

April 2013

General Update

During April we have seen the departure of yet another group of wonderful and creative volunteers some of whom are planning to return after a few weeks of travelling in other South American countries. We will be so pleased to see them return as experienced volunteers are invaluable for supporting our Programs. Another one of our volunteers has gone on a 4 week medical placement to Wonken, an isolated indigenous community – a good example of the types of opportunities that can be organized by the Foundation. We'll be sharing more information on this next month.

We have also been joined by some new volunteers from Germany, Canada and the UK and they are quickly learning the ropes and improving their Spanish. A few other key things that have happened this month include the updating of our IT equipment, planning for our new term of classes including our multimedia project which started in April, digging a well and harvesting the first of our home grown salad crops! Read more about all this below!

Treks and Trips



Many of our volunteers decide to undertake the Mount Roraima trek. It is one of many opportunities to venture into the Canaima National park and one of the toughest but most rewarding experiences taking 6 days and 5 nights of camping. This month Anna from Germany decided to do this with Theresa her friend who was visiting her. They returned after a successful trek exhilarated by the experience of seeing this beautiful tepui firsthand, even though they also experienced quite a bit of rain. Within minutes of returning they were taking

Work at the Foundation

Pachangas!

At the end of March and in the first week of April we took to the road and visited our three groups of children in their own communities. The idea was to work with the children who had attended our classes and to encourage family and friends to see something of the work and activities that we do with them, and, of course, to have some fun. We called these 'Pachangas' our version of a fiesta marking the end of term of classes. Starting off with some group exercises to get everyone involved we then organized a number of activities including a mixture of English, Art, Drama and Recreational Games including our very own 'La Comida' song. All of this was squeezed into a one and a half hour session. We were joined by many siblings of the children with whom we have been working and by a mixture of parents and friends. A good time was had by all!

April 2013



Our new term

After the fun of Pachanga it was back to the more serious business of planning the next term's classes. We took two weeks off from classes in order to plan a good program for our three groups which each have around 15 children. This term we will be focusing on English, Maths and Geography but everything we do will build towards our MultiMedia project. The ever creative Cristobal, our co-ordinator, has produced a 'story' which will be used as the basis of the multimedia project and will also underpin the term's curriculum.

Multimedia project

We've been planning to run this for some time. The idea is to involve our children in the production of a multimedia film using our 'trickbox'. Led by Riley, our new Canadian volunteer, our children will be involved in drawing, writing, filming and editing. The end result will be a film using all of these skills and we plan to use this at some events with parents and communities to celebrate the end of the new term sometime in July. We hope that this project provides a different way of working with our children that is fun, develops some new skills and gives us something at the end to show off our work. Watch this space as the project develops over the next couple of months!

Water!

Our water supply comes from the river that runs through our land but we've experienced some water shortages caused by a very long dry period. Manfred decided that we would build a well so that we can use groundwater to ensure that we have an uninterrupted supply for



the future. It's been a tough job for Geder, his brother and cousin but we're almost there. Of course, while the digging has been underway we have started to experience almost daily rainfall!

April 2013

Our Garden

Closely related to water, our kitchen garden is flourishing. We have harvested our first cucumber, have lots of lettuce and coriander and some very large tomatoes ripening. The almost daily rainfall is making the watering process less onerous for Cristobal and Liz (our new volunteer from the UK) which is good news.

Fundraising for Eilin Torrealba

Eilin is a 7 year old girl who attends our classes. She lives in the Briseños community which is a close neighbor to the Foundation. Eilin has a serious disability which prevents her from going to school as she cannot use school transport. She urgently needs a back operation and the local children's hospital has agreed to fund this BUT her family needs to raise the money for the materials needed to complete the operation. They really need help to raise this money so that the operation can go ahead and the Foundation has agreed to try to help raise the \$5,000 needed. We are asking current and past volunteers to try to help with this through friends and families. There is more information on our web pages and the link to our fundraising page is:

www.peacevillages.org/FundraisingEilin

Please try to help us, between us we could really make a difference to this young girl's life.

