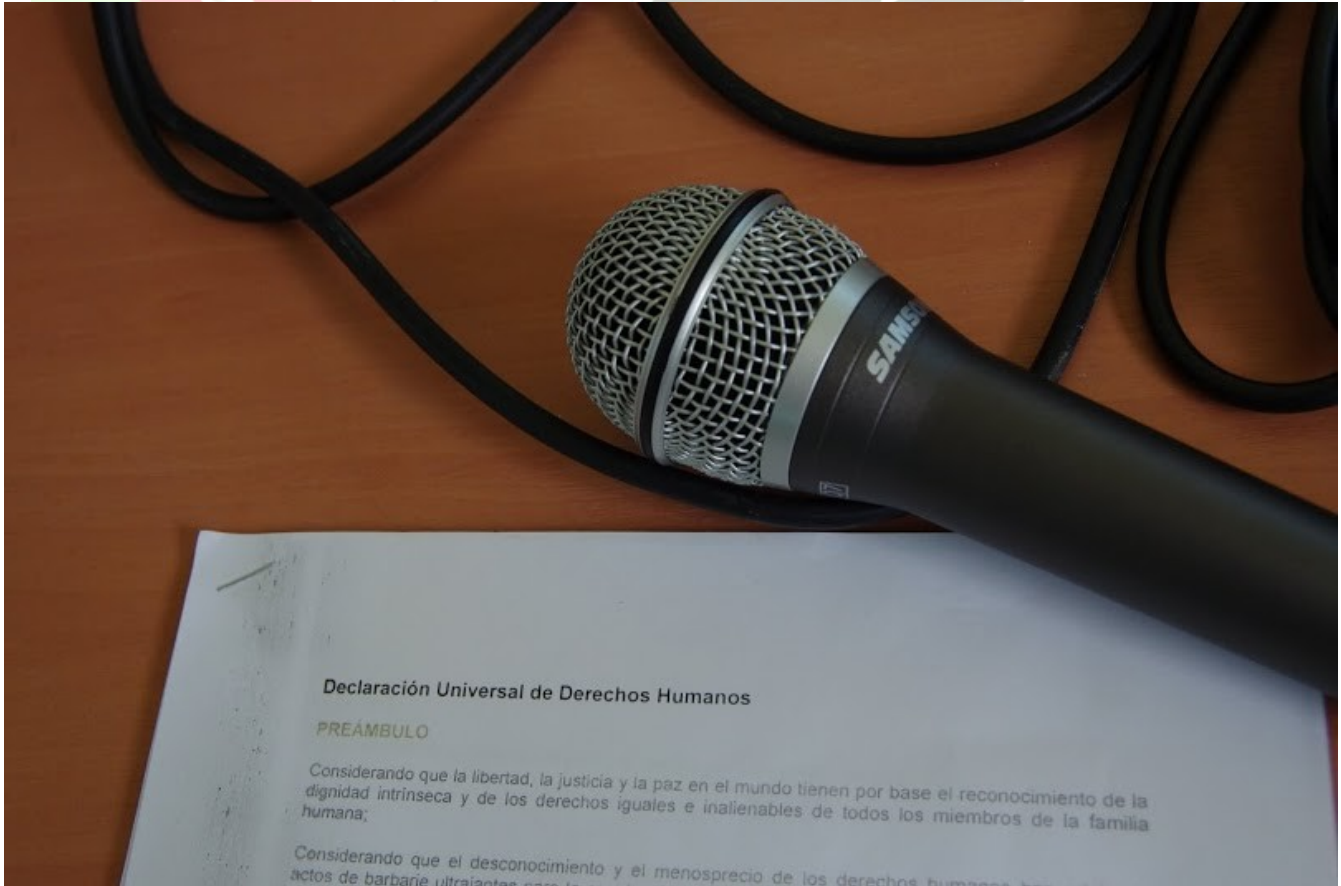


PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA

LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT



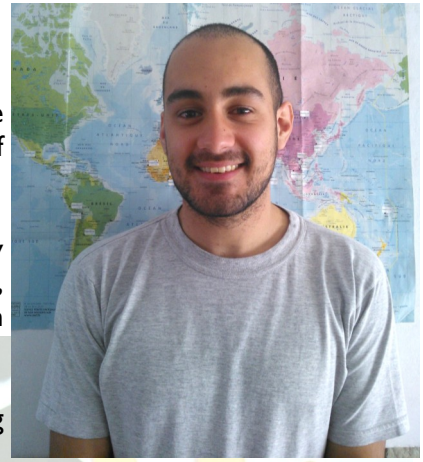
Social Projects				
G.A.N.A.S. <i>Homeless Foundation</i>	Felisa Soaje <i>Girls Home</i>	Quisquisacate <i>Girls Home</i>	Basta de Trata <i>Human Trafficking & Trade</i>	Paulo Freyre Escobar <i>Boys Correctional</i>
Legal Team		Community Advocacy		
Legal Clinic & Research		Blas Pascal Neighbourhood		

Santiago Peirano's Presentation!

Hi, my name is Santiago, I'm the new Volunteer Coordinator of the Law & Human Rights Office and I'm really Happy to be here. So, first of all I'd like to say hello to all of you, who are reading our Newsletter!

I can truly say that I really like this job, you are getting to do some very nice things to people that really need it, and during May, my first month, I was able to meet and get to know some of the volunteers that are in charge of making these beautiful things happen.

So, without further ado, let's check out what we have been doing during this month.



SOCIAL PROJECTS

QUISQUISACATE

Quisquisacate is a residential care facility for girls between 7 and 14 years old. They have been removed from their homes by the order of the courts for different reasons such as abuse, poverty and abandonment. At the age of 14 they are moved to another facility or they may return to their families if the court decides so.

This month we had a good time with the girls at Quisqui. We were two new volunteers going there and it took the girls a while to get used to us. But they enjoyed the activities we had planned for them and participated very well.

We tried to think of activities the girls would like doing but that would at the same time be useful for them, especially regarding their self-esteem. To help them to develop a better sense of self-esteem, we made posters with them and asked the girls to write down what they like about each other. The girls wrote really lovely things! It is generally very nice to see how much the girls care about each other.



One time we brought a camera and took photos of them. The girls loved that since they don't have cameras and rarely have the opportunity to get their pictures taken. In the end it was pretty difficult to get the camera back, because the girls didn't want to stop taking photos and posing like supermodels. Girly activities turned out to be very successful. Sometimes it was nice to do something with them that had no greater meaning than to do stuff girls usually like. One time we brought nail polish in pretty colors and spend an evening painting our nails with purple, blue and glitter. Another time we gave the girls beads and they made bracelets and necklaces which they loved.

Another activity was to make an "Árbol de sueños". We wanted the girls to think about what they want to do in the future and what they can accomplish. So they painted a big tree on a poster and cut out leaves, apples and flowers to stick on it. On those they wrote down what they wish to become in the future, a place they want to see and a dream they have. The girls wrote a number of things and in the end we had a very nice tree.

FELISA SOAJE

Felisa Soaje is a residential care facility for girls between the ages of 14 and 17 years old. The girls living there have been ordered by the court to reside there as their biological parents have been deemed unfit or incapable of caring for them. The girls are provided with meals and accommodation and attend school 5 days a week. The volunteers at the Law and Human Rights office meet with the girls on a weekly basis.

The Law & Human Rights office has been busy this past month coordinating activities and workshops for the girls at Soaje. The first workshop this May focused on teaching the girls more about nutrition and healthy eating. The girls learned the importance of having a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and having a healthy relationship with their bodies. In order to provide the girls with a comprehensive overview of nutrition and health, the volunteers distributed a food pyramid, discussed different ways to exercise, and incorporated a discussion on eating disorders and self-esteem. The girls at Soaje enjoyed the workshop, particularly discussing the importance of treating their bodies with respect.

As the volunteers at the Law & Human Rights office spent more time with the girls at Soaje, the girls began to confide in the volunteers about their past hardships. The volunteers actively listened to the girls recount their past experiences with drugs and unhealthy relationships, while participating in relaxing activities such as coloring and baking.

Recognizing the girls' courage to open up to the volunteers about their past, the Law & Human Rights volunteers decided to carry out activities to get the girls to think about their future. Thus, the volunteers organized a career workshop. The volunteers asked each girl to write down a career that interested them, while answering a set of questions to get them focused on their particular career goal. The girls stated many career aspirations including a photographer, event planner, veterinarian, and professional football player. After the girls completed a "career web" answering a set of questions, the volunteers conducted research on the skills and qualifications necessary in Cordoba, Argentina for the careers they mentioned. The volunteers then created a career profile for each girl.

Finally, this past May the volunteers at the Law & Human Rights office re-visited the box of dreams (*caja de los sueños*) activity with the girls. For the activity, the volunteers asked each girl to take out a dream from the box, tape the dream written to a popsicle stick and stick the popsicle stick with the dream into the soil of a houseplant they purchased. The volunteers then explained to the girls that in order to keep the plant alive, the girls needed to water the plant regularly. In turn, as the girls at Soaje water the plants, they will be reminded each day to work towards their dreams and watch them grow. Overall, this past May has been an enriching experience for both the Law & Human Rights volunteers and the girls at Soaje.



PAULO FREIRE ESCOBAR

Many things have changed at the Centro Socioeducativo Paulo Freire. The radio program has been continuing steadily and has gathered much popularity. It continues to be broadcasted live, every week day and prerecorded programs are aired over the weekends.

The radio program was one of the initiatives started by the Paulo Freire center to give the boys something productive and educational to accomplish. In the past, there have been other ongoing programs at Freire, like gathering and fixing toys for the neighborhood kids, and fixing bicycles. Freire exists in place of a juvenile detention facility, or a prison, as a place for non-violent offenders to go to. The goal is that if the boys participate in the programs running at Freire, they will come out in the end with meaningful work experience, a better understanding of their place in the community, and knowing the consequences of their actions.

The radio program was started a few months ago, as a medium for the boys to play music, talk about the news, and to talk about things that interest them. In the beginning the boys were free to create their own radio programs, but as it progressed, the schedule was refined to be more regular and consistent. One of the first special programs we tried to start at the radio was one that would cover human rights, and how the boys interact with them in their lives. We recorded a few programs explaining some of the articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and some discussion about them. This went well for a time, but as the radio gain popularity and esteem—much as a result of their ever popular Friday interviews, it became harder for the boys to focus on human rights, with the center getting busier and busier around them. The center now has daily visits from students and professors from the sur-



rounding universities, as well as other important public figures. Since the radio had gained so much momentum, we decided to start working with another group that the Freire center works with; people with disabilities.

Sticking with the theme of human rights along with broadcasting, we decided that we would work to create an interview, that we would film, that would include all of these things. Luis Miguel is a deaf person who comes to Freire, three days out of the week. He agreed to participate in an interview with us, about the inalienable rights of the disabled, and his personal experiences with them. We chose three specific articles to talk about during the interview and questions to go along with them, to best cover some of the more important points brought up by the articles. Also wrote questions that would help the viewer or the listener be able to better understand, as much as possible, the experiences and problems faced by someone with a disability. For the interview, we had another boy, Diego, come in as a sign language interpreter.

After explaining some of the articles, and asking the questions, Luis would respond using sign language and Diego would interpret his response. We filmed the whole interview so that the viewer would be able to listen as well as see the sign language. While this was the first interview of its kind, we hope that it will be the beginning of a new ongoing initiative working to spread understanding of the rights of the disabled as well as provide an insight for people into the lives of the disabled.

If you would like to listen and watch the interview mentioned previously please follow this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7galskaQew>

If you would like to listen to the radio, it can be found here:
ustream.tv/channel/somosvozradio



BASTA DE TRATA

Basta de Trata is an organization whose primary mission is to generate a path of awareness, visualization and prevention of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. To fight against human right abuses, Basta de Trata organizes campaigns, meetings and workshops with population particularly exposed to this problem.

This month, the volunteers at the Law and Human Rights office with the members of Basta de Trata coordinated a community workshop on human trafficking and more especially labor trafficking.

In order to organize the workshop, the volunteers at the Law & Human Rights office attended several meetings with Basta de Trata to come to an agreement on the contents and generate a presentation for the community. As the date of the workshop approached, the Law & Human Rights volunteers distributed flyers and invitations to the schools, kioscos, and houses of Blas Pascal and Nuevo Progreso (another community).

The workshop took place on May the 21st of 2014 at the communitarian center in Blas Pascal.

Although the volunteers expect to have more people attend the workshop, the workshop seemed to captivate a tremendous amount of interest from the participants, as the founder of Basta de Trata, Mariana led a powerful and eloquent presentation.

Also, during this month, the volunteers at the Law & Human Rights office joined Basta de Trata in the online movement to bring back the girls in Nigeria.

At one of their meetings, the Law & Human Rights volunteers made signs in Spanish and English, took photos and posted them on the Basta de Trata Facebook page.

The future collaborative work with Basta de Trata and the office will focus on leading a campaign against online pedophilia.

The upcoming campaign will take place July. During the campaign the demonstrators will dress in various costumes and distribute flyers, and stickers to people on the streets. Let's hope to gain a lot of adepts on this fair cause, and to be able to accomplish the goal of raising awareness on the pedophilia topic!



G.A.N.A.S



These last few weeks have been exciting ones for the G.A.N.A.S placement, culminating in what is going to be the start of some big changes in the future. As a recap for those who may not have heard about the Fundacion G.A.N.A.S before: “G.A.N.A.S” as we call it, is a local non-profit here in Córdoba. It was founded in 2007 with the goal of helping to improve the lives of the homeless people in the city. They have been cooking and distributing food to people who need it in the city center for the past few years. Occasionally they will

bring other things to give to the people who come for the meal. Sometimes they bring clothes, milk, and juices. They try to help as much as they can, whenever they can.

Projects Abroad has been working with them this past year to try and help them in their efforts to support the homeless population. We have been working with them on a census project to try and gain valuable information about the people who come to G.A.N.A.S, and their needs. The way we tried to achieve this was by administering interviews with the people at G.A.N.A.S, after they finished eating. The process lets us gain a thorough understanding of the people there. As of right now, we have completed approximately 190 interviews and compiled the information on an online database. The general ideas and goals of the interviews have not changed much during the census project, but the format of the interview questionnaire has changed some. Two months ago the Law & Human Rights volunteers gathered together to discuss ways to improve the census form. We changed the questions so that the answers would be more standardized, so that it would be easier for us to make statistical conclusions, but room was left for unique answers to be recorded as well. This made the process of recording the data much faster and more effective.

On Monday, the 19th of May, the Law & Human Rights office had a meeting with a government representative about the data we had gathered and the conclusions we had drawn. We created a presentation highlighting particular statistics we thought best conveyed the gravity of the homeless situation within Córdoba. We broke down our statistics into 5 key groups. We had 3 groups of different age ranges consisting of a group for the parents who come to G.A.N.A.S, and a group for the people who have been on the street for less than a year. We showed graphs displaying what factors most commonly led to living on the street. We also displayed statistics on the amount of social support each group was receiving, and the amount of homeless people who knew of, or had stayed in refuges.

The effect of the presentation was better than we had expected, and led to a discussion about how we define “homeless”, and eventually to the decision that we would now begin to work directly with the government to work on giving aid to the people who lack homes and other necessary things being forced into a life on the street. What exactly will come of this is still yet to be seen, yet we are hopeful that our new relationship with the government will help us be much more effective. We are using the data we have gathered to compile a list of people we should be able to give meaningful support too over the next month or so. Plans at what used to be the G.A.N.A.S placement have changed and accelerated.

Keep an eye out for information in upcoming newsletters!

LEGAL TEAM

LEGAL RESEARCH

A group of volunteers have been helping Martin conduct research into Land Law in Argentina. For the past few weeks we have been working on translating parts of a thesis written in 2013 by Candelaria M. Oliver: 'Informalidad e Instrumentos para Regularizacion Dominial' (Informality and Instruments for Registering Possession). The sections of the thesis we are focusing on outline the various National, Provincial and Municipal laws which are tools for registering ownership rights and titles of possession over land and property.

As well as translating these laws, we are in the process of compiling a document summarising each law, its aims, beneficiaries, the application authority and the application process itself. The aim of this project is to create a clear and efficient reference tool for future Projects Abroad volunteers and lawyers working in the Law & Human Rights Office. The document will be a quick and easy way of accessing information regarding the laws which may be applicable to the issues faced by current and future clients, cases or placements and how to go about applying for them. This project is running very much in conjunction with the work which the office is carrying out in the local communities of Blas Pascal and NuevoProgreso, and the issues which individuals are bringing to the Legal Clinic. As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, these communities are facing many struggles over securing titles of possession over their plots of land, gaining access to public services and solving simple issues such as the maintenance of street lights, as well as many more. A large proportion of these issues are linked to uncertainties over the complex processes involved in securing formal, registered ownership over property in Argentina. Creating this reference tool is the first step to understanding and identifying the ways in which we can help solve the issues currently faced by the individuals and communities we are working with now, and in the future.

Due to the complexities of laws themselves as well as the legal terms used throughout the document, this translation process is a long and fairly difficult. However, it is these difficulties which make the project ultimately the most rewarding. Not only is the process of translation expanding our vocabulary exponentially (there are few other ways of learning specialist legal terms on a daily basis!), but as an aspiring lawyer it is really interesting to work on a project where you can gain a detailed understanding of the nuances of the Argentinian legal system and its accessibility to citizens, noting similarities and differences to the systems which are in place back home. Yet most importantly, it is incredibly fulfilling to know that the work we are doing now is going to be a central part in assisting the everyday lives of people we meet in Blas Pascal and Nuevo Progreso in the long term, helping them to hopefully secure official titles over their land and gain access to fundamental rights, such as efficient public services, which they are entitled to and very much deserve.

LEGAL CLINIC

Every Thursday our Law & Human Rights volunteers hold a free legal clinic in the Blas Pascal neighborhood. The clinic runs for about 2 hours, and members of the community come seeking advice for a variety of issues from domestic violence, visitation rights, advice regarding pensions, and much more. Volunteers listen and take notes on the case, and throughout the week they research the case and prepare a response for the client the following week.

We are very glad to announce that during this month, we started receiving neighbors, people from other communities, even people from across the city, who've been advised by someone else about the good work that Martin together with the legally orientated volunteers are doing at our legal clinic.

Although the number of people that comes to the legal clinic every Thursday did not increase significantly, our name is starting to sound in the mouths of people who are truly in need and trust us enough as to travel and look for our advise.

Big congrats to Martin and all of those who has been part of the legal clinic since the beginning!



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

BLAS PASCAL

Blas Pascal is a peripheral community of government and makeshift housing built in 2009. Prior to the existence of the slum, the residents were living in shanties along the river; however in 2003 they successfully petitioned for proper accommodation arrangements. There are approximately 100 families living there. The Law & Human Rights Office has started a community project, with the goals of educating and empowering the neighbours in their goals to help improve their community and improving their quality of life.



During the month of May, the Blas Pascal neighbors have been very concerned about the fact that they have plenty of territory, not occupied, in the surrounding areas of the community, and with the possibility of new people coming to build their houses in these spaces that were supposed to be “green spaces” (parks, squares, sports spaces). Because of this reason, we all decided to put hands on a Saturday afternoon and build a football field in one of these spaces. All Projects Abroad volunteers alongside the neighbors of Blas Pascal, Nuevo Progreso and 28 de Noviembre communities were ready to start, but sadly for everyone the weather did not join our expectations for the month; it literally rained liters of water during the day, so we haven't been able to build the communitarian football field yet, but we will do in some of the upcoming weekends!! So pay attention and do not lose track of our work!

Projects Abroad and the neighbors have also been closely following the legal claims we've done at the water company, at the local government for the side walk, and we are starting a process to claim for the bad conditions of the concrete at the entrance of the neighborhood; so go ahead legal services and continue with your hard work!



The most important activity that Projects Abroad has done this month with our communitarian project is the Basta de Trata workshop about labour trafficking, please read more in the specific article about it.

Last but not least, we finally presented the big, new sign that will be the “cover” of the community building from now on; just to remember that volunteers from Projects Abroad have worked very hard towards the design, colors and phrases to be printed in this sign. After months of coming and going with the neighbors and in order to have it perfectly done, we have finally printed it and will be place it at the entrance on the same day that we will get together for the football field!!

A special thanks to Paula Dallaghan, a graphic designer volunteer, who kindly and patiently did this marvelous job for the community!