

Zoological Park Arlen Siu

If you are passing through León you will probably not hear or see any information about the Zoological Park Arlen Siu. However, if you ask anyone living in Leon, they will certainly have several stories and memories of the park from the 80s and 90s. We are now trying to support the park so that it can once again prosper and offer the same pleasure as it did in previous eras.

The park has a mix of tropical animals and now serves as both the zoo, rescue center for injured and ill-treated animals, children's playground, garden, soccer field and baseball field. Many of the buildings are in bad shape or are not used, the park is worn and the area is unsafe at night. There are now around 30-35 animals in the park. Among others: monkeys, crocodiles, various birds and raccoons.

The park has been home to the animals during long years and it is therefore not possible to release them into the wild again. We work to give them a better life, and to renovate buildings and make the area safer.

As a volunteer at the park, you can regularly visit the animals and give them food, help paint, build, and repair buildings and cages.

Local support to children with cancer

The association ASPANICASOLE (Asociación the Padres de niños con cancer y sobrevivientes de Leon), is a local association and provides support to children with cancer in the region of Leon. Parents and children may in addition to the help with treatment and medication, get assistance in the form of therapy, group discussions, financial support and activities that provide little joy in the children's hard everyday life.

It all started as a friendship society, but evolved thanks to volunteers and enthusiasts to become an independent organization (NGO). The network consists of about 52 families. Both affected children and children and youths who survived the disease are welcome.

Students and staff from Kulturstudier several years ago noticed the great need that the association had and would therefore invite the families on activities. Now two trips a year to the beach are organized along with the families and Kulturstudier students, giving the kids an incredible experience. All proceeds from the tours go to the association and are used for, transportation to health clinics, funeral assistance, medication, Christmas gifts, wigs, etc.

The organization has also built a playroom where students can come and play with the kids during Sundays. These are many of the children only highlight of the week and everyone who wants to come and help and play with the kids are welcome!

Proyecto Barrilete

Proyecto Barrilete is a child project that acts as a mix of leisure, day care center and orphanage for poor children in the district of Guadalupe in Leon. The children often come from families where there is drug and alcohol abuse, physical abuse, prostitution, or where the parents cannot attend much as they work far from home. The children come to Barrilete for playing, doing homework, get extra lessons and have lunch. There are around 15 children living and sleeping in Barriletes premises together with the enthusiast and the founder Margarita.

The project began with Margarita and 20 children who met in the street every day to keep the kids away from drugs and crime and to give them support so that they in the long run can complete school, apply to university and get a job. Now it has grown to León's largest children's projects with over 150 children aged 1-15. The project already has a number of children who are now grown up, studying at university but continuing to come to the project to help the younger children.

Kulturstudier have been involved and helped with financing throughout the whole history of Barrilete, and thanks to Kulturstudier Students, volunteers and organizations, the association now has a private house, with a large courtyard, furniture, books, kitchen and toilets.

Volunteers are always welcome. There is need of everything from homework, English lessons, help with cooking, repairs, painting, and probably most important of all; playing with the kids!

Tree Planting

Mangrove forest is one of the world's most threatened ecosystems. More than 35% of the mangrove forest in the world has already been devastated, and this has a major impact on fish stocks, shrimp, crocodiles, lizards, birds and turtles.

Mangrove trees also acts as a natural barrier between the sea and inland, and is important as a stop of the dust clouds that arise during the summer months when it is dry.

Unfortunately, much of the mangrove forest outside Leon (Isla Juan Venado) disappeared due to hurricanes and illegal deforestation.

Directed by our staff many Kulturstudier Students and volunteers go out into the mangrove forest, planting mangrove seeds collected through long walks on the beach and in the nature reserve. Every year around 3000 mangrove seeds are planted.

You can also get information by our staff on site if you want to volunteer at a health clinic, hospital, with turtle conservation or in a retirement home.