

August 2014

General Update

During the last few weeks, we have had a gap between the last generation of volunteers and the next one. We have spent the time on maintenance of our premises, such as painting all areas, revitalizing the rooms, and also finishing the apartment for our new Australian family of three, that are staying with us from the end of August. We are now ready to welcome all the new volunteers that will join us from all over the world over the next few weeks. We will be start welcoming Michael from Denmark, and soon Adrian, Philip, Vrinda and Mikkel amongst others who will be volunteering together the coming months and even till summer 2015.

Our new family, their hopes and expectations

Many people want to give some of their time and commitment to other less privileged people under a new and exciting sky. However, that can seem impossible with small children. This did not stop Jo and Kenrick who think it can be a giving and learning experience, not just for them, but also for their two year old daughter Amelie.



Jo is on her fifth day at the foundation already sketching and brainstorming on our new project, and Ken is expecting to help Jo with the planning and execution, and help teaching English as it is his former profession. The family is hoping to all learn Spanish as their second language, and Amelie is already becoming better than the rest of us.

New exiting project for the local hospital

The foundation is now starting a whole new project, that will be sketched by Jo, with the help of Manfred, Kelvis, the hospital staff and the locals of Santa Elena. The project is a new playground and waiting area, for both staff members, as well as guests of the local hospital.

This project is seen as a important task for the organisation, because at the moment the halls of the hospital are filled with people waiting every day. This is not convenient for the staff, the visitors or the people who need peace and quiet to recover.

We are therefore very much looking forward to creating a great space that is fun and with lots of colour, so the area reflects the village.

Starting yet a School year

The school year at Aldeas de Paz is now beginning, and with our new volunteers ready, it is now possible for us to offer a good and creative supplementary education to Santa Elena's children. We will of course not forget the fun and laughter, which is one of the most important and treasured values of our foundation.

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What are weekends for?

The weekends in Santa Elena can easily be used for a great deal of things. From playing chess with the locals, to eating an ice-cream while watching the world go by, or taking a hike to one of the many mountains around us in order to see Santa Elena from a whole new perspective.

These are some of the benefits of living in this lovely village. Kelvis and Nadia took a small trip to the top of Sampai this weekend. Here they could, as Kelvis says, see two different worlds. On one side of the mountain Santa Elena appears. On the other side, there is only layers and layers of mountains and pure countryside on the horizon.



Photo from the top of Sampai (near Sampai indigenous village)

Our little backyard

If you choose to leave home in order to volunteer or intern at Aldeas de Paz, you will get all of the practical information you need before travelling. You will also hear about the sights you can spend your weekends exploring. When you get here you will receive all the necessary information that you need, and you will get as much (or as little!) work as you like.

What you may not have heard about is all the fun surprises that will appear around you, because of the location you are living and working in. The other day the trees were filled with monkeys, that ate all the fruit, threw them on the ground, and by the end of the day they had had enough and went back into the jungle.

The chameleon frogs will also surprise you from time to time. As soon as they move onto a different surface the frogs will change their skin color again as a way of camouflaging themselves. So don't think it will ever be boring here because just being in our backyard is an adventure.

Get in touch

To get in touch with us write you can write us an E-Mail at mail@peacevillages.org.

Don't forget to follow us on our new Twitter account, [@AldeasDePaz](#), and to like us on [Facebook](#) for frequent updates on our projects here at the foundation!