

Social Entrepreneur Corps

Ashoka Fellow Placement Profile

Ashoka Fellow: Enrique Gustavo Gennuso
Location: Argentina

Ashoka Fellow Description

Gustavo Gennuso is the President of Fundación Gente Nueva. Born in Azul, a conservative rural town in the province of Buenos Aires, Gustavo remembers sensing discrimination between the privileged landlords, his own immigrant middle class, and the poorest sectors. He decided early on to make change. His first contact with extreme poverty was during his military service, when he met and became friends with illiterate boys from poor backgrounds.

While studying at the prestigious Balseiro Institute in Bariloche, he became acquainted with a parish group and started to collaborate on the construction of a primary school in an extremely poor neighborhood called Virgen Misionera. His involvement in these activities grew, and he became a leader, identifying needs, organizing, and launching a community newsletter and radio program. Reacting to one of the major community demands for learning trade skills, Gustavo received a subsidy from Misereor, a German aid organization, and opened the Carlos Mugica Trade Skills Workshop in 1985. Two years later it became the first primary school in the province to offer training in diverse trade skills for young people and adults. Although Gustavo had no technical training in this field, he successfully founded three more teaching institutions. Gustavo was able to develop a model of the open, participatory school, in which both adults and youth are encouraged to make decisions and implement activities involving and affecting their community.

In 1994 UNICEF recognized the Carlos Mugica Workshop experience and invited Gustavo to replicate it in 34 Hectáreas neighborhoods, the poorest in Bariloche. He then founded the Angelelli Workshop, a primary and secondary school for adults and youth, offering specialization in diverse trade skills.

In 1991 he was called by the Province Education Board to draft the education syllabus for adults in the employment field, and in 1997 he advised the National Ministry of Education, revising the basic contents of the Technological Education teaching courses. He has rich experience as a teacher and has written several documents on training and innovations in education. In 2000 he won a contest organized by Antorchas and YPF Foundations with an Innovation Project in Scientific and Technological Education between Balseiro Institute and Amuyén Secondary School.

Organization Description

Fundación Gente Nueva, formed in 1998, works in the poor sectors of San Carlos de Bariloche. They work with the most marginalized sectors to realize projects arising from the needs of the community by constructing improved public policies. Fundación Gente Nueva is a legal tool that allows the development of social, community, and educational projects that would otherwise be unfeasible. The organization believes that the injustice imposed on the poor can be overcome if the

marginalized sectors themselves are the protagonists and proponents of the change. In order to do this, Fundación Gente Nueva generates strategies to empower the poor to assume this role and coordinate with all sectors of society.

Summary Placement Information

Organization Name:	Fundación Gente Nueva (http://www.fundaciongentenueva.org.ar/)
Country:	Argentina
Start Dates:	Year round first of the month excluding December and January
Minimum length of time for volunteer:	3 weeks
Maximum length of time for volunteer:	2 months
How many volunteers can be acommodated at the same time?	2-3 volunteers
What level of Spanish is required?	Intermediate
Is there a place(s) to study Spanish? If so, where?	Yes: Spanish Lessons, Senior Spanish, Steps, Epatagonia, SpanishinBariloche, La Montaña, Ecela Bariloche, Intercultural Bariloche, Patagonia School, Sin Fronteras, Alto Bariloche Spanish School, Coined Bariloche.
Where will the volunteer live?	Homestay or Bed and Breakfast
Average cost of hotel:	\$8 per night (Bed and Breakfast)
Is there a homestay option?	Yes
Cost of homestay (including three meals per day):	\$12(including 2 meals) per night
Cost of food (lunch, dinner, etc.):	\$2
Expected cost of transportation (per month):	\$20
Is there internet access? How much does it cost?	\$0.20 per hour in internet cafes. Internet is also possible in hotels and homestays.
How much does a cellphone cost? How much does it cost per minute?	Cellphone: \$32 Minute: \$0.16

Volunteer activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Working in training groups- Education activities- Community activities with children, youth, and adults- School maintenance- Training consignees in appropriate technology- Creating audiovisual materials about the organization's activities- Other activities to be determined
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