

# VIVA VOLUNTARIADO

Quarterly newsletter  
January-March



## Welcome

We happily welcomed the year 2020 with a full house! We are thankful for each of our volunteers because of their trust in VIVA to make their travel, a travel with cause.

### TEAM MESSAGE

These first three months of the year, we have been very busy, we have many plans and expectations that today we want to share with you. We have volunteers that are still being part of our path, for you who are not sure to give it a chance!

What are you waiting for? Be part of our story.

# TRAVEL WITH CAUSE

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## Continuity to our programs

### Teaching Program

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We had the collaboration of Estefania Alcaraz from Argentina, Maribel Díaz, Devhani and André Martínez from Mexico, Yui Terao from Japan, Romanne Deffi from France, Susana Gutiérrez and Laura Bassaganya from Spain.

This wonderful team of volunteers has supported the continuity of our program: Casa Hogar, which has become one of the primary projects in VIVA because of the initiative of one couple who donated their house to give a home to nineteen kids, we have been devoting to assist the kids. At the beginning of March, we have a new member, a kid who is three years old and who is in the care by our Casa Hogar.

Also, we have decided to hire a psychologist with the monetary contribution in order to support the kids because at an early age they had suffered domestic violence, sexual harassment or even rape situation.



### Environmental Program

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We had the collaboration of Manon Rocco who was helping us for three months in the nature reserve and other many activities such as documenting and monitoring bromeliad flower. He also helped us to set the garden-museum project that is in the city center. This place has been set up to become a space for environmental education.



## Continuity to our programs

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### Supporting program to disabled people

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We had the opportunity to have the collaboration of Oiane Eguzkitza y Regina Amor from Spain, Tabea Palmer from Germany, Valérie Blustenne from France and Amaranta From Mexico. These months our volunteers have contributed to the strengthening of this program and this has allowed our students to receive equine therapy.

At the same time, thanks to our connection with a new local partner, we have started a new campaign to raise money in order to benefit the Gómez Family. (We will tell you more about them in the following pages)

### Supporting Program to a NGO's

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We started the year with a new member in the VIVA team, Anne Ramahandriavelo from France who helped us with the evaluation and supported our volunteers, she also helped with the photographic file to be updated. She also made an evaluation to our local partners and she wrote the stories of our beneficiaries.



### New contribution

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This year we have started with a new connection, we are helping kids from nine to fourteen years old with vocational orientation workshops. Our volunteer André had two projects in charge, so he helped with the organization and gave some workshops.

# COMING PROJECTS... NEW DREAMS

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## About the Gómez Family

Four years ago, we met the Dominga Gómez's family, a Tzotzil woman who is from San Juan Chamula, she had seven kids, five of them were born with an incapacity.

Since we had the first touch with this family, we have devoted to improving their quality of life and we want them to have an appropriate home. So, at the beginning of 2016, we started to have some activities to raise money and we achieved that twenty-five college students raised money to improve the roof, kitchen, and bathroom of this house.

At that moment, VIVA donation was used to purchase a washing machine, this with a previous agreement with Angeles and Mrs. Gómez.

This year, we are going to have a new campaign to raise money along with a local Bank group. The donation will be used to rebuild Dominga's house and then their kids will have a better lifestyle.

Meanwhile, we have VIVA's donation and a contribution of our local partner of 4000 MXN to open a bank account and we have 1800 Euros which was collected by Carlos Tirado who was a volunteer in the summer of 2016.

Would you like to contribute to this project?

Contact us!

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*Sometimes we feel what we do, it is just a drop in the ocean, but without this drop, the ocean would be less.*



# CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

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In February, we received to Maria and César (Social Responsibility area of one of the Bank in Mexico) with who we are going to start a collaboration in the corporate volunteering area.

We are excited to start this new collaboration because we consider that the volunteering experience should be mandatory and schools, colleges, and companies.



In this new connection, VIVA will be in charge of organizing volunteering experience and developing social inclusion activities. Our first experience is expected to take place in Selva Lacandona and San Cristóbal de las Casas. There is nothing like to match these two enigmatic places.



Did you know that with the Official Mexican Regulation endorsement (NOM 35) which will become effective in October 2019, all the companies must assist psychosocial risk that suffers their employees such as work stress and anxiety?

With the Corporate Volunteering you can reduce these risk in your organization or company

Would you like to know more about this?  
¡Contact us!



# VACATION WITH CAUSE

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We want to dignify our roots, and we think there is nothing better that works along with indigenous youth who will share their culture, roots, occupation and their families.

In this new project, you will be able to combine cultural inclusion activities through local youth and volunteering activities, if you want.

The wonderful thing about this project is that you will choose and organize your own vacation with our assistance.

We want to share a taste of the activities we are planning for you.

## Handmade

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In this activity, you will know everything about clay from the extraction to the workshop where you will be able to create your own piece of art. This activity will take place in Amatenango del Valle along with potter women.

## Sightseeing

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We will have an agroecological tour where you will share food with a Tzeltal family in Tejanapa village, and you will learn about agroecology.

## Social Route

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In this activity, we will visit 2 or 3 projects in order to show you what we do in VIVA. Also, you can help as a volunteer if you want.



## Go to the Jungle!

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Expedition of one of the most beautiful lake in Chiapas: Miramar Lake.

## San Juan Chamula

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You will know sacred places from San Juan Chamula community and you can go rappelling and you will have the opportunity to take a Temazcal ( steam prehispanic bath or sauna )

# WHAT IS COMING?

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Because of the eventuality we are facing in the world, VIVA volunteering activities have suffered some changes, we have suspended all the volunteering activities, but our VIVA team is still working at home.

Some of our volunteers have returned to their homes in order to be safe and close to their families. Others have stayed at VIVA's home protecting themselves and following the instruction to keep them safe.

On our behalf, we are still promoting our activities and we hope to resume the activities in the following summer. Therefore, we share our next summer camps.

## WORKCAMPS IN CHIAPAS

Orphanage  
(kids/education/social/art)

VIVA-03 VIVA Summer I 19/07-01/08

VIVA-04 VIVA Summer II 02/08-15/08

Supporting Center to Disable People  
(Disabled/education/social/agroecology)

VIVA-01 Working through community I  
28/06-11/07

VIVA-02 Working through community II  
09/08-22/08

VIVA05- Mexican Festivities 06/09-19/09

VIVA-06 Day of Death 25/10-07/11

## WORKCAMPS IN YUCATAN

Maya Community  
( Kids/education/social/ construction)

VIVA-07 EK BALAM 18/07-02/08

Would you like to be part of one of  
them?

Contact us



# PERMANENT CAMPAIGNS TO FUNDRAISING

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Although the eventuality and cancellation of our activities, we have ongoing needs and we are still making campaigns to raise money for the orphanage because we have a new member who is three years old. Computers, the one you do not use anymore, or you changed it, it would be useful to give away to the distance high school in Chiapas. We want students to have basic knowledge in computer science previously of getting into college.

Remember that nobody chooses where to be born, but it is on our hands to give them the opportunity to have a better future.

## What we do about COVID19?

The team of VIVA has joined to the network to support local hospitals in San Cristobal de las Casas. We are more than 250 people helping to donate materials. So, we have donated:



1109 Face masks



1483 Bio-mask



14 Hospitals have been benefited

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