

Betreff: Our Crowdfunding Project started

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Our heart of the foundation is the Mama Elba school: a development and learning center for children and adults with special needs. It is one of the few institutions in the Dominican Republic where they are given the much-needed attention they would otherwise be denied. Around 20 children and adults with different special needs, ranging from physical and mental disabilities to developmental disorders or learning difficulties, attend the Mama Elba school every day. The school's work is crucial for their development.

However, many of them have never been to a specialist to get a professional diagnosis or therapy because for most of these impoverished families it is unaffordable. For many of us in developed countries this is the first thing to do to help someone with a disability.

Obviously, without a deeper understanding of the conditions these people are living with, the teachers cannot provide the best support possible for their students.

This is the reason for this Crowdfunding campaign: We want to raise money to send all of our pupils to a special diagnostic and therapy center in Sanchez, a town 30 kilometers from Samana. For only 10€ you can pay the transport for a student and his family and for the lifechanging diagnosis. But even the little amount of just 6€ helps as it is the price for one session of therapy. If you feel like you can give a little more money, 60€ pay for the diagnosis and ten sessions of therapy. And with the generous donation of 125€ you provide a student with half a year of therapy. Mama Elba needs your help!

Help now!



Sidefact: *The day of constitution*

The 6th of November is known in the Dominican Republic as “Día de la constitución”.

On this day in 1844, the constitution was established in San Christóbal. It is a statement of the fundamental rights of the Dominicans which was only accepted and published on the 13th of June, 2015.



The Lifeguard Course

Lisa-Sophie Heitkamp, one of the German Red Cross Volunteers, who comes from Oldenburg which is close to the North Sea, started a lifeguard course at the beginning of November here in Samaná. Back in Germany she was a lifeguard and an emergency medical technician herself and trained two or three times a week. Sometimes in the pool and sometimes in the sea or in a river with boats and other materials for rescuing. Having a lot of experience, she wanted to start a lifeguard course here.



We asked Sophie what her motivation was: "I had such a good education and wanted to pass my knowledge to the people here in Samaná. It is really necessary to have good swimmers here, because just a few are able to swim and a lot of them work on boats or close to the sea. In my opinion knowing how to swim is a basic knowledge which is why I want to start a swimming class for everybody soon. I think there are a lot of people keen to do it." Right now the Lifeguard course is only for the members of the Dominican Red Cross. There are six people coming every week either for theoretical or practical lessons. Topics of the theoretical lessons are bathing rules, currents and different forms of dangers and accidents. Working on a good and secure swimming style is part of the practical lesson. Furthermore, the Red Cross people are going to be taught about rescuing people with and without material and of course how to do first aid properly afterwards. The aim of the course is to be able to swim, rescue and take good care of persons who were involved in accidents at the sea. Sophie's goal is to reach as many people as possible to teach them how to swim and to rescue others. We are fully supporting her to achieve this goal.



Weekend activities: *Our trip to*



"Proyect Samaná"

Santo Domingo

From the 10th of November till the 13th our volunteers made a trip to the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo. They got a day off because of the national-holiday “The day of the Constitution”. A few volunteers want to talk about their highlights of the weekend:

“Seeing so many people, having a good time and enjoying the music at the “Presidente Festival” actually made me cry (just kidding it was because of Justin Timberlake).” – Hanna Kirsch

“I bought a cookie and a chocolate ice-cream with an extra chocolate topping on top of it in a shopping mall. It tasted great!” – Fabian Rudolf

“It was a very awesome weekend, I got to see a lot of great artists like Maluma, Ozuna and Bad Bunny. I also went to a chocolate museum and to the nationalpark “Tres Ojos”, which was very interesting and beautiful.” – Leticia Oehlgardt

From the 5th to the 9th November a group of veterinarians from Massachusetts came to Samaná in the Dominican Republic. They got assisted by Dr. Francisco Lopez, a veterinarian from the Dominican Republic. During their stay they operated around 250 dogs, cats and also horses at the basketball field in Samaná, which was converted to an operation room. The owners of the dogs and cats came to get the medical treatment for their animals. To take care of the horses they made an exception, the doctors drove around Samaná to the farms and operated them there.

A lot of the operations were castrations, but they also did eye-surgeries, caesarians and operated abscesses. Because a lot of different volunteers were interested we had to split the group. Everyday four volunteers had the chance to experience the work of the American Doctors.

We want to say “thank you” for the great opportunity our volunteers got. They got a great insight into the work of a veterinarian.



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