



Rebecca Kahn
Class of 2018
Summer 2016

**FUNDACIÓN CIUDADANOS
DEL MUNDO**

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

THE ORGANIZATION

- Through Puentes Abroad, I was placed in an 8-week summer internship at a human rights NGO that supports immigrants coming from countries as varied as Senegal, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru.
- *Fundación Ciudadanos del Mundo* (Citizens of the World) answers consultations by immigrants, offers legal help, and does community outreach and development. They want to help immigrants integrate into society without fear. They also run a free community daycare, attended in the morning and afternoon by 120 children ages 2-3.
- They emphasize values like respect, human rights, cultural richness, human dignity, solidarity, and better quality of life for their clients.

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

- This was mainly an academic internship:
 - I researched and produced a 20+ page comparative policy paper in Spanish concerning Argentinean and American immigration legislation and access to economic and social rights (health, education and labor rights).
 - I created weekly summaries of news about the Syrian refugee crisis, and wrote a longer report on the crisis in Spanish.
 - I gained more experience in cross-cultural, cross-lingual communication.

WORK RESPONSIBILITIES

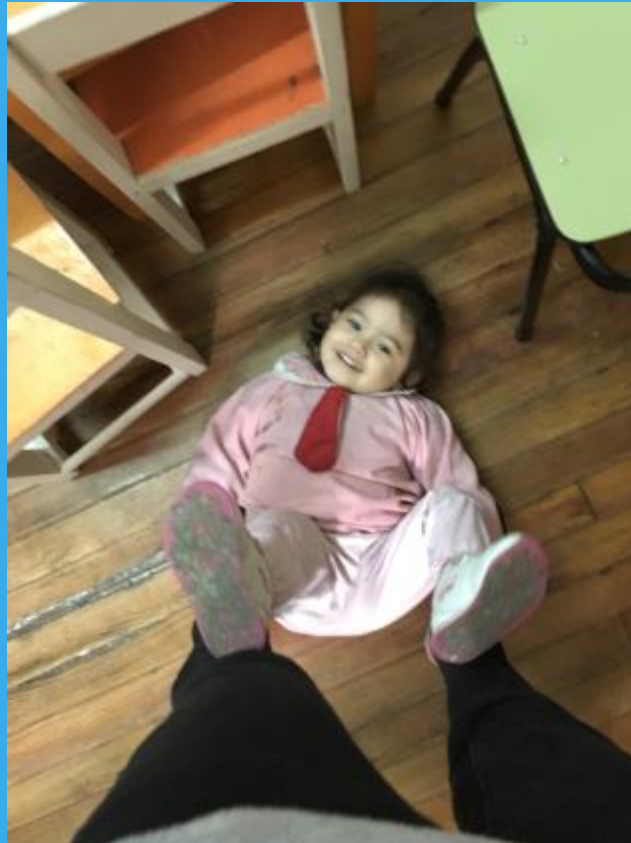
- I also worked and played with the kids in the Foundation's community kindergarten when a teacher was sick or missing.
- I went with the Foundation to perform social intervention work in a villa (shanty-town) called Zavaleta once a week.
 - I listened to people's "consultas" and tried to help facilitate the meetings.
 - I took photos for the organization's Facebook page during the outings to Zavaleta.
- I talked to people about what life in the U.S. was like and about my culture.



SOCIAL INTERVENTION WORK AT A FOOD PANTRY IN ZAVALETA



THE DAYCARE



THE NEIGHBORHOOD



OUR OFFICE IN SAN CRISTÓBAL



REWARDING ASPECTS OF THE JOB

- I learned from simply talking with the immigrants who visited our offices or chatting with the three other workers at the Foundation during our lunch breaks.
- There were interesting parts to the job that did not fit under research or observation: the first day I went to the “Casa Rosada” – their government building – to attend a meeting with the national director of child development centers. I also went to buy food for the daycare a few times in the Mercado Central, outside the city.
- The greatest tangible reward was probably my improved Spanish.



IMPACT

- The internship gave me a well-rounded perspective on Buenos Aires that I would have never obtained had I simply been a tourist.
- Although I don't plan to study immigration policy, this experience encouraged me to take Spanish classes when I return to Princeton. I hope to stay in touch with my supervisors here.
- As a sociology major who did a social work/law internship last summer, the social work aspect of the job was very interesting to me. Social problems and the way professionals approach them are distinct in different countries.



SPEAKING WITH A RESIDENT APPLYING FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT



CULTURAL AWARENESS/PERSONAL GROWTH

- As with all experiences abroad, I learned so much about Argentina—and also about myself. I had a great time exploring the colorful city of Buenos Aires with the other Princeton interns as well as traveling around the country.

