

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Mexico 



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 01 Editorial
- 02 Project Updates
- 03 Volunteer Stories
- 04 Country Update

Follow us on



www.projects-abroad.net

ProjectsAbroad

EDITORIAL



If you have been following our social media, trip blog and newsletter during this year, you may have noticed that we have been writing about our teaching and sports placement *Niños y adolescentes en armonía* on a regular basis. This organization offers educational opportunities to underprivileged children who often live in disadvantaged communities. As you can guess, we are very proud to work with them.

Our very first volunteer at this placement was Simon Hendrikse (Netherlands) who volunteered in May 2014 as a Capoeira instructor. You can watch a video about his experience here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO1X3dbQVOE>



Following the success of Simon's project and after seeing how motivated the children were when they could engage with people from abroad, we started welcoming more volunteers such as: Christopher Henriksen (Norway), Omar Sadraoui and Camil Lazrak (Morocco); Adeline Saive (France), Jordyn Dunacusky (US), William Pearson, Sophie Sood and Thomas Jolles (UK); Nicole Gabriel (Switzerland), Sylvain Thibault and Odette Lavoie (Canada); and Peter Wolfgang (Germany). We thank you all.

Of course, these weren't our only volunteers in Mexico during this year. To all of you who volunteered during this fantastic year... thank you for your hard work.

Juan Miguel Ruiz Flores
Communications Officer
Projects Abroad Mexico



PROJECT UPDATES

Third medical outreach of the year at Niños y adolescentes en armonía

Ines Fønss (Denmark) and Jakob Ernst (Germany), are two of our current Medicine & Healthcare volunteers in Guadalajara, Mexico. They are volunteering at our Medical placement, Cruz Verde Delgadillo Araujo, located near the center of the city. They have been able to attend and even assist in surgery operations as well as learn from the medical staff working there.

On the 5th of October, Ines and Jakob attended our last medical outreach of the year at our Teaching and Sports placement Niños y adolescentes en armonía. Alongside healthcare local professionals, our Projects Abroad volunteers had the opportunity to help the children of the institutions by performing medical checkups on them and determining whether they needed some kind of treatment which was then provided by Projects Abroad.

We congratulate Ines and Jakob for their work!



VOLUNTEER STORIES

Teaching French at the University of Guadalajara: the experience of Clarissa Guignard

Since she was a child Canadian volunteer, Clarissa Guignard (26) has known that she would one day work as a volunteer in a foreign country. As she grew older, she got interested to experience Latin America. Learning Spanish was the next step to reach her dream of living abroad. Supported by her Dad, a Spanish speaker, she progressed quickly.

Since the beginning of October 2014, she worked as a French teacher at our Teaching placement on the local university campus. She had the chance to grow professionally and obtain the necessary experience she needs to become a successful teacher back in Canada.

"All the students here are very enthusiastic about learning a foreign language and participate a lot during class. I play songs with them and organize small sketches to strengthen the language skills they have learned in class", says Clarissa who speaks passionately whenever she mentions her placement at the university.

Always with a smile on her face, it isn't hard to imagine that Clarissa has made lasting bonds with her students and colleagues. During her last days at the placement, the students and other colleagues invited her to visit different places in the city and its surroundings. For Clarissa this is a sign, showing that her work was successful as she got to make a real positive impact in people's lives: "Everyone has told me that they are going to miss me!"

On the 26th of November 2014, all the teachers and students of foreign languages (which included Korean, Chinese, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and of course French) got together to show how much they had learned in the previous semester: "The 'Linguafest' is a festival in which all students can show how much they have learned by performing sketches and showing videos or singing songs in the language they are learning".

"In the process of preparing for the 'Linguafest', teachers and students got to spend more time together, which helped reinforce the bonds between everyone", shares Clarissa and adds: "The idea of the festival is to show the relevance of learning other languages and how fun it is."

As Clarissa's time in Mexico comes to an end, she is looking forward to seeing her family again, but at the same time knows how much she will miss the experience she made in Mexico: "I know I will think about my Mexican family once I am back in Quebec. I will remember the people that I met here and all that I learned from the other teachers at the university".



Country update

Christmas market in Guadalajara

Each year during the month of December, right in the heart of the historic center, there appears a market that sells everything one may need to decorate one's house in Christmas fashion. From Christmas trees and lights of all colors, to dancing reindeers and red seasonal flowers called *Flor de Nochebuena*.

It is a tradition for Guadalajarans to attend this market to get all we need for the season. Check it out in the pictures below!

