and we don’t have that so much. I kind of learn that everything doesn’t always have to be perfect”.



## Projects Updates

Every 10th of October is celebrated in Bolivia as Disabled Person Day in order to commemorate the promulgation of a national law that seeks the reinforcement of obligations and rights of all disabled people in Bolivia.

This time a parade was organized among the 32 institutions that work with this population in town, and our volunteers were part of it. They walk alongside the children they work with and got the applauses and cheers from the people around.

The slogan of this year parade was: "Education, Health and Work"!

## Disabled Person Day!

Mariel Torrez  
Desk Officer, Bolivia







### **Institutions and volunteers that participated**

Manuela Gandarillas – Centre for blind children – Frank Fojtik (DE)

CONSIPE – Centre for children with mental and physical disabled children - Kristine Hunt (UK)

IDA – Centre for Hearing Impaired Children - Lise Pedersen (DK)

SIGAMOS – Centre for mental and physical disabled children - Barbara Casatti (SW)

### **Other project partners that participated**

CATD - Centre for mental and physical disabled children

Maria Cristina - Centre for mental and physical disabled children and adults



## Outreach/ Dirty Weekends

Not long ago Projects Abroad Bolivia opened an Equine Therapy program with the collaboration on a local Equine Centre that had already started to work on this field with some special needs centers and child intuitions in town.

Our start premise was to extend the benefits of the Equine Therapy among the the institutions with whom we already work, but soon we realized that it was important to undertake some repair work to get this center ready for receiving more children.

Therefore, we decided to organize a big outreach activity to do some building and painting work at this center with all our volunteers in destination. We painted all the fences around, and built, with the help of construction workers, new walls between stables.

We got really dirty and ended up tired, but the results were amazing!

## Outreach activity – Equine Therapy Program

Mariel Torrez  
Desk Officer, Bolivia









## *Photos of the month*

A busy month with a lot of memories!



## *Credits*

Editor: Mariel Torrez

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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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