

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



February 2017

Semana Santa Jessica



The Semana Santa (Holy Week/ Easter) is a very important time here in the Dominican Republic. It starts at the 9th of April and ends at the 15th of April. Religious Holidays are recognized countrywide since the countries main population is Catholic. Christmas, Epiphany and other religious holidays are very important but the Semana Santa is the most important of all these religious holidays.

At the long weekend the families come together and go to church to show their respect to Jesús and EL Señor. Most shops and businesses are closed.

Furthermore, you can describe the Semana Santa as a beach-week for Dominicans. Due to many locals cannot swim you will not see them often on places like playa Rincon. But during the holy week, especially the beautiful beaches of Samaná are crowded with Dominicans, who are standing with clothing and a drink, knee-deep in the water, hearing their favorite music.

It was great to see so many people happily enjoying their weekend, but the Samana Santa also has a downside.

Traffic accidents are highly increased because many people are driving drunk.

To provide as much help as possible the presence of the “Dominican red cross”, “Defensa Civil” and military are highly increased.

All in all, it was a very interesting week in which I got a great insight of the Dominican culture.

Jessica

Hello!

My name is Jessica and I come from Spain. I am currently working in Aldeas de Paz as coordinator of the Mama Elba special education school for children and adults with special educational needs. For over seven years I have been teaching and educating people with special needs,



such as disability, mental illness, people with low socio-economic resources and social exclusion. I consider education as one of the basic pillars for the individual and community development of people, especially people with special needs, so I think it is really important to work with the students and also with their families, in order to contribute to their better integration in their closest environment. I am truly grateful to be able to develop my work in Aldeas de Paz together with the rest of the team and the volunteers. I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this great project in a Caribbean city like Santa Bárbara de Samaná.

General information and updates

This month a lot of volunteers left Aldeas de paz. Sophie who worked in the multi media team, Sarah and Anna N. from the NGO Management and Kathy and Annika from the hospital. And all in all five volunteers who worked in our school left: Alica, Anna B., Maria, Kaitlin and Anne! We thank all of you very much for your great support! It was an enrichment to have you working for us! Katazcyzna, Karolin, Yuli, Elena and Gian joined us this month. We welcome you and wish you an amazing time in the Dominican Republic. We are very happy to also welcome Sebastian and Jessica. They start working for Aldeas de paz this month as new volunteer coordinators. We are sure about a good work together and wish you good luck. Welcome in our team!



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