

Betreff: Feliz Navidad from ADP

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Our second Fundraising Party

On the 3rd of December, we celebrated a fundraising party at our Mama Elba School. This is a school for children with special needs and is the first ever educational and therapeutic initiative for children who need special assistance here in Samaná. United we planned to raise money for the necessary therapies, that are desperately needed to assist in the physical and intellectual development of the children.

With the great success in mind of the last party at the beginning of October, the volunteers of Aldeas de Paz were very motivated to host yet another great party on the lawn in front of the Mama Elba school. As last time, with the help of the parents of the children we prepared a great buffet with local Dominican food. To keep the children busy there was a variety of activities that were offered. From face painting by our talented volunteers, arts and crafts with a "Christmas Motto" that the children could do, to sports games and even three clowns that did a great show, there was everything to keep not only the kids but also their parents and us entertained and smiling the whole day!

It was especially great to see the kids running around in their "Santa Claus" hats and dancing to (very loud) Dominican music. It was so nice to see the kids helping those that had trouble walking or dancing. We, and probably also the kids, never had the feeling that they were actually kids with a disability which was great.

Sadly, the mayor of Samaná didn't make it to our party. But although the second party was only about two months after the first one we were still able to raise approximately 200 USD. This money will be invested into the Mama Elba School so the kids in need can receive even better assistance and therapies.

We are planning more parties in 2018 to help improve the Mama Elba school and make it even better than it already is!



Crowdfunding Project

Since our Crowdfunding project started a few weeks ago we have already collected an amount of around 1.500€. That is a great achievement so far. But nevertheless we want to reach the goal of 7.500€ for the wellbeing of our children.

For only 10€ you can pay the transport for a student and his family and for the life changing 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.

So if you feel like spreading joy and love not only to your family and friends but also around the world, please donate a little amount. Even if you bought all presents and do not have any money left, 6€ can be found somewhere for a good cause. Give a Christmas present to a child that otherwise would not receive one.

Mama Elba needs your help!

Help now!



“Progress is impossible without change. And those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” –George Bernard Shaw

Our team in Las Terrenas changed

Our project and volunteer coordinator in charge of Las Terrenas was Julia Schaaf. She is 28 years old and from Germany. Julia has been working for Aldeas de Paz since June 2016. In this time she took care of the volunteers and the projects they work in. In the beginning she was in Samaná and coordinated the work and the meetings we all did there together. But a coordinator is not only responsible for that. If somebody is sick our dear coordinators take us to the doctor or the hospital. We can always talk to them if we need their advice or help to cope with problems here in a totally different environment. If we do not feel comfortable with our work they can help us to change something. “For us, Julia was more a good friend than a coordinator.” – Leticia Oehlgardt, a volunteer from Las Terrenas.

In the beginning of September 2017 she went to Las Terrenas to continue her work there. With her we started our second branch in Las Terrenas. “Las Terrenas is very different from Samana, but has also a lot of potential for ADP projects.” – Julia Schaaf

Julia did a wonderful job there in her last four month. All of our volunteers are happy with the work she did. They also got on well with her on a personal basis. Linda Beard, a volunteer from las Terrenas told us that she really liked how funny and spontaneous Julia was. Very often they went spontaneously together to Zumba classes and to get some icecream together. Sadly, after one and a half year Julia's time here is nearly over.

We want to thank her for the good work she did and for the wonderful person she is, who enriched our team! We wish you all the best in the future and look forward to welcome you again.

But Julia's leaving does not mean that the volunteers are left alone. Vito, our new coordinator joined our Team in October. Since then Vito and Julia worked together so Vito can get to know everything and everyone until he will work on his own. We are happy to welcome Vito and are excited what will happen in the future.



"I am leaving Aldeas de Paz after one and a half year. It was a great experience; I learned and I enjoyed the Dominican landscape a lot. So if you have the chance to come, just do it and become part of Aldeas de Paz! I am looking forward to see the development and progress of ADP in the future." - Julia Schaaf

CHRISTMASBREAK

One year with a lot of special moments comes to an end: 78 great volunteers, new projects and cooperations and the opening of our second location in the Dominican Republic.

We wish you: Feliz Navidad y un Prospero Año Nuevo! - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you very much for supporting Aldeas de Paz throughout the year. We would not be where we are right now without your help!

We will be offline for one week to enjoy the holidays with our friends and families. After the holidays we will be back. Motivated, enthusiastic and full of energy we are starting the new

year.



"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others." – Bob Hope

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." – Charles M. Schulz

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