

News Letter AUDELE - CUIC, November 2009

Valentina Bermudez, Uruguayan EVS Volunteer in France

“Hi! My name is Valentina, I came from Uruguay (South America) and I am doing my EVS in Lille, France. Here in France I worked in an organization called “L’abej” in a work place with young people doing and painting furniture and decorative things in wood to solve a humanitarian project in Niger. In the same organization, I also worked in a residence for



people older than 40 years old, helping the social assistance in activities like doing Friday’s meal with the residents or going with them to the bank or supermarket.

During my project I also had 2 courses in another city in France, where we learned about our rights and obligations as volunteers, and who we should contact with in case of a problem. Besides that, we met so many volunteers from all over the world around who are doing their EVS also here in France. This is my 8th month and I will still stay one month more. It’s amazing how fast the time goes. Thinking about this experience, I could never imagined how it was. All the people I met and the things I learned in this “not formal education” is something that I will never forget.”

Juan Ignacio Rodríguez Serpa, Uruguayan Volunteer in Rumania

“My name is Ignacio, I’m a volunteer from Uruguay and now I’m in Arad, Rumania. The name of the project that I belong is “EVS EXPRESS” and inside of that project I’m will working in the sub-project “SMILE AND THE WORLD WILL SMILE TO YOU”. I will be working in a



kinder garden helping the teachers and making games for the children, I will work in a Kealthy Center (homeless people) , is where the children and the families without home goes there to have meals and they can take a shower and pass time there and I will working to in a Older people center. I really like the project because is about make the people laugh and smile, we will try to change the world with a smile. Since I am here I meted a lot of people from all over the world, and I really know that experience is unique and it will make improve myself. “

David Coakley: EVS volunteer working in Uruguay in 4 projects!!!

"When I arrived in Uruguay I was anxious to meet my new family which I would live with for the first month. I had never learnt Spanish before my arrival and the mother and father spoke minimal English so I had to learn at a rapid pace. The family had a passion for music and Uruguayan culture which resulted in me enduring a marvelous introduction to Uruguay and the intricacies of the



lifestyle many tourists or travelers would not see or become involved in.

At **Guildford** I felt as though the students benefited from my conversation classes, the experience has been rewarding and it has opened up new opportunities for me in the future. I had Spanish lessons as training which were helpful and enjoyable. It was great to meet potential EVS volunteers from Uruguay that were full of anxiety and excitement. I thoroughly enjoyed playing chess, ping pong and being creative artistically with the youth. I went to watch a football match with a group of ten which was very entertaining.

I believe I could have contributed more to Techos than just muscle for construction but they have a set way of doing things and I was proud to be involved. If you work for Techos in Uruguay you are like a celebrity or saviour, the project I worked on was very rewarding and made me want to continue working in the field of Humanitarian Design.

I went away with a Jewish school for 3 days in Solis during November, I've never worked with children before so looked forward to the experience to judge whether it could be a career for me. There were 25 boys and 24 girls all aged between 10 and 11, they were great and very energetic. I believe I contributed a lot to the summer camp and that my presence was important.

My allowances have enabled me to travel across Uruguay and enjoy many aspects of Montevideo. There is so much to do in Montevideo and most of it is free you just have to be out there to find out about it. Karen has been very helpful and supportive replying to my emails and texts, even on the weekends. I am very grateful to Karen for making me feel comfortable and able to speak honestly with her. If ever I felt lost or unsure about things in Uruguay I had Karen to assist me. I went to Buenos Aires for on arrival training which went well and was rewarding. Buenos Aires is a vibrant city full of passionate people and vast diversity of culture."

Uruguayan volunteer that will participate in EVS in Millennium Center Association

"Hi, my name is Fabio. In August I signed up to be an EVS's volunteer, so I started giving Spanish classes to other volunteers here in Montevideo. In that time I had a lot of students from many parts of the world. It was a great experience, having the chance of meeting a lot of people from other countries and shares the culture. Now I'm going to Romania for 7 months and I'm really looking forward to it, it will be great."