

# BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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## Golden Words

THE DREAM IS NOT WHAT YOU SEE IN SLEEP.....DREAM IS WHICH DOES NOT LET YOU SLEEP.

- DR. ABDUL KALAM (Former President of the Republic of India)

NO MAN IS RICH ENOUGH TO BUY HIS PAST

- OSCAR WILDE

IF YOU WANT REAL PEACE,  
DON'T TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS,  
TALK WITH YOUR ENEMIES

- MOTHER THERESA

WINNING DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN BEING FIRST,  
WINNING MEANS YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN YOU'VE DONE BEFORE

- BONNIE BLAIR

EVERYONE THINKS OF CHANGING THE WORLD,  
BUT NO ONE THINKS OF CHANGING HIMSELF

- LEO TOLSTOY

I WILL NOT SAY I FAILED 1000 TIMES,  
I WILL SAY THAT I DISCOVERED  
THERE ARE 1000 WAYS THAT CAN CAUSE FAILURE.

- THOMAS EDISON

NEVER BREAK FOUR THINGS IN YOUR LIFE,

a) TRUST,

b) PROMISE,

c) RELATIONSHIP and

d) HEART

BECAUSE WHEN THEY BREAK THEY DON'T MAKE NOISE BUT PAIN A LOT - CHARLES

IN A DAY, WHEN YOU DON'T COME ACROSS ANY PROBLEMS YOU CAN BE SURE THAT YOU ARE TRAVELLING IN A WRONG  
PATH - SWAMI VIVEKANANDA :

THREE SENTENCES FOR GETTING SUCCESS:

A) KNOW MORE THAN OTHER

B) WORK MORE THAN OTHER

C) EXPECT LESS THAN OTHER - WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR

LOVE YOUR JOB BUT NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR COMPANY BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN IT STOPS LOVING  
YOU - DR. ABDUL KALAM

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno  
Country Director

## PROJECT UPDATES

### CARNIVAL CELEBRATION AT THE COPA DE LECHE



Volunteers shared the Carnival spirit with the kids at the Copa de Leche care placement by making masks with the kids to celebrate. Volunteers first made the masks out of paper plates, cut out the eyes and with a rubber band to go around the child's head. Then with feathers, glitter, glue and anything shiny, they helped the kids decorate the masks! Though a bit chaotic, the end result was a colorful display of masks especially designed by each child! The pictures speak for themselves!



### FOOD COLLECTION SUCCESS!

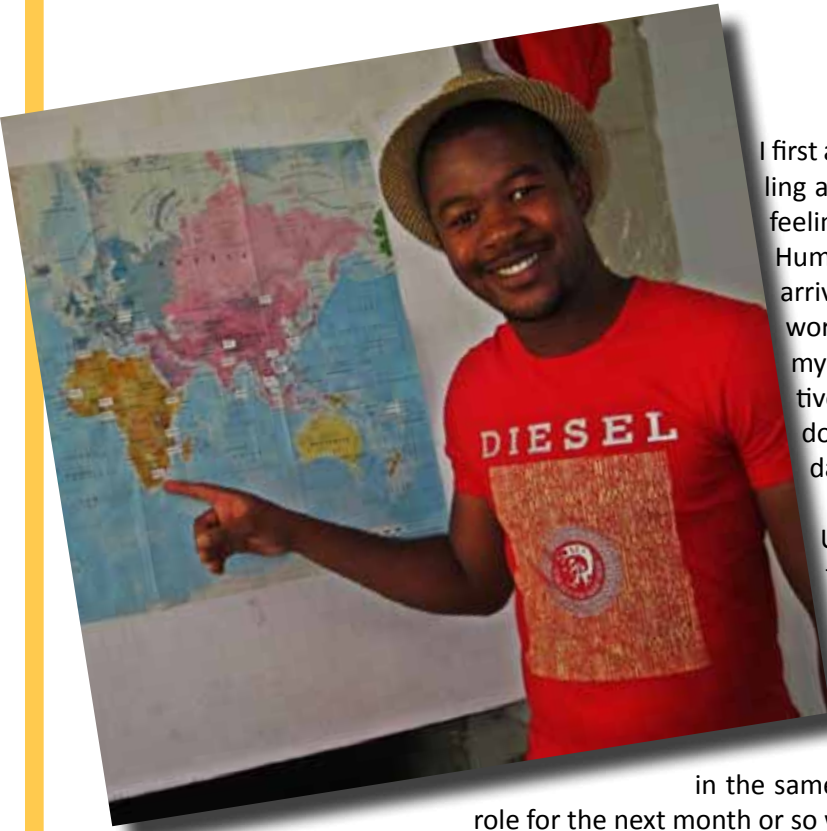
In February we held another successful food collection for area dining halls. About 20 volunteers, divided into five teams, canvassed the Cerro de las Rosas neighborhood near the Projects Abroad office and gathered a generous donation of non-perishable foods for local dining halls and day care centers that Projects Abroad works with. Kudos to the team of Tine, Sam, Chrissy and Karen who collected the most food out of all the teams! After a very hot morning in the sun collecting food we traveled to the nearby town of Unquillo to relax and cool off in the community pool! Muchas gracias to all who participated!

We managed to collect: 14kg of rice, 13kg sugar, 3,5kg polenta, 13kg pastas, 4 litres milk, 1kg powdered milk, 3,5kg tomato puree, 4kg flour, 2kg oats, 1kg salt, 5 cans of tomatoes, 4 cans garbanzo beans, 11 cans of peas, 5 boxes of instant puddings/desserts, 2 cake mixes, 1/2kg coffee and 6 packages of crackers!

A large portion of the food collected was already distributed to the Los Boulevares care placement, and the rest will be distributed to other care placements in the next few weeks!



### MASHUDU NONKWELo SOUTH AFRICA (HUMAN RIGHTS, 1 MONTH)



I first arrived in Cordoba on the 30TH of December, 2012. Traveling alone to a continent I barely knew anything about left me feeling both slightly nervous as well as excited. The Law and Human Rights project would be launched a few days after my arrival. Thus, there was little or no way to research the kind of work I would be doing. As a law student, the possibilities for my job description would be endless. Despite the imaginative leaps I took in an attempt to figure out what I would be doing, nothing hinted at what I was set to do for the next 30 days in Cordoba.

Upon my arrival at the airport, I met up with Victoria Marton. This was the woman who would subsequently introduce me to the city of Cordoba. She introduced me to my family, she taught me how and where the buses I needed would be. She is also the coordinator for the Law and Human Rights department at Projects Abroad. Thus, we were communicating on a daily basis as well as working in the same office. She didn't wait long to tell me exactly what my role for the next month or so would be.

I was to work with an institution associated with Paulo Freire - a Brazilian educator, philosopher, and influential theorist of critical pedagogy. This particular institution is located approximately 8 minutes from the Projects Abroad Office in Cordoba. The institution is one of correctional services in nature. They seek to help reform young boys who have committed criminal offences. The institution serves as a better alternative to prison for these young offenders as they are given a chance to not only change but also to contribute positively in society whilst also being educated and thus empowered with knowledge. The age of the boys ranges from 12 to 19. All of them come from impoverished backgrounds. This is not necessarily the requirements more being admitted to the institution but, as anywhere else in the world, poverty and crime have a strong correlation. The children who are a part of this program still however reside with their respective families and thus, this becomes more like a school for them. The tasks that the young boys are given includes activities such as working at the public swimming pool or in a bakery. The bakeries were usually located in some of the marginalized parts of Cordoba. The children would have to help bake the bread that these people would make and sell for a living. Thus, the children were filled with a sense of purpose as they would help create a product that would generate some sort of income in their impoverished neighborhoods. This would also give them a glimpse of how they can actually make a difference in the lives of others in a positive manner. January in Cordoba is however part of holiday season thus, the institution would organize trips for the boys to the mountains more regularly as a sort of reward for their work throughout the year. Travelling to rivers and mountains is common tradition in Argentinean culture.

For the entire month of January, I would have to form a rapport with the children in an attempt to gain not only their trust but also to gain an understanding of the circumstances that they live under. This would help me in planning activities for them to do. I would have to plan activities that would help empower them with not only working experience but also knowledge of what their rights were. Many, if not all, of the children come from broken homes. Their lack of access to resources in the form of education or technology meant that most of them had no idea what human rights were. This was the most humbling and fulfilling aspect of my job. A chance to teach them what human rights are, how they work, why

they exist as well as how they can be enforced. For example, sometimes at the institution, we would show the children some documentaries related to violations of human rights. After this, we would explain the documentary to them and illustrate how it affected their everyday life. At many points, the children would mind-blown at how this all affected their lives in ways that they couldn't perceive. We would also use examples of human rights violations that they would have little difficulty in identifying with.

Other duties and responsibilities for me at the institution would include supervising the children when we travelled to the mountains and rivers of Cordoba. Although this had little to do with human rights, it was where the trust was gained. It was here that the strongest relationships with the boys were formed. It was here that I was able to understand the circumstances that the children lived under and what sort of challenges they faced on a daily basis. This information was crucial in deciding what activities to plan, what examples to use, what movies/documentaries to show them, what methods to employ when teaching them about their rights etc.



For volunteers who subsequently enroll in this internship, I would recommend planning activities that empower the children in one way or another. This could be in the form of entrepreneurial activities or social activities. The idea behind this is that the children need to be validated. They need to be taught that they can be positives influences in their respective communities. They need to be convinced that they have a crucial role to play in the future of their country as well as the sustainability of their respective communities.

Another important facet of my internship with Projects Abroad would be the work I was assigned to complete at the Projects Abroad Law and Human Rights Office. Since the department was in the launching phase, I would have to assist in creating the structures that would guarantee a sense of continuity when I or any other volunteer complete the project. This would be done by practically documenting everything that I did with the children as well as giving detailed feedback to Victoria. We would have to constantly communicate ideas for activities as well as ways to help inform the boys. In the end, I was successful in my attempts to teach as well as learn about the children was working with. This project is a very effective way to penetrate the lives of those who are vulnerable in society due to their lack of knowledge in Human Rights or any rights in general. The opportunity to help in this vital aspect of a human beings life was incredibly fulfilling. The Projects Abroad Law & Human Rights Office facilitates the opportunity to exchange cultures, languages, experiences, knowledge and ideas in an exceptional manner.

## SOCIALS & DIRTY WEEKENDS

Cooling off in the pool in Unquillo



Festival Anual de Colectividades in Alta Gracia



Don't Worry!!

