

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

March 2017



GENERAL UPDATE

This month we had the honor to welcome the German Red Cross in the Dominican Republic. Moreover Anna N. and Laurenz organized the so-called “café intercultural”, a place where our volunteers are able to interconnect with local people, for the first time. Additionally we welcomed Jonathan, Sophie and Anne in our team.

VISIT OF THE GERMAN RED CROSS

Half time! - It has already been 6 months since our 8 volunteers who have been sent by the German Red Cross (FreiWerk GmbH), joint Aldeas de Paz. That is why Frank Danscher the chairman of “FreiWerk” and Annelie Rochholl the responsible coordinator for voluntary services abroad, travelled to the Dominican Republic this month in order to hold an interim seminar.

For doing so, all our volunteers from the German Red Cross travelled to Las Terrenas, where the Seminar was given.

Besides lectures held on the history of the Dominican Republic and the principles of “FreiWerk”, Frank Danscher and Annelie Rochholl analysed and evaluated everything that has happened in the past few months together with our volunteers. Additionally our volunteers possibilities after their stay with Aldeas de Paz were discussed.

Moreover the DRK representatives spent two days of their stay together with Julia and Manfred. In Particular actual happenings, problems and challenges, financial planning’s, behavior in case of severe illness and the possibility of new volunteers being sent has been discussed. Additionally Frank Danscher and Annelie Rochholl where brought to several project locations and our volunteers apartments in order to be able to grant the best possible insight. After a successful week of evaluation our volunteers are now ready to start their second term.

CAFÉ INTERCULTURAL

Anna N. about the main idea behind the event

Getting to know and talking to the local population is one of the keys to a new culture. After my first one and a half months here in Samaná, I felt like I did not really have as much contact with locals and wasn’t speaking as much Spanish as I would like to. This is how I came up with the idea of creating an event and place for intercultural exchange between the volunteers, the local population and anyone being interested. We started on March 7 in the school with an evening of chatting and playing games –





Domino and Uno. In order to ensure continuity Laurenz, who is staying for one year, is now in charge of the organization. The concept is based on participation: everyone interested can propose activities such as playing a specific game, making food and eating together, playing music, dancing, or watching a movie. The Café Intercultural is still in its baby shoes and may take some time until it is fully established, but we feel that it can become a valuable addition to the town's leisure time offers and create a platform for communication, interaction and plain fun.

VOLUNTEER INFO

Sophie about her time with Aldeas de Paz

I have chosen to stay with Aldeas the Paz and help in the Multi Media team for one month. But when I arrived I honestly have been quite shocked about the conditions in Samaná. I didn't expect to arrive in a town that is even sometimes out of water but thus have also been pleasantly surprised about how little the local people need compared to Europeans to be entirely happy. I was unsure how my stay would turn out, but have also been delighted to start this unpredictable adventure. The thing I definitely loved most here was how everyone gets involved from day one. I had numerous meetings with Manfred and Julia where they explained me what I should be careful with, how my donation is going to be used and what I will be responsible for. That has been the most important part for me, since I have planned my trip for a loooooong time and really wanted to see how my contribution would benefit the kids as well as the organization. But not only the coordinator and founder involved me to the fullest, also my team asked me which tasks I would like to take on. Furthermore every volunteer recommended going on trips at the weekend. And yes, by all means: I enjoyed every single second

of it. The culture, the people, the food, the landscape. Simply everything was worth hopping on the plane. Besides working for a good cause and being part of an NGO and a great team of volunteers for the first time, it personally brought me back to reality and taught me to take less things for granted. It's the little luxuries (like for example clean tap water) that I appreciate most right now. I am super grateful for this experience here and that the organization I have chosen has a clear vision they are working for. I will definitely try to come back as soon as possible!

Anna B. half-time update

My name is Anna and I'm from Germany and I am 19 years old. I'll stay in Samaná for two months.

When I saw the apartment the first time I was a little surprised because it was the first time I was in an Apartment where you have to cook with gas and where you aren't allowed to through your toilet paper in the toilet. But after a few days I got totally used to it and it everything was fine. I am proud that the coordinators, Manfred and Julia, take care of the volunteers because this was very important to me.

Teaching in School is also fun, but in the beginning it was hard because there are just a few children and everyone is on a different level. That though turned out to be no problem since everyone in school is very nice and helpful.

On the weekends I always went to different cities or to beaches with a bunch of volunteers. The best excursion was to Cabarete near Puerto Plata because we saw different things and the beaches were breath-taking. All in all am very grateful for the first half of my time with Aldeas the Paz and wouldn't like to miss a second of my stay!

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