

# Galapagos Newsletter



*Sula nebouxi*

**Blue footed boobies scanning the water for fish**

## **GREETING FROM ECUADOR..!!**

We have started a new year and are looking forward to seeing more volunteers here, helping our community. A new year brings new responsibilities, hopes, challenges, promises and resolutions, as well as results and achievements. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have already worked and played with us, as well as welcome those who will come in the future. Projects Abroad Galapagos would not be successful without all of you.



William Puga  
**Country Director**

## **Credits**

- **Front Page:** Natasja Castro
- **Desing:** Daniela Silva
- **Articles :** Romana Miserez  
Connor Smith  
Nicola Kerschbaumer



# My experience in the school

Updated, By ROMANA MISEREZ

Care, 1.8months, Switzerland



It will be my third experience volunteering with Projects Abroad, but the first time volunteering in a school. So, I am immersed in a primary school with 32 students in my class. Certainly the high number of children has impacted me, the noise and short attention spans of the children has also been challenging, but I do have a better

chance of keeping order in the classroom, when I speak a little Spanish. After a few days of helping the teacher, I think that the most important work for me is to relieve the teacher and help her in the lesson preparation and support for the children because they have some difficulties and we need to try to teach them how to calm and pay attention. But it's not always easy and the children need to learn about self-control. So after a few weeks, I can see that when we take the time to spend with each child to help them, it is indeed very gratifying for me and for the student. The people here are very kind and the island is beautiful and my family is absolutely perfect.



# Teaching English

by CONNOR SMITH

Teaching, 3 months, USA



This is my second time volunteering with Projects Abroad. The first time I was a gym teacher in a secondary school so as you can guess teaching English is a bit different. I work at the Projects Abroad office and the

kids come to the office after school is done for the day. Classes are an hour long and I have another volunteer that helps me teach as well. I teach for only 3 hours a day and it's quite interesting and fun. Some of the classes can get a bit wild, but once you are able to settle them down it is easy to get them to do the work and they actually start learning. The placement is exactly what I was expecting and I am glad I chose it. The town here is awesome and it's always fun to go to the beach and chill out on the boardwalk with other volunteers. My host family is very nice and I am most definitely enjoying my stay on San Cristobal.



# Stay at Projects Abroad in Galapagos

By NICOLA KERSCHBAUMER  
Care, Two months, Germany



As a volunteer project I decided to work in a day care center in San Cristóbal, one of the Galapagos Islands. After a couple of months planning I was set to go. I arrived on San Cristóbal on a Sunday and was picked up by two staff members along with another volunteer. They brought me directly to my host family who welcomed me warmly. The following day I had an introduction in the late morning which meant I had sufficient time to meet my family properly. I live with a mother and her daughter who is just a couple of years younger than I am. I got my own room which gives me my private space. Otherwise the house consists of a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and the family's bedroom. The mother also has a partner who is usually around with his daughter. The first day the family showed me around Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, which is a peaceful and calm little town. The following day my introductory meeting also included another tour of the town in which I was shown the essential places, like the ATM machine or the office. Work only

started the following day, when I was picked up in the morning by a staff member and brought to the class I assist in. It's a 5 minutes' walk from my house to the school which is rather convenient. I work in class 1a, which teaches 5 year old children basic knowledge. The teacher in my class and the students welcomed me very nicely and integrated me into the class very quickly. Some Spanish knowledge is rather helpful though, as the only English speaker is an American student. The teacher usually asks me to help her by preparing the homework, watching the children, approving their work or simply helping them complete their tasks. In the break times I normally play outside with them. It is incredible to see how quickly these young children take someone into their heart and completely trust someone who has only been there for a short time. This is partially what makes work very enjoyable. The teacher is also a great person who, for example, also brings me snacks for the break time to bring me closer to the Ecuadorean culture. She is responsible for



27 children and is very grateful for any help. I always go home after school finishes at 12.30 and have lunch with my family. Then I might help the daughter with her homework or go downtown to meet some friends, go to the beach or to the office. In the evening I'm



usually back at home for dinner and then afterwards I might meet some friends again. So far I've enjoyed my stay very much and

can only emphasize how such a project is very beneficial for both the community, as well as the volunteer himself.



## Updating Photos

-A day at the day care center

