



# Characteristics of Child Welfare in Argentina



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## LOCATION: ARGENTINA

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world, with a population of 43.85 billion. It is known for the Tango dance and cultural music. The primary language is Argentinian Spanish, which is slightly different than the Spanish spoken in Spain. Argentina is divided into 23 provinces and 1 autonomous city, Buenos Aires.

**Buenos Aires** is known as the “New York of South America.” The culture is extremely romantic and places emphasis on relationships. The nightlife is much more lively than the United States, with clubs staying open until 7-10am.

## GLOBAL FIELD AGENCY

- Original Volunteers- an independent provider out of the UK
- Offers a variety of volunteer opportunities around the world
- Each opportunity is structured around helping underprivileged persons, assisting with wildlife, or cultural submersion.

## MY RESEARCH

I compared characteristics of Argentina’s Child Welfare System to that of the United States’.

*Method-* I obtained my information by talking with the local residents of the slum neighborhoods and my project coordinator.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

- Mission- to provide positive one-on-one contact to socially neglected children in some of the most deprived parts of Buenos Aires.
- Project Location- “Cidadad Oculta,” meaning “hidden city.” This is a ghetto-like suburb, consisting of an abandoned hospital, which has been used as housing for the local slums.
- The two slums that I helped out at each day were called Elefante Blanco & Feliz Hora.
- Crime, drugs, & child rape are common place
- Most children between ages of 2-12 years

## Findings-

*In Argentina....*

- Everyone (including children) have health insurance and total coverage- does not include mental health services
- ARG gov. owns & funds slum buildings
- ARG gov. provides after-school snack for a children living in slums Monday-Friday.
- Most slum residents are immigrants from poorer South American countries
- ARG places high value on children
  - For example, Dia Del Nino
- ARG has law against any form of corporal punishment, even in the home



Above Picture: Dia Del Nino (Day of the Child). We supplied toys for each child of the slum and facilitated a party to celebrate the children and what they bring to the world.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

Volunteering in Argentina increased my ability to be assertive, build rapport with children and families, speak Spanish, and engage with families of a different backgrounds than my own. I hope to do similar work abroad in my future career.

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