



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Adventures in Argentina      **Name:** Heidi Hammes  
**Other Team Members:** Jessica Eaton  
**Program:** Chicago Program  
**Trip Dates:** 06/30/2011 - 07/18/2011      **Location Visited:** Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** Looking back over our years of teaching, we have both spent our entire careers in one school, in one neighborhood, in one city, in one country. Both of us had never traveled out of North America. We felt the need to broaden our horizons, and fully immerse ourselves into a different culture. We wanted to open our eyes into the Argentinean life by working and living with locals of Buenos Aires to improve the quality of education.

Some key questions we explored included: What are the dynamics of an Argentinean school? What is a classroom going to look like? What is the daily life of an Argentinean child? What extra curricular activities do Argentinean children take part in? What does home life look like for an Argentinean child living in poverty? What types of resources are available at home, and/or in the classroom? How do educational inequalities affect the culture of a community? This opportunity allowed us to surround ourselves in a community that has fewer resources available than where we teach, thus helping us gain a deeper appreciation for the resources we have. Our passion for this fellowship comes from knowing we were able to contribute to children who are less fortunate than ourselves, and the children we teach.

**Career Impact:** \* Immersed ourselves in a different environment, which opened our eyes to a new perspective and way of life.

\* Explored and documented educational inequalities and how they affect a culture and community.

\* Survived in a country where we didn't speak the language, and developed an understanding of families moving to a new country and the obstacles they have to overcome.

\* Increased commitment to working with children living in poverty.

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\* Bridge our learning in Argentina with our school community by having our students research educational inequalities in other countries.

\* Research project will be the driving force behind a student run fundraiser that will raise funds and supplies for the organization that we volunteered with.

\* Fundraiser will encourage our entire school community to share in our learning and make the issue relevant across grade levels.

\* Use our experience volunteering to inspire changes in our school community.

\* School wide litter pick-ups and gardening days.

**Open Response:** • Students researching educational inequalities in other countries as well as philanthropic organizations that work to close the gap.

• In contact with a nonprofit organization from another country leading to opportunities for continued communication involving students from both continents.

• Sharing knowledge and our experience with colleagues and students; to build a better appreciation for the American education.

• Ongoing lessons that focus on the idea of change; change within ourselves, within our community, and within our ideas about the world around us.

**Quote:** "making a small change to have a big impact"

Photos:



Iguazu Falls National Park



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