

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

August 2016



GENERAL UPDATE

This month we enjoyed our lives as volunteers really much here in Samaná and felt that there is a strong team spirit in our group.

Julia and Yunior who are the two new coordinators of Aldeas de Paz and have been working now for almost 3 months for the organisation presented our foundation on the local TV this month and now they want to introduce themselves to you.

Julia

Hola! Hello! Hallo!

My name is Julia and I am from Germany. I have been working for Aldeas de Paz since June 2016 as a coordinator for the volunteers. What I like most about the work, is the diversity - every day is different and there are always little surprises during the day. Working with volunteers is a pleasure for me, above all I did a volunteer service by myself in Ecuador.

In the Dominican Republic I really appreciate the friendly people, especially people here in Samaná. In addition the unlimited possibilities at work and in the free time are unique and of course also the wonderful beaches around.

Come and enjoy your volunteer service with us!

Yunior

Hello my name is Yunior Rodriguez Medina I'm 22 years old and I'm from Samana.

I work for the Aldeas de Paz foundation and I'm the coordinator at Mama Elba School. It's a school that works with children who have special needs. Our mission is to form part of the children's life to be able to help them to fit to the society. In our province there is no school or institution to care about these special needs children. This is the reason why part of our aim is helping these children who really need help. We try to recognize the requirement of every child. We concentrate in educating them, doing exercises and we let them choose what they want to learn.

Another task of mine is helping the volunteers with communication barriers.

For me it's a privilege to be part of this foundation and being able to help others.





SCHOOL

In Mama Elba School we talked of the restoration day of Dominican Republic which is a national holiday to learn something about the history and the culture. We painted flags and talked about the meaning of the colours.



EXCURSIONS

This month we did some really nice excursions on the weekends. The first one was to Cabarete where we went among other things to the 27 Damajagua Cascades to do canyoning. The second excursion was to Jarabacoa where we went paragliding and to the Jimenoa Cascade by horse. The last excursion this month was to Santo Domingo where we visited some museums. Of course we went also one time to our favourite island Cayo Levantado to enjoy the day at the beach.

VOLUNTEER INFO

This month lots of volunteers joined and left us. At the beginning of the month Bruce, Jennifer and Victoria joined us. Bruce is working on the new sports program of Aldeas de Paz, Jennifer in the NGO management team and Victoria in the school and in the NGO team. At the end of the month Katy joined us who is working at the hospital. Mayra and Medana who worked at the hospital left us at the beginning of the month and also Scott, Olivia and Aurelia who worked in the school left us. Unfortunately Victoria had to leave us as well due to familial issues. We thank every volunteer for his and her work here in Samaná.



AURELIA ABOUT HER HOST FAMILY

I chose to live in a hostfamily instead of living in the guesthouse to be acquainted with the Dominican culture and it was worth choosing the hostfamily, because they show me their daily routine, food and how they live.

The apartment we live in, is located in the town, therefore not far away from work(hospital, 5min and school, 8min). I have a room, which actually belongs to a son of the family, but at the moment he is studying in New York, so they use his room for the volunteers. My mum and my dad are doctors, working in the local hospital, so they are not often at home, because they are busy. The daughter is studying in Santo Domingo, so she isn't home often, neither my brother, who's living here as well. But it doesn't matter at all, because I was busy, too. Sometimes it's quite good to have time for you, alone in the apartment. What I also like is, that I am allowed to bring my friends to my home to do homework, to cook or just to chill.

I've never been such a long time away from my family, but I found a new one here in the Dominican Republic.

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