

March 2013

General Update

Last month saw the departure of yet another group of wonderful volunteers but left us with even more determination to make March just as eventful as February. A regular phrase used by our passionate and highly motivated coordinator, Cristobal, is that 'nothing is impossible'. With this in mind, March saw the completion of a daunting trek up Mount Roraima, a new addition of livestock to the foundation, some intense horse training, the completion of a new sanctuary for our director and NGO management interns and last but not least a warm welcome to some new volunteers.

Expedition to Mount Roraima



Mount Roraima is just one of many opportunities to venture into the Canaima National park and experience firsthand the beautiful tepuis that Venezuela is famous for. Roraima is well known for its beauty and was even used as a source of inspiration for the Disney/Pixar animated film 'UP'. The grueling trek up Roraima is definitely not for the faint hearted but well worth the amazing views it has to offer. Three of our more long term volunteers successfully completed the trek and still managed to make it home with a smile on their faces. After a long hot shower and a meal that

didn't consist of pasta, details of the trek began to flow. The lack of basic luxuries such as showers, toilets and lack of electricity were not negative experiences but funny stories shared with those who were not able to participate in the trek. All three volunteers experienced some of the most breathtaking views whilst meeting other travelers from all over the world.

Horse Update

Our current horses Amai, Linda and medallon are going from strength to strength and are receiving more and more attention. This month has seen an increased interest from our 'non-horsey' volunteers pitching in with their training plans and even taking them for walks through the local neighborhoods. This is always great fun for the less experienced who quickly learn that horses, our three in particular, have minds of their own and very strong characters! Inexperienced volunteers wanting to get involved in the field of horses and animal care need not fear! Geder, our resident member of staff, is heading the horse program and keeping a watchful eye on all of the horse activities along with Medallon.



Medallon and Geder spending some quality time together.

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It is now, much to some of our volunteers surprise, a regular sight to see Geder talking or singing to Medallon while he works. If you too would like some horse therapy please feel free to check out our website or facebook page for more information.

Chicken Catching

Our latest additions to the Aldeas de Paz residence now include 5 new chickens! In line with our 'open to every suggestion policy', Manfred and Cristobal were finally convinced of the endless positives to keeping chickens here at the foundation. Not only would these chickens be a 'natural' wake up call for some of our late risers but they would also help us in our goal for self sustainability and most importantly they would provide us with some rather cute Facebook and website picture updates.



After the logistics of keeping chickens were figured out and the creation of a beautiful chicken coop it was finally time to catch the chickens. Kim, one of our conservation project volunteers, and Geder took on the challenge of catching the chickens. Despite the feathers, dust and chickens flying around the enclosure the overall time of 20

minutes was pretty impressive to say the least. After a lot of laughs and a safe journey back to the foundation the new arrivals were settled into their new home with plenty of food and TLC. Geder and Kim have now taken it upon themselves to not only talk to the horses but also to the chickens. Chicken whispering is said to provide "just as calming an effect as retail therapy", we're told....

Work at the foundation

It is always the aim of Aldeas de Paz to see how we can improve the way in which we work! With a new turnover of volunteers and the forever flowing creativity of Cristobal it was decided to take our activities into the 'barrios' of the children with which we work. The idea is to demonstrate to the community, in the first week of April, the activities and classes that are carried out at the foundation. After many meetings, late nights and an extra boost of motivation, the sequence of our demonstration were decided and finalized.



Practice run of the recreational games for the community.

A mixture of English, Yoga, Art, Drama and Recreational Games were squeezed into a one and a half hour game plan. The practice runs went well but to see how our demonstration of activities worked out in the community keep an eye out for our April newsletter!