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- *Tren de la Costa*
 - *Coca - Cola FEMSA*
 - *Cruz del Sur Association*
 - *Cazenave y asociados*

- **About Reciduca Foundation:**

- **Administration Board:**

- President:** Ma. Ercilia Braun.

- Vicepresident:** Jorge Villalonga

- Treasurer:** Ma. Florencia Valverde de Galarce

- Secretary:** Ma. Elena Mosquera de Riva

- Members:** Lino Benjamín Galarce; Luis Riva; Patricia Carrère de Silva

- **Staff:**

- Executive Director:** Lic. Magdalena Olmos

- Administrative Director:** Lic. Carola Mascias de Malbrán

- Educative Area Director:** Lic. Mariano Muracciole

- Work and Environment Area Director:** Lic. Cecilia Salzmänn de Giebert



The program is characterized by giving an opportunity to ALL the students of the school that want to participate. There is no selection process, students (after being informed on the programs characteristics, the internship agreement and their duties and rights) decide if they want to participate or not.

Another characteristic is that of promoting network cooperation since there are different organizations and institutions that participate that carry out the program. The follow up of the students is very personalized that is why it requires a joint work between the organizations, professionals and volunteers of the program.

The allowance they receive is an incentive and the recognition for the effort that working implies, though the law establishes that it is a non-paid internship.

As for diffusion, the aim is that students do out from the isolated environments where they are inserted, and relate themselves to other realities. For this they give lessons on the sustainable use of resources and the taking care of the environment in other private and public schools, as well as in different local mass media.

- **Testimonies of some interns that participated in the program:**

'As interns, we were able to experiment in these months, the different responsibilities of working, whether it be as a group or individually, on how to relate with other people with respect. This internship also helped us to have the possibility of a working experience and to finish our secondary studies.' (Students of Madre Rafaela School)

- **Institutions and Companies Associated**

- Santo Domingo Savio School and Secondary School No. 3 located in the Municipality of San Isidro, Madre Rafaela de los Ángeles Custodios School located in Virreyes, 2 Schools located in Gral. Pacheco - Province of Buenos Aires.
- Educación y Trabajo Foundation
- Reciclar S.A. (Recycling Company)
- INICIA (Organization for micro entrepreneurs)
- Banco de Alimentos Foundation (Food Banking)
- Nordelta Foundation
- Nordelta Commercial Centre
- COTO Supermarkets
- AMCOR PET Packaging - Argentina
- MAPFRE Foundation
- Baker & Mckenzie
- Prudential Seguros
- Bruchou, Fernández Madero, Lombardi y Mitrani Law firm
- Dow Agrosociencias Argentina



- **Activities:**

The internship is composed by three spaces:

- 1) **Study Space:** It has the function to improve the school performance, the basic abilities and the school perspectives of the students that participate of the project as well as increase the current indexes of approval and promotion of subjects. It is sought to affect on the results of the whole school taking into account by working on certain group of students, the results will affect the school atmosphere and can raise the expectations of the school future of all students.

In the Study Space the participants are the students of the last two years of secondary school that are interns of the program.

The objectives of this space are:

- a) To promote the learning and better performance of the students through:
 - The acquisition of study habits and skills, of organization and perseverance in the intellectual work;
 - The pedagogic support in those areas and subjects in which they present more difficulties;
 - The improvement in their personal attitudes towards the study and the intellectual training;
 - The follow up, together with the school, of those students that have finished their studies but still owe exams to get their degree, so that they come back to the school to graduate.
- b) To improve their social integration in the group and the school;
- c) To provide an easier transition between school and higher education and towards working experiences.

Each group of students has a weekly session after school of two hours during the school period.

- 2) **Training Space:** Every week the students participate of a training space (2hs per week). This space's objective is to train the interns in three different themes: culture of work, sustainable use of resources (environmental education) and personal development.

- 3) **Working experience:** The working experience out of school takes up between 8 to 10 hs per week.

It is done in different organizations. For example: Students in the first year of the program do their training in COTO supermarkets organizing a plastic bottles PET recycling campaign for customers. Whereas students on the second year of the program attend to *Banco de Alimentos* Foundation classifying the goods this Foundation receives and distributes to other organizations.

In all cases, the students have to carry out a schedule and are supervised by personnel from the institution where they do their practice. They previously receive training on the chores they will have to do.



students to become environmental leaders in their communities after participating of the internship.

- **Educative Internship Program** -

- **General Objective:** The general objective of the program is to avoid middle school student's drop out through the possibility of an educative internship.

- **Objectives:**

In the principal area: Education

- ✓ To improve the school performance, the basic abilities and the school perspectives of the students that participate of the project;
- ✓ To collaborate so that students complete their secondary studies with the best results;
- ✓ To achieve that students recognize the importance of studying;
- ✓ To assist in the development of each student's potential in a very personalized way;

In the work area:

- ✓ To introduce in the culture of work through trainings and an educative internship that enables them to learn with their own experience in a working environment. The working practices contain related topics to the environmental care and the sustainable use of resources.

In the environmental area:

- ✓ To train students in the taking care of the environment
- ✓ To qualify students to become change agents in their communities

- **Beneficiaries:**

Participants:

Secondary school students with high probabilities of dropping out of school given their economic situation, between 16 and 26 years old.

Indirect beneficiaries:

- Students of public and private schools from the area that have received the lessons of environment care given by the interns of the program;
- Community: The program produces a very strong social impact, since almost 100% of the students that participate finish their secondary studies. These students become and example to their families for their responsibility and effort.

This experience has contributed so that the students felt valued and recognized being able to face the challenges that present to them once they finish their secondary school: employment, higher studies, etc.

- **Counterparts:** The Reciduca Foundation is financed by the commitment of enterprises and individuals.



Introduction

RECIDUCA's mission is to contribute with the *eradication of school drop out of low income secondary students and promoting with their work the taking care of the environment.*

The projects Of RECIDUCA are based on three areas: EDUCATION, WORK and ENVIRONMENT.

Its central area is the EDUCATION, since it promotes that students can finish their secondary studies as well as continuing their university studies.

The WORK area has the objective to introduce them to the culture of working, offering them an educative internship during the last two years of their secondary school and providing them tools that will allow them to get their first job.

The ENVIRONMENTAL area introduces the interns to concepts related to this theme with special emphasis in the disposal of urban solid waste. Students are trained to become change agents in their communities through the disclosure of environmental care (in schools, mass media, etc.).

• **Justification:**

The lack of working opportunities, the discourage and poverty that hinder any idea of studying are the biggest problems between the young people in Argentina.

The middle school drop out percentage is 19.79% in the last three years of secondary education. This affects 270.000 students.

Today in Argentina a lot of young people don't study nor work. That is one of the consequences of social exclusion that generates inequality of opportunities. Most of these students don't go back to school, which means that they drop out definitely.

Young people nowadays are immersed in a culture that has taught them to expect everything from others: school, society, state.

It is our big challenge that they can be aware that they are going to be the authors of their own change, and give them the tools so that they achieve it. RECIDUCA's program is just an opportunity.

On the other hand, we want to revert the social exclusion. The Educative Internship Program is developed totally outside the neighborhood where the students come from, so that they have to relate themselves with costumers of the supermarkets, students from other schools or to offer interviews in local media (newspapers and radios).

Finally, but not less important, we want to make the students and their communities aware of the importance of the taking care of the environment. It is a huge problem on marginalized neighborhoods, specially the bad disposition of waste. We expect the₂



RECIDUCA Foundation

- **Project Achievements**

- **300 students** have taken part of the internships, receiving training on social abilities, job practice and environmental issues. These students become change agents in their communities.
- **140% growth of school graduates**
- **Increase of 60% school promotion** to the last year of secondary school.
- More than **1500 students** of public and private schools of the area have received lessons given by RECIDUCA's interns on environmental education, especially sustainable use of resources and the management of residues. Interns have also attended different radios and newspapers for interviews where they promote the activities and concepts that guide the program.
- **40,000 flyers** with information on environmental care have been distributed since 2003 in the communities.
- **1,800,000 PET bottles** have been **recycled**.
- Community neighbors, students of public and private schools and families are informed on the importance of recycling, and have acquired new environment friendly attitudes.