

THE OFFICIAL

NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Bolivia 

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ProjectsAbroad

ONGOING PROJECTS

Celebrating Literacy Day in Bolivia!



There are a few things that are very rare to find in orphanages, no matter where it is located. One of these is silence and with so many children around, this is understandable. Quietness is only achieved with the intervention of a grown-up able to restrain the outbursts of life, typical of such places.

It was amazing to see a group of 8 year old children in a local orphanage in Bolivia slow down for a moment or to sit down to listen to a volunteer tell a story, and then it was even more surprising to observe the same children that didn't want to meet up in the first place, being so caught up in the fantasy land described.

"It's my turn Tía! I want to know what happens with the white mice that the prankster princess left in the milk pot of the king", one child demands, but a little girl with braids replies to him, "No, it's my turn now. You read the last time!"

The organizer of the event, Freddy Mita, care supervisor of Projects Abroad Bolivia, explains that the activity was organized not only to turn idle time into something positive, but also to commemorate World Literacy Day, celebrated that same week.

"We organized these reading circles in the orphanage to commemorate Literacy Day as we wanted to encourage and motivate these children, who don't have parents to do so, to keep learning to read and write, but above all to keep developing these skills that will open doors for them in the future".

International organizations dedicated to humanitarian work are very adamant on the importance of literacy to tackle some of the main social problems worldwide. The UN, for example, considers literacy as "a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development".

Thus, literacy is understood as a crucial component to the success of individuals and communities. "Literate parents are more likely to send their children to school; literate people are better able to access continuing educational opportunities; and literate societies are better geared to meet pressing development".

Even though developing countries like Bolivia have defined the eradication of illiteracy as a development goal through programs and plans executed on a nationwide level, the evolution of the literacy concept makes it hard to evaluate if the goals set up have been attained.

Nowadays literacy is something more than the ability to read and write. We talk about a communication skills combination that enables people to read, write, speak and listen on an advanced level, in other words, being



able to be part of the global information era. There is no doubt that to achieve this sort of literacy, the role of teachers and parents is much more important and complex.

Back to the reality of the orphanage where we were at the beginning, we face new challenges. To start, how do we provide these children with the support and time to develop all the skills mentioned when there is no one "officially" designated to do it?

"That's when we step in" explains, Rocio Triveño, another organizer of the event from Projects Abroad Bolivia. "Perhaps, this activity is a small thing, but this is a beginning. Thanks to the volunteers, we are able to create these special moments for the children and help them on a different level. The first part of the activity was the reading part. Later, we have a reading comprehension activity and even a writing and drawing activity. We have brought school supplies for the children to motivate



them. The children are crazy about the notebooks. Who would have thought that a notebook would make them so happy."

The children are happy in deed. They are drawing, coloring, and chatting. Asking when will be next time that we come back.

Great job guys!

*Tía and Tío (aunt and uncle in English) are the words used by orphan children in Bolivia to address the people that take care of them.



PHOTOS PAGE

Every day is an opportunity to change the world. Take a look to our volunteers in action!





and remember that....

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention". Oscar Wilde

