

July 2013

General Update

We've had a busy month here at Aldeas de Paz as we wrapped up our educational trimester. We've thrown parties, gone on weekend trips, and worked to introduce a host of new volunteers to the foundation. Read on for more details about the happenings here!

Work at the Foundation

Update on Fundraising for Eilín

Since our last newsletter, Eilín's mother has visited Caracas to arrange details for the surgery and we expect to receive a date for the operation very soon. Charmaine, one of our multimedia volunteers, has made a [video](#) of Eilín and her mother thanking everyone for their donations. With them we already paid for the materials necessary for the operation. After her recovery, the surplus donations will provide Eilín with a wheelchair and private tutoring so that she can catch up with her peers. We want to thank everyone for their generous contributions! Your help will improve her quality of life through improved health and education. To continue donating, please click [here](#).



Pachanga

On Sunday, July 21 we celebrated our end of the trimester Pachanga. What a party! Parents and their children came to partake in games and activities at our foundation. We opened up with a yoga warm-up for everyone, followed by small group activities such as swimming, dancing, and dodgeball. After a snack of fruit and tuna salad we watched "El asombroso viaje de Juan," a short stop motion animated movie put together by Jordy, one of our Multimedia volunteers. To make the video, we used artwork created by our beneficiaries. Three children did a fantastic job at narrating the movie. You can view it [here](#).



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Waterfall Trek

After working hard to put together a fantastic Pachanga, we drove to a trail that would lead us to a hidden waterfall. We walked for a half hour through the Sabana to reach our destination, where we were able to climb up the waterfall and jump into the water! It was the perfect reward for working so hard to organize the Pachanga.



Webpage Overhaul

Our three new NGO Management and Administration volunteers, Sophie, Rafael, and John, have been working hard to help our long-term volunteer Ann-Kristine give [our website](#) an overhaul. So far they have completely redone our image galleries, adding higher resolution photos and making general viewing much more user-friendly.

Additionally, we are in the process of condensing the text to make information more clear and accessible to prospective volunteers. A video explaining our mission statement has been added. [We invite you to check it out!](#)

Summer Camp

Now that the trimester has ended, we're beginning our summer camp. We have created a program centered around the four elements: fire, water, air, and earth. This will lead our recreational and educational activities as we discuss such things as gardening, continents, birds, and much more. After our first week, themed on topics pertaining to the earth, we held a rally where we divided into groups and challenged our beneficiaries to demonstrate their comprehension on English vocabulary learned, geography, and teamwork. We were happy to see that they helped their teammates to do their best competing.



Twitter

We are happy to announce that we have joined the world of Twitter! Please follow us at [@AldeasDePaz](#) for frequent updates on what's happening here at the foundation! And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook if you haven't already.

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Financial Report

The foundation's financial report for 2012 has now been uploaded to our website. Our greatest investment this year has gone into ecological construction. The majority of our operational expenses went into our Cultural Exchange Program and maintaining our two cars. If you are interested in seeing our expenses please take a look [here!](#)

Farewells and Hellos

Our guest rooms have been filling up this month as more volunteers arrive. At the end of July we have seventeen volunteers living under our roof. This month we welcomed Camilla, Lisette, John, Elisabeth, Sophie, Rafael, Amber, Leah, and Juliet to the foundation. They represent different nationalities, coming from the United States, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands, Venezuela, and the United Kingdom.

We were sad to see Jen and Jordy leave and want to thank them for their contributions to Aldeas de Paz. We wish them the best in their future.

A Month in Chirikayén

One of our volunteers, Anthony, will be spending the month of August living with an indigenous family in Chirikayén. He will spend four weeks with the family, helping them perform daily tasks and hopefully teaching English to their children while learning Spanish from the community.

Weekend Trip to Orinoco

Three of our volunteers, Jordy, Anthony, and John, made a weekend trip up to the Orinoco River delta and learned what traveling in Venezuela sometimes entails. After their bus north from Santa Elena broke down twice, they had to take three different taxis to their destination. Even with the delays, they were able to enjoy their stay at an eco camp along the river. They went for canoe rides, swam in the river, hiked in the jungle, and even saw pink river dolphins in their natural habitat!

