

I arrived in Bariloche, Argentina one month ago today to begin my yearlong service project with Fundación Gente Nueva and Fundación PETISOS, which is an amount of time that at once feels too long and too short to be accurate. I spent the first two weeks of my time here adjusting to my new city, culture, team and job—getting to know the people (employees *and* clients) that I will spend the next several months working with, as well as the mentality with which they approach their projects. This has proven to be a crucial period—one that I would have had to skip had the duration of my service project been any shorter—because I have been able to integrate myself into the organization as in a more permanent role. Consequently, not only am I viewed as a truly committed member of the team, but I have also been able to take on more significant, extensive and meaningful projects.

For the past two weeks, I have been working with a team of professionals in Fundación PETISOS, an organization dedicated to eradicating child labor. While their primary activities directly engage child laborers or formal child laborers, the organization seeking to expand its approach to a more comprehensive one that involves and engages the community at large, offering opportunities to the families, neighbors and other community members. As a result, I have been working on a new microenterprise initiative called *Madres Verdes (Green Mothers)* that offers a productive alternative to families of child laborers by offering job opportunities to the mothers. This project is particularly unique and powerful because it was designed under the ‘triple-bottom-line’ model, meaning that as a business, it’s ‘bottom-line’ extends beyond profit-making to equally value the 3 P’s: People, Planet, and Profit. People, because it engages the wider community in an effort to protect and promote children’s rights; Planet, because the products produced by the *Madres Verdes* team will all be made from recycled materials that the children would see at the garbage dump; and Profit, because it provides a realistic productive alternative for families to stop relying on child labor for day-to-day survival. Over the last two weeks, I have attended several meetings with psychologists, social workers, and business and marketing professionals to plan and implement this program. More than anything, it has demonstrated to me that when tackling a problem so large and firmly entrenched as child labor, it is important to engage the secondary beneficiaries as well as the primary ones. *Madres Verdes*—by using an interdisciplinary approach that engages *several* groups of people affected by the problem—provides a viable productive alternative for the families, which will in turn allow them to stop relying on their children to contribute to the family income.