



ASOCIACIÓN “SUMANDO VOLUNTADES”

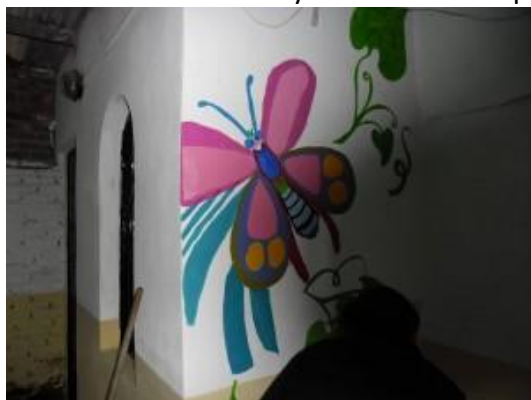
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Luis Palma 2137 – T: 4372637 - Paraná – Entre Ríos

INFO PACK

La **Residenza El Sol (Residence The sun)** is a home care center for **young (teenagers) mother with their kids**. The Residence is part of the organisation **Sumando Voluntades** and it is placed in **Paraná**, in Argentina, in the region Entre Rios. The girls here are hosted after having been separated from their original families from the local social services because they were living in a violent environment or in very difficult background.



The residence can host a maximum of **6/7 girls mother and their children aged 0-3 years old**, and first of all it offers a hosting service for those girls pushed away from their familiar environment. Part of the staff working in the organization is made of a social assistance, a psycho-pedagogue, who together with the director of the Residence, Silvia Guilleron, define an **educational and pedagogical path**, tailored to each guest of the house. This staff group works also outside the residence trying to **(re)-create a positive and welcoming environment** where the hosted girls can go back after having spent some time at the residence, therefore they work in cooperation with the original families and relatives. When necessary they also work in cooperation with the mental health services, the local social services and they activate more specific services when needed.



The staff person working in the residence is made of **9 female educators**. They accompany the girls in their development toward the **autonomy**, helping them recovering and gaining back a healthy lifestyle, teaching them to take responsibilities and how to handle the everyday life tasks (cooking, cleaning, do the laundry), to take care of their children and continuing their school path.

The work in the residence consist also in **an emotional education**, where the educators together with the volunteers help the girls to learn how to deal with their emotions such as rage, frustration, violence, also in order to better live their relation with their child as mother.



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The residence also organizes two **workshops** open to the girls/women of the neighborhood, a cooking and a sewing workshop. The girls hosted in the residence can take part at these workshops, as it could represent a further occasion of training and socialization.



The residence is situated in **poor neighborhood** in the city, a place where it is also **dangerous** to go around alone in some hours of the evening and night. Therefore going out from the residence often means to take public transport in order to reach directly **the city center**. There it is possible to go to the cinema, theater, swimming pool or to participate in events organized from other youth organization. It is also possible to attend courses at the **university** as they have free access to everyone. The city is around 300 km far from the Uruguyan border and 500 km far from the capital Buenos Aires.

The role of the volunteers is in a first phase **to take care of the mothers' children**, playing with them, offering them a good quality time and giving a good example to the mother.

The volunteers **support the educators** in their work of helping the teenager mothers to develop a path toward autonomy, where they can learn how to take care of themselves and their children. The volunteers support the young mother in their everyday life, mainly helping them in accomplish simple tasks. This is anyway an important help and it also creates a **positive atmosphere** and also the possibility to create with the **relationship of trust and closeness**.

The relationship with the girls can be **very difficult** and even frustrating as they bring with themselves their difficult background and most of the time they don't cooperate. Most of the time they react in a violent way and it is almost impossible to communicate with them. Building a positive and productive relationship with them is a long process, that requires from the volunteers a lot of **patience and understanding**. It is important to recognize the importance of the little moments and tasks and taking the time to understand which is the best way to interact with the girls. For





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every hosted girl it is important to understand the unique situation and story and find the right way to open a space **for dialogue and exchange**.

After the first time of settling and acknowledge of the working methods and the structure of the organization the volunteers may propose **their own idea and little project**, always keeping in mind that not everything might encounter the teenagers mothers' interest and enthusiasm.

The working time is divided into **two shifts**: in the morning **from 8.30 to 14.0** and in the afternoon **from 12.30 till 18.30**. The volunteers will be divided into these two shifts from Monday to Friday.

Sometimes it could happen that the staff of the residence decide to accompany the hosted girls and the children to some local events or activities during the **evening or in the week-end** to offer leisure time outside the residence and the possibility to get in touch with the local community.

The main tasks of the volunteers are:

- support the mother and children to manage issues related to health (visit to doctors, etc..)
- support the mother in the care of children
- preparation and share of the lunch moment
- little workshop and creative activities
- little events and leisure activities in the residence
- visit to local events (spring fest, mother fest, theater, cinema)



Some of those activities are organized sometimes only with one user of the residence sometimes in groups.

In the residence during the day and the night there is always at least one educator (or more) with whom it is important to establish a **relation of cooperation** in order to pursue with all the activities and task a **shared and coherent educational path** both in the relation with the mother than in the educative intervention for the children.



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The volunteers will be hosted **in the house of the director of the Residence**. In the house the second floor is at volunteers disposal. Here they have a **two rooms (one for each) and a bathroom**. Silvia the director of the residence stays on the first floor and with them the volunteers share the kitchen. Living with Silvia is very helpful for the volunteers, especially in the first phase when they will need some time to adapt at the local lifestyle and help with practical issues (shopping, doctor, documents to stay for 9 months, etc..).

The volunteer has to be a **female**, due to the service proposed. The volunteer is required a minimum **knowledge in Spanish**. It is preferred to have had already some experience in a foreign country. The cultural distance is very high, it is important to remember that this EVS doesn't take place in Europe but in

one other continent. The volunteers has to be prepared to face a **big cultural difference**, the way of understanding the work, time, relationship, organization, free time is very different and it takes time to understand and accept it. This part is mainly evident in the first moment of the experience and it is also an essential learning experience.

The volunteer will receive at the beginning of the service all the **pocket money** for 9 months on a personal bank account. This will of 60.66 euro per 9 months, which means **546 euro**.

The **travel costs** will be reimbursed up to a maximum of (around) **1300 euro**.

The residence has a **facebook page**: Residencia El Sol - Asoc. Sumando Voluntades