

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



WHAT'S INSIDE

EDITORIAL	02
PROJECT UPDATES	03
PROJECT ARTICLE BY ROSIE SILBER-MARKER	04
SOCIALS & DIRTY WEEKENDS	06

EDITORIAL

Handle insult and maintain compassion

The Buddha explained how to handle insult and maintain compassion.

One day Buddha was walking through a village. A very angry and rude young man came up and began insulting him. "You have no right teaching others," he shouted. "You are as stupid as everyone else. You are nothing but a fake."

Buddha was not upset by these insults. Instead he asked the young man "Tell me, if you buy a gift for someone, and that person does not take it, to whom does the gift belong?"

The man was surprised to be asked such a strange question and answered, "It would belong to me, because I bought the gift."

The Buddha smiled and said, "That is correct. And it is exactly the same with your anger.

If you become angry with me and I do not get insulted, then the anger falls back on you. You are then the only one who becomes unhappy, not me. All you have done is hurt yourself."

"If you want to stop hurting yourself, you must get rid of your anger and become loving instead. When you hate others, you yourself become unhappy. But when you love others, everyone is happy."

The young man listened closely to these wise words of the Buddha. "You are right, o Enlightened One," he said. And he became one of his dearest followers.

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director



PROJECT UPDATES

FOOD COLLECTION

On April 1st the city of Buenos Aires and neighboring La Plata experienced heavy rainfall in a very short amount of time, resulting in massive flooding in both cities. Over 50 people died in the flooding and hundreds of thousands of people have been left homeless. Those that were able to return to their homes after the water receded sadly found that they lost everything to the flood water. There has been a nationwide campaign in Argentina to help the victims of the flooding, and we at Projects Abroad wanted to pitch in to help.

On Thursday April 11 and Friday April 12 we held a food collection to help those affected by the flooding. We held two shifts - one in the afternoon and one in the morning – where volunteers could come and help when they were not working. Seven volunteers joined together to go door-to-door to the houses in the neighborhood near the Projects Abroad office. In the end the volunteers collected a sizeable donation of non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies and clothing, all of which will be donated to the Red Cross to help the victims of the flooding! Gracias to all who participated!

HAPPY DOGS!

The Veterinary Medicine volunteers play a vital role in their placements helping in the daily routines of the veterinary as well as observing the many operations that occur on a weekly basis. They may be asked to assist in routine castrations that are performed on a regular basis as a way to help control the population of the many street dogs that you can find in Córdoba. The dogs are taken from a nearby shelter in Villa Allende and are kept in Córdoba until they have recovered from their surgery. While recovering we look for a loving family to adopt these happy dogs! Here are some happy faces of the dogs that have been operated on, and some have even been adopted!





ROSIE SILBER-MARKER UNITED STATES (TEACHING & SPORTS, 6 MONTHS)

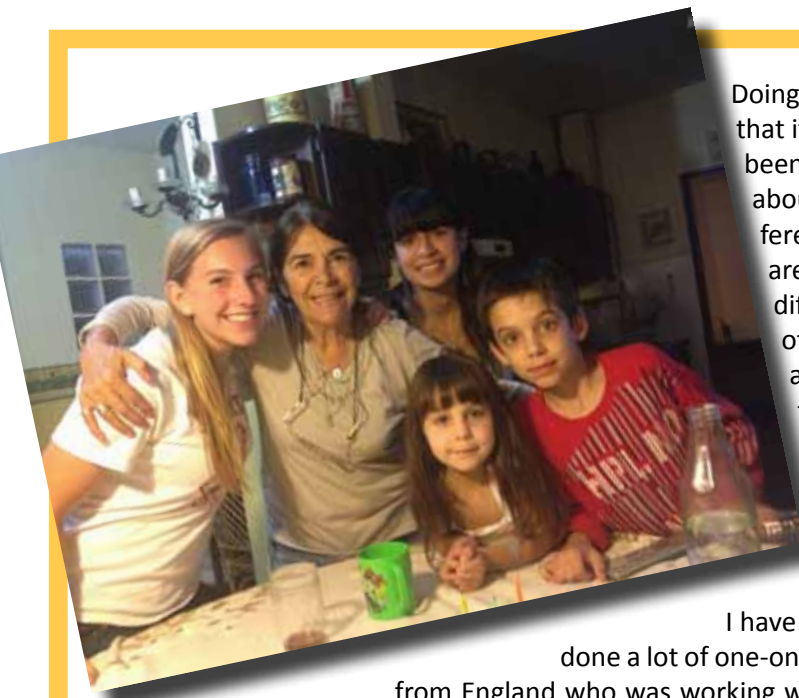
Upon my arrival in Córdoba, Argentina, I had no idea what the country, the people, and my placements would have in store for me. Throughout the five months that have passed, I have grown so much, met so many amazing new people and experienced things that, without my trip here through Projects Abroad, I never would have gotten an opportunity to do. In the five weeks that I still have here; I can only hope that my time in Argentina continues to be as incredible as it has been.

Initially, I worked in a private English institute about an hour outside of the city center, called St. Marks. The comforting and welcoming atmosphere could not have created a better place for me to begin my first project.

Alongside my roommate who happened to also be from the United States, arrive on the same day, leave in the same week, and work in the same place as me, we begun our three month journey at both our host family and at our placement, St. Marks. It was definitely helpful working with another girl from the US, with whom I also lived, as it made the transition from living at home to living in a different country, and moving from being a student to a teacher much smoother. St. Marks was wonderful in that I could not ask for a more incredible group of teachers to work with, both in terms of friendship and teaching abilities. The students were also very welcoming, consistently inviting us to hang out after school or asking us every question about ourselves or living abroad that they could possibly think of. After three short months at this placement and host family, it was time to return home. A few weeks previously, I had decided to come back to Córdoba with Projects but with a different host family and different projects. Nonetheless, this marked the end of an incredible three months that unquestionably helped me to grow as a person in ways that I could never known I would.

From mid-December through mid-January I stayed at my house in New York for the holidays and to reconnect with everyone whom I missed so much while away. However, by the time my flight back to Argentina had arrived, I was more than ready to return and see what more this amazing country had to offer me. Entering into a new host family was definitely easier the second time, but of course it still took time to adjust to the customs and expectations of the new family. My first month and a half was spent working at a sports club at what the Argentinesans refer to as a summer school, but what would probably be referred to in the States as a "day camp." It was definitely a challenge as no one at this placement spoke any English and my Spanish was still pretty rocky, but I thoroughly enjoyed being forced to practice speaking in Spanish and my comfort with the language vastly increased. When the summer break ended, obviously the summer school ended with it and I had to switch placements. There was about a two-week period during which I went to two days of a care placement and then alternated between being too sick to work and not having any work to go to. At the end of this frustrating but much needed break, I finally got to begin working at a school.





Doing the teaching project again, I was of course a bit concerned that it might be too repetitive or familiar; however, I could not have been more wrong. I began work at the Public School Don Bosco about a month ago. Working in a public school is extremely different from the private institute where I was previously. The kids are just as, if not more, intelligent, and definitely just as kind; the differences begin when it comes to motivation levels and respect of authority. The teachers tend to have a much more laid-back attitude in conducting class because if they try to be too stern, the students will act out. I think that, understandably, over the years it becomes too frustrating to put so much more effort in than the students put in themselves and some of the teachers step back a bit. This phenomenon may not be present in the other subjects or with some of the other teachers but it is definitely a pattern among the English teachers whom

I have worked with in this school. Since arriving at the school, I have done a lot of one-on-one work, and even led a few classes with the other volunteer from England who was working with me. Most of my time is spent observing the teacher lead the class, and then walking around to help students if they need it. This method has definitely taught me a lot, because I am able to watch and learn from the teachers, but still be able to interact with the students. I hope that I can continue to be useful and be more and more of a positive influence.

In the last two weeks, in addition to teaching at the public school I have been volunteering with a new project, Fundación GANAS. The objective of the foundation is to feed and clothe the homeless people living on the streets of Córdoba through donations and their own charity. Twice a week a few of the volunteers cook for almost 4 hours to make approximately 200 servings of hot food to be delivered later that night to those living on the street. The grateful families welcome the homemade food, donated clothes, and unrelenting kindness with open arms. For the adults or older children, if an article of clothing they need is not available at that moment, they will often be asked by a volunteer, “¿Qué necesitas?” What do you need? and “¿Qué talla sos?” What size are you? This warmth and policy of altruism extends beyond the homeless and into how each volunteer conducts him or herself in both meeting new people and interacting with old friends. In helping me to assimilate into the group, they have all made me feel comfortable and welcome. No one acts as if they are forced to be amiable, but it’s their natural charisma and charm that make them an effortlessly cohesive group. My brief time spent so far working with GANAS and the amazing people who make it up has been wonderful and eye-opening. Not only have my eyes been opened to how much suffering goes unnoticed, but also to how easy it can be to make such a big impact on someone’s life, demonstrated by how loyal and grateful the homeless are to this foundation. To see people similar to myself in both age and attitude, in addition to many others varying in every way possible, come together to utilize their free time in such a positive way is truly inspiring. I hope that Fundación GANAS continues to make a difference and that future Projects Abroad volunteers have a chance to be exposed to the generosity of everyone involved.

Through everything that I’ve experienced in my time so far both living and volunteering in Córdoba, I have learned so much about other people and the world around me, in addition to better understanding myself and where I might end up in the future. I know that when the time comes to go home to the US, it will be really difficult, but I know I’ll be returning with experiences and knowledge that will last me a lifetime.



SOCIALS & DIRTY DAYS



Picnic at Cuesta Blanca



Tango class





Volunteers were invited by to help students studying English at a local school of tourism. Our volunteers chatted in English with the students. It was a great way to practice and also to meet locals their same age!



Learning to make empanadas! Click on the picture above to take you to the recipe to make empanadas at home!