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Interim Report  
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During my last update, I mentioned that we were in the midst of summer vacation. Things were pretty quiet and programming was put on a halt during those weeks. It was very noticeable when kids started to trickle back into Brasilito after their vacations, and it was so exciting to begin to see familiar faces again. We began programming again on February 1, but figuring out the programming schedule was an enormous challenge as Brasilito School is using the local “Salón Comunal” to administer classes. Half of the kids go to school for 4 hours in the morning while the other half go in the afternoon. We finally got it figured out, and programming has been going very well.

This past week, Casa Brasilito’s psychologist, and me had individual meetings with the women in the women’s group. It was a great time for us to catch up and gain insight into how the women are doing personally, but also how things are going within their roles with Casa Brasilito. The goal of the Women’s Group is to provide the women with benefits such as a box of food from the local food bank monthly, in the exchange for the volunteer work and time they give to Casa Brasilito. We want to be able to provide them with strategies that are sustainable for their particular lifestyles. I’m really excited to share that 2 of the women who have participated in the program for the last 8 months have been presented with full time job opportunities. This is so exciting because it is one of our goals for the women in the program—to find full-time jobs, and to experience economic stability and independence.

On another note, the offices that we work in here in Casa Brasilito are quite small. We have one “main” office where most of the team members work, and then another office attached where our psychologist has her meetings. We’ve outgrown these spaces, which isn’t necessarily a bad problem. All of this to say, we will be moving our offices to where the old Brasilito School was. This is exciting because it is more centrally located in Brasilito, so we are hoping to reach more people; there is more space, and more opportunities to provide courses and classes for individuals in the community.

As my time progresses in Casa Brasilito, I’m still working on ideas for a “Homework Club”, however additionally as many of the women’s time is ending In the Women’s Group, one of my goals is to sit down with the women to develop their résumés, with the hopes that they will continue to look for jobs and be able to provide their appropriate information.

Each day that passes here in Brasilio, I find myself amazed that I’ve been able to call this place home, and I truly feel like it is home for me. I’m thankful for the time I’ve had here, and I’m looking forward to the next few months and the positive impact I’ll be able to make in the Brasilito community.