

ORGANIZATION: Conciencia
PROJECT NAME: Conbeca Scholarship. Argentina
LOCATION: Bariloche – Argentina - South America
REPORT PERIOD FROM-TO: March 07- June 07

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CONBECA BARILOCHE

Members of this Branch

1.1 Project description:

CONBECA is a program that has been implemented by Asociación Conciencia since 2003 in order to provide access to and continuity in secondary schools to all those students who lack economic resources and who are willing to study, demonstrate effort, achieve good performance and behaviour and show a commitment to their studies. The program provides them with all the necessary tools to improve their future opportunities in adult life. It is a program which is organized with the foundation of three central issues: economic support, through material contributions; individual student support and mentoring, through a system of Guides (volunteers); and the guides and beneficiaries' education in regard to values and continued participation as citizens, through the coordinators (also volunteers). NOTS supported in the last three years over 70 students offering them the necessary tools to generate and achieve opportunities for their future. Conbeca is a personalized program which fits the needs of each beneficiary.

1.2. Project objectives for the reporting year:

The objectives we proposed for this year are the following.

10 Beneficiaries

„X GUICHAPANI Rafael
„X PINO Nicolás
„X CABRERA Felix
„X GRANDON Jonathan
„X DÍAZ Yoana
„X PAINE Yanina
„X ROSALES Karina
„X VEGA Victor Hugo
„X LEAL Lucia
„X COLIPI Viviana

3 Guides

„X GIBB Ameli
„X CARRASCO Daniela
„X MAGISTRALLI Ma. Belén

2 Coordinators

„X LECOUSSAN Andrea
„X MAGISTRALLI Maria Belén

- Retained the 70% of the total of scholarship students of CONBECA at school this year.
 - Intensify our workshops on values in the path of self knowledge as a way of rebirthing their capacities and trust in themselves.
 - Reinsert in our program those beneficiaries that although they have repeated the academic year, continue in secondary school.
 - Incentives beneficiaries that are in the last year of school to work in a concrete life project such as a university study, with the help of their guides.
 - Make aware guides and beneficiaries about the importance of the link established between them as a way of growing as valuable people for CONBECA and for their communities.
 - Extend the activities of guides and beneficiaries further than academic and administrative supervision, encouraging the increase of the recreational outing and Workshops in values.
 - Fundraising so that the program will increase to: 1000 beneficiaries, 500 guides and 66 branches.
- By this results CONBECA has reached the most important objective, which is to educate citizens in the believe that it is only together that we can improve things.

1.2 Achieved results in the reporting period:

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

During this period, guides have attended to the annual training workshop for guides in Buenos Aires.

189 guides from all around the country assisted the workshop; all of them were volunteers of the program.

During this 2 days workshop guides shared their experiences and learnt about how to be real company for them. It was a wonderful experience, which is difficult to describe, because by sharing their thoughts, wishes, sadness and objectives, guides got to realize that CONBECA has become a big community of people who is committed towards its society and each one of them considers his beneficiary as a very important person in their lives, and that being part of this community has changed their lives forever.

1.3 Realized results in the reporting period:

During March in Bariloche they have began the activities of Conbeca 2007 with very good results.

Beneficiaries are committed to the program and show effort and thankfulness.

They attend to the meetings every Saturday, where they practice their school skills and get school

support from their guides. Coordinators informed us they are really glad to notice, their children

have grown up, and assumed their situation in a mature way, and they accomplish every thing they commit themselves to. Such as, calling their guides on date, bringing report cards on date, volunteer activities, warning their friends about the situation, going to guides homes, etc. Guides, on their side are also very happy to continue being part of the program and are really committed to the program, and, what is even better are very faithful with the children.

Academic Results:

All the beneficiaries made big efforts to get good school results. Some of them will have to work harder because they did not reach the expected level. We attach the results of this first cuatrimester.

Diaz, Joana Very Good 7,9
Leal, Patricia Lucia Regular 5
Paine, Yanina Regular 5,46
Cabrera, Félix Good 7,26
Pino, Nicolás Good 6,32
Grandon,
Jonathan Excellent 8,7
Guichapani Rain,
José R Bad -
Rosales, Karina
Soledad Very Good 8,45
Vega, Hugo Victor Good 7,33
Colipi, Viviana Good 6,83

We would like to highlight Jonathan Grandon, who had excellent marks in every subject, obtaining an outstanding average!
Felix, as well, who is attending a Gastronomic school worked hard to cope with the rest of his companions and made good results having a better average than last year at this time. Viviana Colipi, on her side, got back to school and is doing really well, she is really happy to continue being part of CONBECA, and even though she will have to work hard to improve on some skills, it is a wonderful achievement for her!!!
Patricia will have to work harder on her school report card, because she has many skills she will have to improve in. She has been living a very difficult situation because her father is an alcoholic and she is in charge of her home and little brothers. Her father was hospitalized and it was hard for her. In spite of this, she managed to attend on Saturdays and showed deep commitment. She talked to her guide and said CONCIENCIA gives her shelter, because it is difficult for her to stay at home, she always brings her sister, Irina.

Evolution of the Role of Voluntary guides

Relationship between guides and beneficiaries has been excellent, as always. They share their deep feelings and guides help their beneficiaries to continue through very difficult situations.

Andrea, the coordinator is always close to guides and beneficiaries, giving them support in the different issues, as well as volunteer ladies of Conciencia who are always in touch with the guides of the program and give them support in the most difficult situations, taking care of them, and protecting them.

Rafael has been absent to school many days because he has been working too much at a t shirts

factory. Members of conbeca bariloche are concerned about this situation and will try to find

solution, but it is really hard to interfere in this. Rafael is fulfilling his last secondary year, so it would

be a pity if he does not solve this problem. Andrea, the coordinator trusts thing will go out well

because Rafael is very intelligent and will be able to continue.

1.4 Financial highlights :

This Branch is situated between the mountains and the neighbourhood where the children live is

far away from school and from the centre of the city. For this reason, most of the expenses are

spent on transport. Also, they spend money on food during Saturday meetings and when they have

to stay at school.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

2.1 Activities:

ACTIVITIES FULFILLED IN THE PROGRAM

• SCHOOL RESULTS

Patricia will have to work harder on her school report card, because she has some skills she will

have to improve in. She has been living a very difficult situation because her father is an alcoholic

and she is in charge of her home and little brothers. Her father was hospitalized, and it was hard for

her. In spite of this, she managed to attend on Saturdays and showed deep commitment. She talked

to her guide and said that CONCIENCIA is a shelter to her because it is difficult to be at home, she

always brings her youngest sister, Irina.

• School support lessons

They continued with their weekly meetings in Conciencia's office, where they were able to have

school support lessons.

• Volunteer activities

They have decided to fulfil volunteer activities in group because it is easier for the coordinators to organize it in this way. During this period Bariloche beneficiaries have participated in the national elections by helping the table's presidents to count votes. They enjoyed this activity very much and learnt from it.

Johana on her side also volunteered at the Kinder garden "New World", where she helped in all the activities. As always she spent more than the required hours because she loves being a volunteer.

Victor Hugo also worked at his neighbourhood where he helped in giving out food to neighbours.

• EXTRA ACTIVITIES

They met at the centre to go shopping. Loved to share long walks that helped them feel relaxed and friendly.

Andrea met Nico and his girlfriend at the centre. Nicolas is fulfilling his last year of secondary school and his girlfriend is pregnant. At the beginning this alarmed Andrea, who afterward got calm because she realized Nicolas is committed to end his secondary school in spite of his personal situation. On the other side, his girlfriend is an excellent girl and helped him stay in good company, when he had started to get involved in bad ones.

2.2 Results/ Output:

- Excellent relationship between beneficiaries and guides.
- Good school results.
- We have fulfilled one of the special objectives we had proposed ourselves for this year and are that every beneficiary fulfilled the volunteer activities.
- In spite of the climate problems, children manage to assist to Saturday meetings and school.
- Viviana Colipi is back in the program and thanks to that, to school as well.
- Saturday meetings have become a sustained meeting which children find important in their lives and are never upsent. They show it is a special place for them to meet their own selves and know each other.
- Patricia continues at school and found support in Conbeca with her difficult home situation.
- Guides are really committed to the program and to each one of the beneficiaries.
- CONBECA BARILOCHE shows to be an established group, where each one of its members has assumed a special role, which helps to reach the expected results.

3.1 Others:

As always, snow and cold has been a hard enemy to our beneficiaries. Most of them did not get the

needed wood to warm their homes. They suffered very much because of this reason.

Also, school was suspended for 2 weeks for the same reason.

Ameli who is a new guide has been highlighted as an excellent guide; she is really committed and

teaches English to her beneficiaries.

Irina Leal, who is Patricia's sister, attends to the meeting every Saturday, because she does not want

to be at home. Patricia is really worried with her sister because she mentioned the possibility of

killing herself. Andrea is now in charge of this little girl and accompanies her to the hospital were

she is attending a psychiatrist.

They are planning to enlarge the group and give new scholarships for new beneficiaries because

many children are in need. We are working hard on fundraising to be able to give them scholarships.