

Easter Olympics hit Medellin

Easter is a special time in Colombia, so special in fact that almost everyone takes a week off work, school and anything too serious. This is great news for most of the children in the orphanage Globalteer works with in Medellin, as they get to go home and spend time with their families. Quite a few however, are left behind.

Thanks to the energy of our volunteers in Colombia, these children may have been left behind, but they certainly weren't left out!

From a volunteer in Colombia:



Out of the 10 weeks of my volunteer experience with Globalteer, this week was the most special. Not because of all the trips to the museum or the water park, but because this week we, as volunteers, had a great opportunity to really connect with the kids. We bridged gaps and shared in cultural traditions.

Clear skies and the typical sunny and warm weather of Medellin allowed us to really get out and enjoy our time together. With such nice weather, the local water park seemed like an ideal place to go. Strapped with the day's lunch and a sack of toys and balls we chaperoned a full afternoon of fun in the sun. Volunteers playfully tossed kids around in the wave pool and flung themselves off zip-wires to the amusement of young onlookers. But the fun didn't stop there.



Next stop, the Interactive Museum. This day was fun and educational. Kids took to the science exhibits with interest and curiosity. They watched excitedly as static electricity literally made the hair on their arms stand up. Virtual reality simulation took the children upside down and to a different world, while almost making a certain volunteer, me, seasick, which they got a kick out of as well.

We took one day to share with the kids how we celebrate Holy Week and Easter. One of the volunteers explained the origins of the Easter egg, and we followed up by colouring pictures of Easter bunnies and eggs. Next, the kids actually got to paint eggs so we could have an Easter egg hunt. This got everyone involved, from ages six to sixteen, and was one of the highlights of the week. The day was also marked with

wheelbarrow races, the “egg and spoon” race and the infamous and messy egg toss! Later in the week, some volunteers took time out to teach kids local dances from their countries and treated them to an afternoon at the movies. All in all, it was a week full of great fun and memories, one that I will remember for quite some time, and I hope the children at Antorchas will too.

Contributed by volunteer Brad Beardall



Wheels of change

A new innovative project in Medellin is working towards self-sustainability while providing the children they aim to help with more opportunities for work.

The day centre provides a safe sanctuary for 130 children who live in high-risk areas. They come to learn and play and receive help and attention that is often lacking at home. The project helps the children with their homework and organises activities to help re-enforce what they are learning at school. Although they are encouraged to continue with their studies, many start looking for work when they reach 14 or 15 and this can be difficult.

That’s where Reece Motos will fill a gap. The motorcycle centre, opened to the public in April 09, provides maintenance and repairs with specialized mechanics. Revenues generated by the centre will be used to help cover the regular expenses of the existing social programs and in addition, the centre will also serve as a training centre for some graduates of the existing program. This specialised training will give them a much better chance of finding work.



Eager candidates for the new program

If you have friends in Medellin who would like to support the program, don’t hesitate to pass on these contact details. We appreciate your support.

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