

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

October 2016



GENERAL UPDATE

This month we started some new projects and were also involved in some projects of the city of Samaná. Here are some of them:

Painting the school

We decided to paint the world map on one of the white walls in the school to remind of the multicultural backgrounds of all our volunteers. We really enjoyed doing it like you can see on the picture.

Workshop with Sarah

Sarah is one of our Red Cross volunteers from Germany. She studied social work and worked with children with special needs in her hometown so she knows a lot about the way to work with this children and how to treat them. She prepared a workshop for all the teachers at school. We learned about the behaviour of these children and worked out routines to improve the work at our school and to be able to treat every child the same way.

This was not the only workshop Sarah is going to do. She is planning to do one every three weeks so we can keep learning about the work we are doing and improving it.

Conservation program

Finally we initiated the conservation program. Last year we already had a program like this but the garbage is still a big problem in the province of Samaná so we are planning to restart the program. For this we want to sensitise the children in the schools. We are working together with the mayor's office and like there is already a similar program to ours we assisted in one of the conservation classes at Andrea de Peña School. The plan now is to prepare a theatre and some games for the children to learn about the importance of a clean environment and at the end of the project we will clean the Malecón.

Assistance and translation for the doctors from the USA

The Dr. Leopoldo Pou Hospital has been visited by a group of doctors from the USA this month. They stayed a week and did a lot of surgeries and other medical work. Some of our volunteers assisted them and helped them out with translations from Spanish to English. We liked the work really much. It was another challenge for us.





SCHOOL

In school we talked about the different animals. We painted, coloured and made animals out of paper. Another topic of the month were fruits, health and the importance of vitamins for our life. To make it more interesting we tried different fruits with the children.

We had our first Spanish class evaluation. Jenny a former volunteer did a survey with the volunteers and Max evaluated it and prepared a presentation so the teachers could see how the Spanish lessons are perceived by the students and what they want to learn.

EXCURSIONS

This month some of our volunteers went to Salcedo to participate on an Oktoberfest which was planned by German volunteers. We went all to Las Terrenas where some of us stayed a night and the weekend after we went to Las Galeras and did a boat trip to Playa Frontón and Madama which were two of the most beautiful beaches we have ever seen. And how could it be different? Of course we went to Cayo Levantado our favourite island.

VOLUNTEER INFO

This month Valerie and Katrin joined us. They are both working in the Dr. Leopoldo Pou Hospital and are staying for four weeks. Since Valerie arrived at the beginning of the month she already left us and also Katie, Bruce and Naomi left us. Saying goodbye was really hard especially to Naomi who stayed four months with us and was an important member of the group. We thank every volunteer for his and her work here in Samaná and the different projects.

NAOMI ABOUT HER TIME WITH ALDEAS DE PAZ

I spend four months volunteering with Aldeas de Paz and I enjoyed every moment of it.

Originally I signed up for the NGO management project but then I also joined the youth care & community team which is working in a small school for children with special needs and learning difficulties.

I had loads of fun working with the kids in school even though at first I wasn't sure if I was able to work well with them but after more or less one week all kids adjusted to me as a new teacher and started to trust me which really made me happy. Even after a short time you can already see a change in the children's learning progress which is very rewarding.

On top of that we do a parents reunion with all the teachers and the children's parents once a month where we exchange our observations and thoughts about the children. This is also a great possibility for us volunteers to hear from the parents themselves what a difference we make in their children's lives: One of the mothers told us that for the first time in her life her 27-years-old mentally disabled daughter has the chance to go to school and learn something and is now able to read numbers and write some letters and not only the mother but also friends and family realise a positive difference in her daughter's social behaviour. This was one of the situations where I realised that we really do have an impact in the kid's life's no matter if we work there for only a few weeks or for some months.

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