

## LOCATION OF THIS PROJECT:

Bariloche, Córdoba, Grand Bourg, Quilmes, La Paz, Mendoza, Rosario, Venado Tuerto, Corrientes,

San Juan, Perico, Mar del Plata, Pergamino, Bragado, San Miguel Del Monte, Villa Martelli, Salta,

San Pedro, 9 de Julio, Saldías & Villa 31, Diamante, Pilar.

**LOCATION SPONSORED BY NOTS:** Mar del Plata – Grand Bourg- La Paz – Corrientes- Bariloche - Córdoba

**REPORT PERIOD FROM-TO:** March 07- June 07

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CONBECA CORDOBA

### Members in this staff:

#### 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:

### **8 Beneficiaries**

- BRIZUELA Gisella
- BROCHERO, Gonzalo
- CISNERO Claudio
- HOSEN Nadia Belén
- ROMERO Raúl
- MAMONDE Matías
- CÓRDOVA Nahuel
- BRACAMONTE Florencia

### **7 Guides**

- MOYANO Lourdes
- RAMOS Carla
- RONIS Diana
- GARCÍA ASTRADA Candelaria
- MOYANO Candelaria
- HERTER Belen
- RIMONDINO Martin

**Coordinator:**  
ZARZA Noemí (Monona)

The objectives we proposed for this year are the following.

- 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.

## 2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

### Evolution of the Role of Voluntary guides

Between guides and beneficiaries is excellent, they spend time together, and are growing in a nice

and deep relationship which is now more personal, because on top of the group meetings guides

and beneficiaries get together in other moments and talk on the phone a lot more than the past year.

As an example we will quote the words said by Catalina Harkes who is a guide who has participated in the program for 4 years: "I CAN FEEL HOW ALL THE KIDS ARE GROWING UP SPECIALLY IN THEIR COMMITMENT THAT WE CAN APPRECIATE IN THE WORKSHOPS". On the other side, the coordinators' reflection was the following: "ALL THESE YEARS I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON BUILDING UP A NETWORK FOR THESE KIDS. ALL OF THEM ARE IN A REALLY MATERIAL NEED AND IN THEIR FAMILIES PROBLEMS ARE OUT OF PROPORTION. THE IDEA OF CONBECA BEING A REAL NETWORK FOR THEM, TO TRUST GUIDES, COORDINATORS AND BETWEEN THEM IS WHAT BEING ABLE TO SUSTAIN THESE KIDS IS. TODAY I FEEL THAT THIS NETWORK THAT WE HELPED TO BUILD IS REALLY WORKING OUT, THEY ALL FEEL STRONG AND COMFORTABLE WITHIN IT, THEY SHARE THEIR PRESENT AND DREAM ABOUT THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER AND THIS BRINGS THEM A LOT OF STRENGTH AND OPTIMISM"

## 2.1 Activities:

### ACTIVITIES FULFILLED IN THE PROGRAM

- **School support lessons**

Each guide helps his/her beneficiary on study.

- **Volunteer activities**

Volunteer work is a highlight of Conbeca, by this activity beneficiaries realize that there is so much to do, that they are useful for their communities and they discover the gifts they have inside.

All of them have the chance of choosing where they want to apply this activity, guides try to propose a place according to their interests.

This year beneficiaries have improved on this matter. Most of them are fulfilling the required activities and enjoy them very much.

Nahuel Cordova volunteered by helping in Catechesis lessons.

Raul Romero helped in the public library.

Florencia Bracamonte volunteered at the library of the Hugo Wast school. And commented she likes her work very much.

Claudio Cisnero works at the same library as Florencia.

Nadia Hosen at a kindergarten, where she painted doors, made boxes, and manual activities.

Gonzalo Brochero worked at a library as well.

- **Recreational Activities**

After the first workshop they shared coke and sandwiches, and were able to cheer for their own

objectives of the year and dreams.

- **Workshops**

They fulfilled two workshops; the first one was about their dreams and the necessity of planning immediate and reachable objectives so as to walk slowly towards their dreams. Children showed themselves enthusiastic and had many projects.

On the other side they also talked about how important it is to learn about mistakes, and as a special activity they had their reflection about which things they would not like to repeat from the year before.

Some examples of what they said are:

“Failure in study” “Bad companies” “their fears”

Some of the objectives were: “Have good marks” “Not to fight” “To be respectful” “commit to volunteer activities”

Their parents who were at the workshop were glad to realize how many things their children had inside.

On the second workshop they worked to discover the window toward themselves. What they like best from themselves, what they leave others know about them, what they hide from others.

They were very silent and answered questions in a very deep way. The coordinator considers this activity was very good for them.

### **Results/ Output:**

- Very good relationship between beneficiaries and guides.
- This branch grew in many ways, Guides show their commitment is bigger and like their personal meetings with beneficiaries.
- They recovered Gonzalo Brochero, who started school again and became a member of the program again.
- Children had good school results on the first trimester.
- During workshops beneficiaries and guides learnt to share and connect themselves with their dreams.
- They have improved in commitment towards volunteer activities.
- Coordinator is an excellent back up to each beneficiary and guide. She knows each one's history and is always there for them.
- Mothers of the beneficiaries are also committed to the program and are good support to their children.

### **3.1 Others**

Cata Harkes, one of the guides is always trying to find new things for her beneficiary Belen, got this reason she always lends her poetry books which her beneficiary likes very much. She also lends her English books to Florencia who enjoys practicing. Belen and Claudio went out together; they played tejo and had an ice cream.