

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and the staff as well as the board members for their outstanding performance in 2018! I hope that 2019 will bring us, our families and our beneficiaries and their families, happiness and good health!

Manfred Mönnighoff

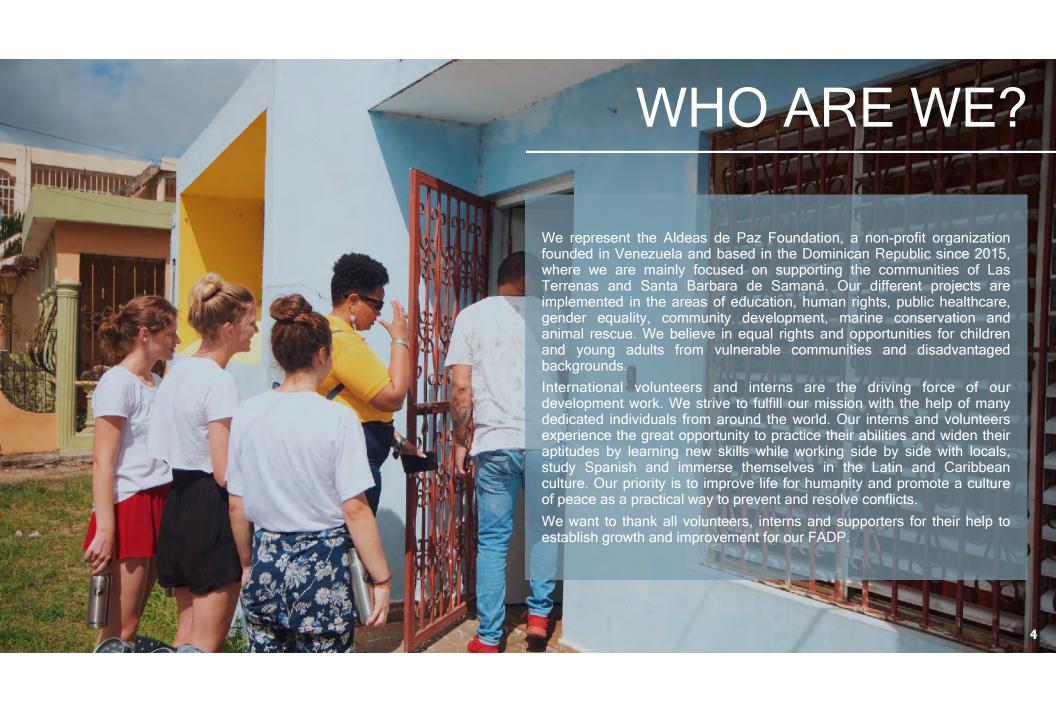
President Aldeas de Paz



PAGE

CONTENT

4	WHO ARE WE?
5	OUR VISION AND MISSION
6	OUR PROJECTS
7 - 17	YOUTHCARE: PROYECTO MAMÁ ELBA ; CASA DE LOS NIÑOS
	HEALTHCARE: HOSPITAL LIC. PABLO A. PAULINO ; CENTRO DIAGNÓSTICO
	NGO MANAGEMENT
22 - 23	MULTI MEDIA MANAGEMENT
	GENDER AND EQUALITY
	MARINE CONSERVATION
	ÁNGEL VALDERA
	VITO CHIMIENTI
	CHALLENGES AND GOALS
	VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCE: STATISTICS AND INSIGHTS
32	COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES:
33	ENGLISH-/ GERMAN CLASSES
	FIRST AID
	MANGROVES
	MEDICAL MISSION
37	VETMISSION
	SWIMMING CLASSES

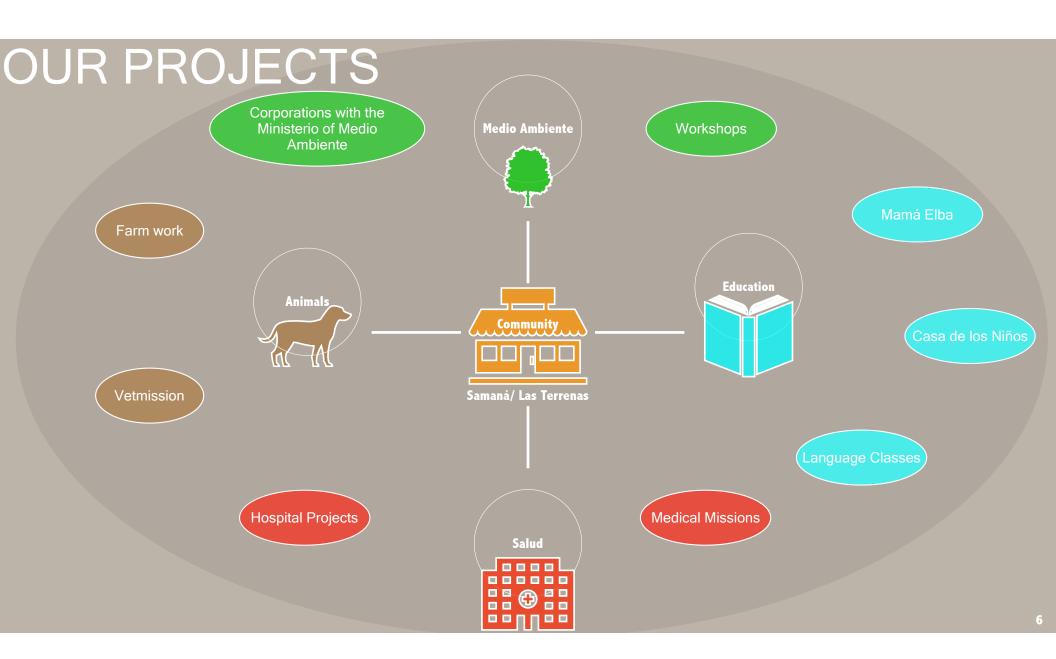


OUR VISION AND MISSION

Aldeas de Paz is a local and independent NGO based in Santa Barbara de Samaná and Las Terrenas, two towns on the Samaná peninsula in the Dominican Republic. It focuses on improving the lives of the local community and is funded by the monetary contributions from the volunteers. The foundation believes in a Culture of Peace, tolerance, justice, mutual respect and cultural exchange.

Aldeas de Paz relies heavily on its volunteers, who come to the Dominican Republic from all over the world to try and make the Fundacións vision a reality. The volunteers work, among other things, with children in need of special attention, in hospitals and in the organization of the NGO. They do this while immersing themselves in a respectful manner in the Dominican culture.

Apart from working on the on-going programs in a very independent way, the volunteers can also create their own projects. These ideas aim to leave a lasting positive impact on the local people and include language classes and first aid courses. In addition to the volunteers there are also coordinators at work in both towns in order to supervise the programs and the communication between Las Terrenas and Samaná. With this structure and vision the foundation has been growing steadily in the last few years and hopes to further enhance the lives of the local community in years to come.



YOUTHCARE

One of Aldeas de Paz´s biggest contributions to the community is the impact created by the work of our volunteers in the projects "Mamá Elba" (Samaná) and "Casa de los Niños" (Las Terrenas). Whereas Mamá Elba focuses on giving disabled children and adults the chance to participate in daily life actions, our volunteers in Casa de los Niños are assisting English classes with the aim to maximize ones future opportunities. Not only is this highly appreciated by all students, parents and the community as a whole but also truly fulfills our mission "gaining by giving" since it contributes to our volunteer's growth and open-mindedness.









Therefore, the content of tutoring also includes mathematics, reading and writing important skills for daily life such as how to tie shoes, control ones motor skills or watering the plants. After a short break in front of the building, where the kids get to eat a small snack and play around with the volunteers, the classes continue with a group activity. This kind of activity, aiming to teach about additional topics such as health, culture or geography, usually includes some handcraft work and varies every week depending on the general theme of the month. Difficulties and problems come along every day because we work with so many youngsters with different needs and only have a limited supply in terms of material, space and staff. But there is nothing that can not be solved by such a great team of volunteers from all over the world as well as local Dominicans.

The Mamá Elba is a motley crew of people of all ages, coming along with different kind of disabilities and personal backgrounds and of course different possibilities for ones future. It is also a place where the smallest things count as much as the biggest achievements, where everyone is always welcomed and where everyone can see the love and joy in the children's eyes. Mamá Elba offers not only a great environment to grow up and study but also kind of a big, colorful family.

WHAT MEANS MAMÁ ELBA TO YOU?

"Mamá Elba es una oportunidad de inclusión en todos los ámbitos de la vida de las personas con discapacidad"

-Jéssica, directora de Mamá Elba

"For me Mamá Elba is not only a place of learning, it's a place for children where they get attention and get well prepared for their lives. We are teaching them not just things like skills and knowledge, but also independence and how to move their body properly (especially with children who have special disability).

My biggest success was when I supported a student with getting up and standing although he is not able to walk caused by his disability. He learned to get up for a while and is much more active during our classes now."

-Sonja, long-term red cross volunteer

"For me, Mama Elba is a small community, in which, everyone, the teachers, the volunteers, the children and the families get to participate and try to create something beautiful."

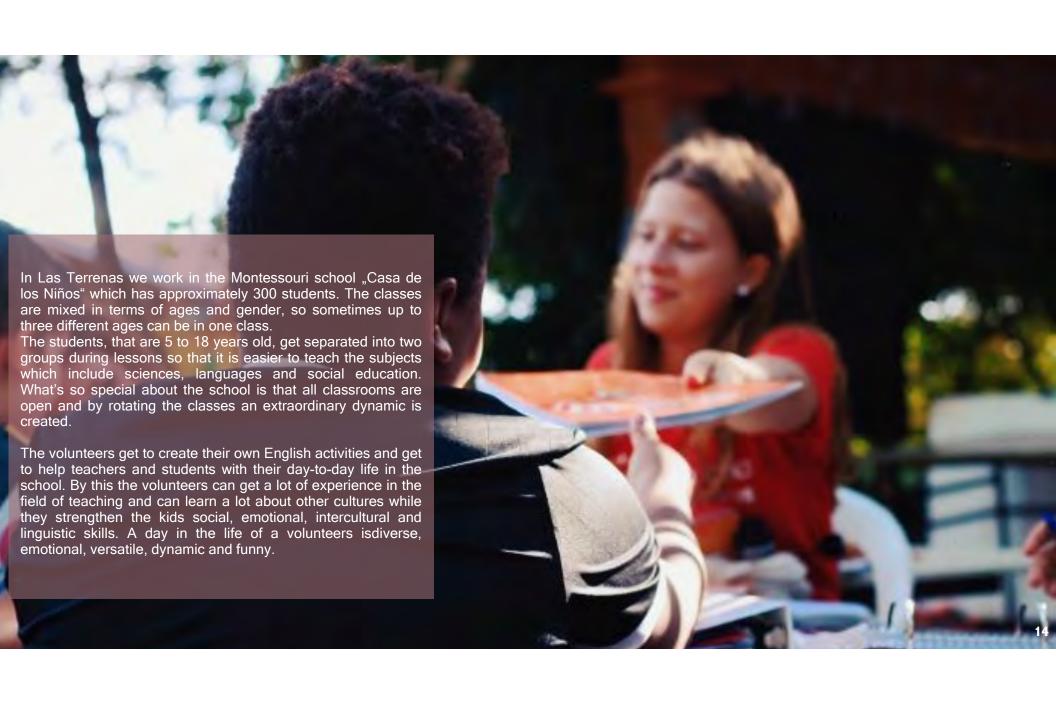
-William, volunteer



In the year of 2018 Mamá Elba was able to achieve some goals that were previously set. As every part of the foundation the project Mamá Elba is still in a growing process so that not every goal could be implemented. Still, there is a constant development and all interns and volunteers are looking forward to new challenges in the coming year.

- Here are our achieved goals: As a community based NGO we were able to integrate not only volunteers from foreign countries but also local people into the work we do. We welcomed two long-term dominican volunteers and three new dominican teachers.
- We were able to spread more information about Aldeas de Paz in Samaná at projects, parties, events and our ADP Infostand. At the same time we were able to sell handcrafts made by the children at Mamá Elba.
- The new employed psychologist worked once a week with the children and adults to support them mentally and work with their individual needs, ranging from physical and mental disabilities to developmental disorders or learning difficulties.

































What do we see? In the Dominican Republic the healthcare sy

In the Dominican Republic the healthcare system is not as developed as in the western countries. Although there are a lot of challenges you are faced with, the Healthcare system is in a process of modernization.

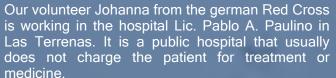
What we want and what we do?

This is where we want to help. Our volunteers have the possibility to develop and aid the healthcare system. Depending on their education and their own motivation they can help in different sectors e.g. Emergency, Pediatry, Maternity (only female volunteers), Diabetes and Integral Attention & Prevention for HIV, Tuberculosis and Uterine Cancer. In addition, the volunteers can support Nursing, Hospital administration and management assisting with accountancy and helping with statistics. There is also the possibility to work in the pharmacy.

HEALTHCARE



HOSPITAL LIC. PABLO A. PAULINO



She is supporting the doctors and nurses in the emergency room by doing little tasks to speed up the process. In the last few months she has been working there she experienced how different the hospitals can be compared to the ones we are used to. Mainly because of these differences and therefor created cultural shock, working in a local hospital implicates a captivating experience for her.





NGO MANAGEMENT

Like every other company, Fundación Aldeas de Paz needs a team of NGO administrators consisting of interns and helpful volunteers.

The program gives insight into all the different aspects on how to maintain and develop a Non-Profit Organization. We support the coordinator with office work, managing different projects and interact with the incoming volunteers.

Also, we give our best to support every volunteer in finding their role in their project and the different culture. We are focused on community based work and try to improve and maintain our ongoing projects.

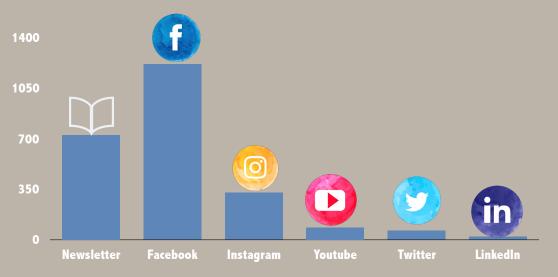
In addition to that, we are always happy to create new and personal projects in all the different branches where help is needed. Direct work with our primary beneficiaries is an essential part of the Aldeas de Paz activities.

Therefore, the NGO volunteers are also expected to participate in foundation-wide events and activities involving our beneficiaries. Volunteers need to bring qualities like flexibility, personal initiative and discipline. During our stay and work in NGO we learn to surpass ourselves.





FOLLOWER/ SUBSCRIBERS



MOST SUCCESSFUL POSTINGS:



For an organization like Aldeas de Paz it is important to reach as many people as possible in order to raise funds, but also to spread the word about what it is we do.

Therefore the Multimedia/Journalism team produces a monthly newsletter to inform the people subscribed to it about the foundation's activities. In addition, we have a magazine every two months to give more detailed information.

The Aldeas de Paz social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn) are another integral part of the communication. Through these accounts, we share the day-to-day activities of the foundation and because of this, we enroll new volunteers on a constant basis. The photos taken by the Multimedia team help to support these efforts.

Also, we have a strong communication with agencies, with whom we include to find new volunteers to help realize the foundation's vision.

Finally, Aldeas de Paz also sets up an information desk at the Samaná harbor whenever a cruise ship arrives to inform the tourists about our mission and to raise funds.

GENDER AND EQUALITY



MARINE CONSERVATION

What we see:

Because of climate change and water pollution the reefs around the coast of the Dominican Republic stand under great pressure and are on the verge of dying completely. People are unaware of the consequences of their actions and no actions are taken by the government. Additionally there is an ongoing issue with the overpopulation of Lionfish, who is scavenging through the reefs feeding on the local reef fish, decimating the population drastically.

What we do:

To prevent this from happening we try to do marine conservation and coral restoration by picking up corals that have been knocked over to give them a new chance at life. The volunteers get to help first hand on the dive trips which can include anything from assembling kit over diving with the clients and picking up corals to leading snorkel trips and explaining what tourists should be aware of and what they should pay attention to. By knowing what fish they see in the water, volunteers can actively take part in spreading awareness about issues like the overpopulation of Lionfish and can help conserve the reefs by taking action in eliminating them from the Caribbean waters.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COORDINATOR:

"Hi! I'm Ángel Valdera and I'm more than happy to be the new projects and volunteering coordinator of Aldeas de Paz.

Since I started I've seen a lot of motivated volunteers taking projects with responsibility and love. That makes me feel happy and makes me think on how we can improve what's done to create a better experience for the volunteers.

Aldeas de Paz is changing, the areas we now see might not stay the same after February. My hopes are to create more opportunities to build strong relations with communities, local leaders and between areas. I'm looking forward to create stable cooperation with them. Also, I have big expectations with the multimedia team and lots of ideas to run with the work of volunteers and communities.

I'm very happy to start this new journey with this great team."



This new year opens with some surprises, the result of the tireless work of a fantastic team made up with volunteers and professionals who have dedicated these last months to the construction of a long-term project.

"We welcomed more than 60 volunteers who have participated in our activities, we created the first real project of the Foundation with the Mamá Elba Center, which is recognized by the State, and another one on the Restoration of Corals in Las Terrenas, recognized by the UNDP. Starting from scratch and laying the foundations for a future full of possibilities, seeing beyond to create an ever closer horizon, start there where no one in these years had thought we could leave. As Sebastian Kervyn tirelessly demonstrated, as well excellent collaborator as excellent friend, Jessica Perez with dedication to Mama Elba and Zena Clements for the untiring desire and energy to fight for a collective gender consciousness.

A job that did not demand immediate rewards but embroidered important relationships of trust with other organizations of the highest value. Recognition has been earned for the tireless tenacity of the Fundacion Aldeas De Paz as part of the community. The dignity and values that a Foundation like ours must transmit and act are: democracy, inclusion, peace, acceptance, transparency in operations and economic management. It is through these principles that we wanted to take a path of sharing with collaborators and beneficiaries to receive the opportunity to improve their living conditions, health, education and respect of the environment and for the vulnerability of everyone."

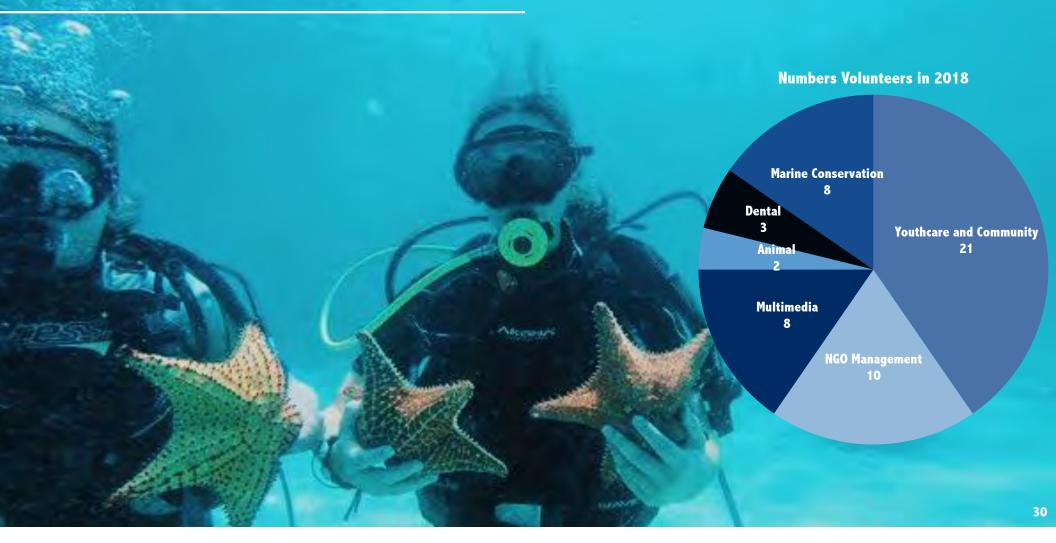
Vito Chimienti - Coordinator







VOLUNTEERS STATISTICS



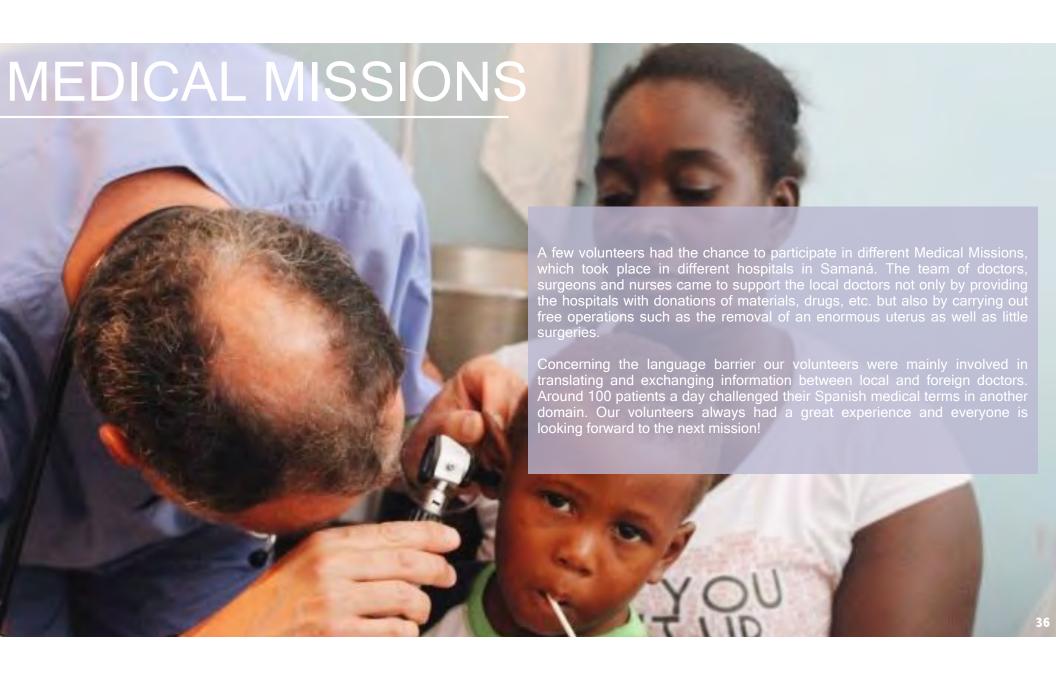


















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Unidades de Atención Primaria "UNAP"

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Provecto Biodiversidad Costera v Turismo

CEBSE: Centro Para la Conservacion y Ecc Desarrollo de la Bahia de Samana

INAIPI : Instituto Nacional de Atención

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