



Argentina is a culturally rich country with an extremely educated population, abundant natural resources, and a growing economy. However the country is still drastically divided by a gap between the rich and poor, unresolved national human rights violations, a recent economic crisis, constant political instability, and unenforceable laws and legislation.

The most unique condition of Argentina's recent economic crisis is that it created a "new" kind of poor – a highly educated middle class that lost its privilege and was forced to live with a greatly reduced quality of life. This new poor amplified the presence of social movements and political expression. With masses of Argentines coming together to find solutions on their own, the country is growing into a rich resource for nonprofit development and grass roots movements.

FSD is working with many of these NGOs to confront community issues and aggregate resources that empower and give rise to sustainable solutions. Making use of cultural centers for development activities, utilizing radio to mobilize action, supporting job skills programs, empowering youth to become community leaders, and providing food programs for struggling families are ways that FSD supports growing communities in the La Plata region. It is an exciting time to engage in Argentina's redevelopment and take part in a community movement that offers hope for a better nation in the new century.

### Internship/Volunteer opportunities in community development in Argentina include:

- Assist a (university) student and faculty-run radio station that works with groups as diverse as children from local shelters, to adults who attend a night school in poorer sections of La Plata. Create radio production workshops that identify community issues and facilitate knowledge exchange to raise self-esteem and capacity building. Give youth in marginalized neighborhoods a chance to express opinions regarding local issues.
- Work with a program that provides meals for impoverished families. Bread-making, computer science, and adult education courses are also offered to help the families gain useful skills.
- Support the local cultural center by hosting community events, workshops, conferences, expositions, and/or book presentations by local authors. Teach capacity building courses in a wide variety of subjects such as piano, sewing, craftwork, theatre, small farming techniques, and English. Expand the community library and resources offered to the community.
- Work with an organization that provides resources for over 58 local food kitchens to confront malnutrition, particularly with children. Connect agriculture producers, schools, and dining halls to feed those in need.
- Get involved with an organization's many community empowerment objectives which include: promoting social, political, and scientific research; offering professional assistance to popular organizations; teaching courses that empower youth groups; and supporting publications that enhance community development.

For more opportunities in community development in Argentina, visit our website or contact us directly.