

# THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Argentina



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2 Editorial
- 3 Community Day
- 6 Photos Page
- 7 Volunteer Stories

Follow us on



[www.projects-abroad.net](http://www.projects-abroad.net)

ProjectsAbroad

# EDITORIAL

## Country Director's Note - Inés Mariani

*Hi all,*

*Welcome to the December edition of our Newsletter for Projects Abroad Argentina!*

*This newsletter aims to inform all of our volunteers about news and information on the latest happenings at our projects! We encourage everyone to join us by sending in your own written articles and pictures of your experiences here with us.*

*Feel free to join us on our Facebook group so we can stay touch, before, during and after your trip to Argentina. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: [solbaldi@projects-abroad.org](mailto:solbaldi@projects-abroad.org)*

*Best wishes from Argentina!*



Projects Abroad Argentina Staff 2014



# COMMUNITY DAY

## Hogar Infantil "Belén"

The first week of December, we held a community day at our care placement Hogar Infantil Belén, a day-care centre located in Las Violetas, a very poor neighborhood of Córdoba. It was opened with the purpose of taking care of, and providing children from low income families with a place to play and have good food.



The placement receives children from 1 to 4 years old. There is a teacher and sometimes volunteers help to take care of them. There is a small yard behind the building where the children can play but the yard is not in the best condition for the children. There are a few games (some of them broken) and large bits of construction material all over the place, which is very dangerous for the children. This is why the children have to spend most of their time inside their classroom.

With 13 volunteers, five coordinators and one carpenter, we went to the child care centre with the objective of restoring the backyard.

We started around 4 pm, removing large metal structures from the backyard to a piece of land outside the kindergarten. After that, the girls started to paint the games and the guys did some hard labour, like fixing posts to create a divisor wall.





The cloudy day helped us to work until a really strong wind surprised us, bringing the wall down. After this, it started raining and it was very difficult to continue working. We decided to stop the community day around 7:30 pm, to continue the work some other day.



Although we couldn't finish what we planned, we could see an enormous change in the kindergarten's backyard.

We felt very proud of our work! We can prove again that many small people in small places, doing small things can change the world.

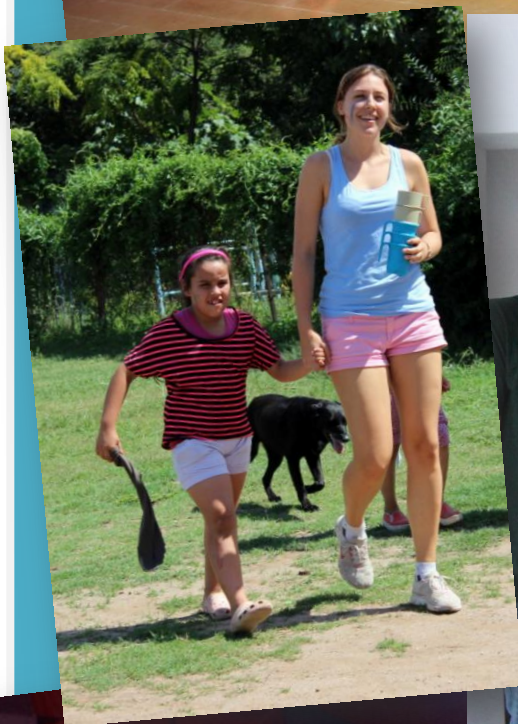


*Many small  
people  
in small  
places,  
doing small  
things can  
change the  
world.*





# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



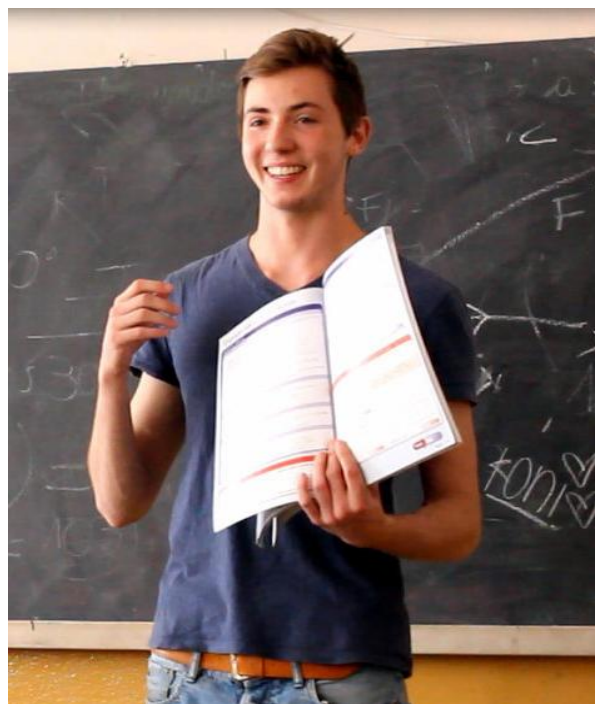


# VOLUNTEER STORIES

## Peer Maier - Germany

Hola chicos,

My name is Peer, I am 18 years old and I'm from Germany. I am staying in Argentina for four months as an English teacher. My home town in Argentina is Unquillo, a beautiful little city about 40 minutes from the Projects Abroad office. My school is called Colegio del espíritu santo.



When I first came to Argentina, I have to admit that I was a little scared of my job as English is not my native language and secondly I just finished school myself. But don't be scared, going abroad will be one of the most special experiences that you will ever have. Argentina's people are so friendly and open if you get to know them. You will have experiences where you will be thinking: "Wow, did that just happen?" Just to tell some stories, and I am writing this article after just two months of being here, I got invited to have some Asado (a barbeque) by an old man on the bus just for helping him with his phone. I am currently learning some traditional folklore dances and I made some of my own *Dulce de leche* (sweet confectionary spread) with a student. People here get really interested in you when you tell them that you come from a foreign country. For example, I am always chatting with the local supermarket's cashier about how I am getting along or if I have any problems.



Originally I was only teaching secondary classes but I got asked to take some primary classes as well. And I want to point out that if you have the opportunity to help more, do it, people are thankful for every extra hand! My students ages range from 12 to 18 and in total I have more or less 10-12 different classes. Besides meeting new people, the job as a teacher is the right thing to choose. I am currently enrolled at a small but excellent institute in my town where students work on their Oxford certificate and soon I am going to be part of the examinations. I already taught some classes at the Facultad de Lenguas, a university in Córdoba because I was invited by a teacher I met at my school. At the moment, I even have plans to be part of the German classes at the university as the teacher recommended me and the German professor is really interested to have a native speaker in his class.

Being a teacher is much more than just giving classes, you have the chance to prove yourself and develop self-confidence that you thought would never be possible. All in all, this was one of the reasons why I decided to stay a month longer as otherwise I would have only stayed 3 months.

At the Espiritu Santo school, I work together with three English teachers who all are so friendly; they will immediately make you feel comfortable. They help you develop the confidence and strength that you need to teach a class.

You get the opportunity to check homework and other tasks, you help students with their work or you just have a talk with them. I encourage you to listen to their stories because Argentina was settled by Italian, Spanish, German and other European countries. It is a great way to connect with them.





Furthermore, I had the chance to take part in the annual **Día de las Tradiciones**, a day where Argentina celebrates its different traditions. We decided to learn a traditional dance and perform it in front of the students. Not only was it a great way to learn more about Argentina but also to connect with the school!

A teacher and I are planning on rearranging the whole method of the English lessons for 2015 to improve it. If we are successful, I hope that future volunteers can continue on this intern project. It would mean a lot to me if I could see a real change at the end of my stay and I would be endlessly proud if it continues in the future.



The school is very thankful for the volunteers; one day the teachers gave me a gift to say thank you for being here. That was a really emotional moment that showed me that I had finally settled in Argentina.

If you asked me to summarise my experience in Argentina, I could definitely write another page...

*"You will have the most amazing time of your life here if you are open for new things and if you are willing to try new things, the possibilities are endless".*