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# Algarrobos News

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[Los Algarrobos Bilingual School, Canoa, Ecuador](#)

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## Volunteer Groups

A recent visit brought volunteers to the grammar school this summer. These volunteer groups also support the local Canoa community with family home stays. Recently we have developed a volunteer group project working with the school and the Community Surf & Yoga



Project. The volunteer project provides an economic ingress to the school which goes directly to our scholarship funding for the students and allows for an intercultural exchange that supports the volunteer mission to *“facilitate people becoming global citizens through language and knowledge in an atmosphere of inquiry and responsible actions”*.

### *Latino Americano Spanish School*

As part of their Spanish School, the Latin American School in Quito offers volunteer programs and our latest visitors from New York were able to paint murals, organize the student library, sing, dance and create a positive cultural exchange within their home-stay family and at the grammar school. We have received yearly visits from the Latin American School for several years and continue to open our doors to individual as well as group volunteers many of whom go on to





## Surf & Yoga Project 4th Year

Offering a chance to to share the amazing world of surf, health and wellness with an underserved minority group who might not otherwise experience the benefits including: creating self awareness, developing increased attention span and balance, mental stillness through meditation and mental focus while supplementing a positive and healthy self image, learning equanimity and self discipline.

### *The project objectives:*

- Bring the concepts of health, mindfulness and wellness through the to the grammar school for both faculty and students.
- Develop a level playing field for boys and girls to support and accept each other as a team while developing attention span, balance, breath and meditation skills through practice. This includes Yoga classes for the students and teachers at the grammar school and extra curricular surf lessons with Yoga and meditation as warm up exercise for the children once a week.
- Evolve the concepts of mindfulness and self awareness to directly benefit underserved groups who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience these transformational practices.
- Provide volunteers with a fun and healthy way to interact with the local community.
- Explore themes of environmental awareness and consciousness with monthly beach cleanups.

become student sponsors. These volunteers then become ambassadors for the school and represent their experience in Ecuador.

## Dental Week

Students and faculty from the Central University of Quito dentistry department made their yearly visit to the school last week. Along with cleaning all the students teeth they gave informational plays about dental hygiene and maintenance and fun dances to entertain the students waiting their turn. Every year we look forward to this enjoyable event and are ever grateful to the Central University of Quito.



## Student Sponsorship Handbook

With the help of Professional Beneficial Fundraiser Michael Mee, we have been able to organize our student scholarship and sponsorship program with a viable management system. We have also developed a short Sponsorship Handbook for those of you interested in sponsoring a child for the year or in finding out more about how the sponsorship system is going to be functioning this year.

***Please click here to download your Student Sponsorship Handbook*** or download directly from our website at [JamesDeanByrdFoundation.org](http://JamesDeanByrdFoundation.org)