

Apoyo Escolar San Francisco



Apoyo Escolar San Francisco receives 65 students in its morning shift from 8 to 12 pm. In the afternoon these students go to their corresponding schools.

Apoyo Escolar San Francisco's mission is to prevent school deflection, and the consequences of having children on the streets and the dangers this leads to (drugs, crime) supporting and educating the children as in a whole manner, considering their biological, psychological, spiritual and social development, pointing out their personal skills, encouraging their creativity, and leading their spare time towards a goal. They work together with their families so that every member is a part of this growth process.

The students live in the neighborhoods of San Cayetano, Sauce, Las Torres and La Cava, most of them in wood or metal sheet houses, very few of them in brick houses. There is running water, power, bottled gas and outside or shared bathrooms. Only 15 of these families have been granted the Urbanization Plan. They live with their biological families, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles in overcrowded situation which quite often lead to psychological, oral or physical violence.

Food wise, these families' situation is quite critical. In spite of receiving some help through the government, by means of the San Isidro Vouchers, and the food bags given out by the "manzaneras" (ladies who volunteer) in each neighborhood, these families need to go to the Fruit Market where they pick up food that has been discarded, to soup kitchens or community centers. That is why the children who are part of Apoyo San Francisco receive two daily meals; breakfast and lunch.

Many of these children's parents are not part of the formal labor force, therefore they try to make a living by taking temporary or eventual jobs called "changas". The mothers work at family homes, while the fathers take tasks such as painting houses, construction, or gardening. Many families survive by means of the cartoneo - they gather cardboard which they then sell to manufacturers. Some families receive money from the "Head of Family Plan" (around US\$ 40 per month) for which they need to carry out tasks such as training for a craft, finish school or maintenance chores in public organizations.

The Apoyo is located in Jose Ingenieros 2546, Beccar, Province of Buenos Aires. Phone is 54-11-4575-4277 and its email address is aesanfrancisco@hotmail.com. It is run by Evangelina Gomez, principal and Alicia Lopez, legal representative. It can be visited during school term in the mornings.

2010 - 2011 Report

A normal day at Apoyo San Francisco starts at 8 AM with breakfast (coffee, tea or mate with milk and cookies). Then the children are divided into 4 groups depending on the grade they attend.

During the first period the students do their homework. This helps the students at school, and allows the teacher to come up with a diagnosis of the educational situation of each one of them, and can guide them in what issues to work on.

After a break, special projects take place:

- **Math:** along with the emphasis on basic operations, a project was created with different stages of problems and games so as to encourage creativity in solving problems and learning how to use this knowledge in everyday life.



- **Science:** after a first stage of training teachers, students started doing experiments for several months, which lead to the Apoyo San Francisco Science Fair.



- **Reading and Writing Project,** besides reading and working on a book chosen by the teacher, in 2010 Apoyo San Francisco wrote its second book, “Among stories and treasures” (Entre cuentos y tesoros) which was presented at Cruz del Sur school. This added to the pedagogical objectives of the book, a social dimension, since it is not the same to write just for oneself, than it is to write for others.



- **P. E.:** classes keep going twice a week, where besides learning sports, children are also taught to follow directives, manage their emotions, works as apart of a team, self respect, respect towards the others.

At 12 PM, lunch is served before the children go to school. The menu includes chicken with rice, pasta and beef, polenta, lentil stew and fruit, custard or jello .

In 2010 the **Reading Marathon** was once again held, and a book was bought for each kid. Workshops carried on such as art, mental health and sexual education for the older ones, and workshops for teachers.

Within recreational activities, children and teens went twice to see a play, all birthdays were celebrated, and they enjoyed a whole week of summer camp.



Most of these activities can be carried out thanks to a group of volunteers who work with the children 1 on 1, assisting in workshops, management and events.

Apoyo San Francisco has a monthly budget of \$6,000 which is funded from different sources: scholarships from the province (just cover for a number of students and it is usually late), Caritas, two private non-profits, Manos del Sur and some private donors. Food is in a great part obtained from monthly donations.

In order to cover a monthly deficit of approx. \$1,500, several events were organized: an avant premier of a movie in a downtown theatre, bimonthly garage sales, and a “peña” with families and neighbors.

Manos del Sur goal for the coming months is to sponsor all of the students so as to cover said deficit, and be able to add more students next year.