

1 Fundación para el Desarrollo del Centro Biológico las
2 Quebradas (FUDEBIOL)



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5 Interviewers: Mauricio Gabert / Milena Jiménez
6 Interviewee: Guiselle Calderón

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9 Interview

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12 Q1 / My name is Milena, I am a coordinator, we want to know your perspective as a host mother,
13 name and how long are you hosting volunteers in this community?

14 A1 / My name Guiselle Calderón, doing accounts today, like 22 years old, my daughter turned 24
15 and since she has 2 we have ACI volunteers.

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18 Q2 / What volunteers do you host, are you working on the Fudebiol Foundation, do you host
19 short-term or long-term volunteers?

20 A2 / In our organization we are 14 families, we have a role, as the rotation will send us short or
21 long, to respect everyone, according to how the rotation goes.

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24 Q3 / Currently what is your occupation?

25 A3 / Well I do everything, when I'm not in Fudebiol I have a beauty salon and I do everything, 13
26 years ago my husband died, so I've had to put myself in the mood to get ahead, 3 or 4 jobs I've had
27 been to get ahead.

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30 Q4 / Where is your house located?

31 A4 / In Quebradas

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33 Q5 / Let's talk about the hosting experience, how has that experience been with international
34 volunteers?

35 A5 / Well I have been very lucky, because of all the volunteers I have had, in 22 years, everything
36 has been very nice sharing with people, from lots of countries, what I have learned, I have learned
37 because most boys who come cooking, they like to explain, and explain what they eat in their
38 countries, the experience is enriching because my children have taken that desire to learn
39 languages, my son French and my daughter English, I have felt great help, I do not speak anything
40 of other languages, just the basics. That in my case, but I know it has been positive for all families,

41 at least for the majority yes.

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43 Q6 / You start hosting long ago, what motivated you to do this?

44 A6 / Well, it was that we came to help in Fudebiol, and knowing the need that had the foundation
45 that some boys came to work and had no where to host, so after that starts the initiative to form a
46 group and begin to host the boys, at the beginning it was difficult by language, hardly any family
47 had studies or languages, but we begin with a simple name.

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50 Q7 / How was the alliance or organization to start hosting?

51 A7 / The Fudebiol board of directors gave training to the group, courses at INA, etc. We say that
52 we are the right arm of Fudebiol, sometimes it is said that it is a buck that does, but we know that
53 we are part of the organization, that we help in the lodging and that we help of different way but
54 we contribute.

55 *** She clarify of one of the projects done by the volunteers ***

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58 Q8 / Are many host families with volunteers, how do you think the presence of volunteers has
59 influenced the community?

60 A8 / We say that Quebradas have accepted and adopted the boys, they are impressed that people
61 salute them and ask in which family they are ** laughs ** the community wants them because
62 they know that they come to work.

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65 Q9 / Has there been in the community any approach by any company or government to know the
66 work you do?

67 A9 / Here comes the INA or IMAS, and they know what we do, the families or the volunteers
68 because they always ask what we do and what the boys do.

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71 Q10 / Having so many years of hosting, what has been the biggest challenge?

72 A10 / The challenge for me is the language ** laughs ** because some people speak a little bit of
73 Spanish but for me it's the language, that's the main thing, sometimes there are things to talk
74 about and I like to ask them things I like and do not, and sometimes you can not, there is a fear of
75 not understanding, but over the years I have learned that it is better to pose it at all, that benefits
76 both of us.

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79 Q11 / What do you think about the volunteer work that foreigners do here?

80 A11 / Without these people ... this reserve would not be what it is, and as proof are all those signs
81 that have left them at the end of their stay, we all remember them for something, like being
82 always dirty ** laughs ** or so, truly beautiful experiences.

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85 Q12 / What has impacted you the most?

86 A12 / That they come with love to work, they come with a great expectation to work and give
87 what they know. One is moved to see them work in whatever. One is impressed because many
88 people would not, many do not understand or know the impact they cause.

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91 Q13 / Do you consider that there are still challenges?

92 A13 / Yes, we want to grow, and that is a challenge, we as a family have been improving things in
93 houses, but we always have to keep growing, it is a challenge. How to improve the houses to give
94 the volunteers a better place.

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97 Q14 / Speaking of change, what is the greatest example for you, or the biggest change in you, in
98 your family, by having had international volunteers?

99 A14 / I would summarize it in 2 things, that 22 years ago I could not sit down and talk to many
100 people, ** laughs and talks about it ** all that I was losing, and now I can talk a little more, explain
101 to people what we do, what the volunteers do, and in addition to all that, see the change in my
102 children, see how they accept the boys who come and treat them as brothers, for me that is the
103 greatest thing.

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106 Q15 / Conflicts, how has it helped your family or the community to have had the international
107 volunteers, have you generated some type of conflict resolution system?

108 A15 / Maybe on a personal level, people say why only you receive volunteers, but we have to
109 clarify why, because we have a family organization and we dedicate ourselves to that. As for the
110 family, sometimes so that sometimes my children tell me: they should put on deodorant ** laughs
111 ** then sometimes you have to explain things like that to them.

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114 Q16 / How has your family benefited from these things?

115 A16 / Well, in a lot, I can say that I already have many children in all parts of the world, many
116 friendships, they are bonds that form very strong. For Mother's Day and Christmas they write me
117 and my children, my daughter had for example the opportunity to go travelling and visit some of
118 them, then they are very nice people.

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121 Q17 / You said that the organization has a system of family rotation, people who are not directly
122 involved, what do they think?

123 A17 / Some have knowledge of what we do, others do not, just talk and do nothing.

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126 Q18 / Any specific example?

127 A18 / Some will say that why they only stay in that family or just there, or because they work only

128 in Fudebiol, we always explain, people know, but there is always one who talks to much, but the
129 boys coming to work is not the problem, but the organization.

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132 Q19 / But if we talk about percentages, do you consider that most people support the project, yes
133 or no?

134 A19 / Yes, most people like it, it's just people who do not know, they criticize, but it's very little, it's
135 because of ignorance.

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138 Q20 / Well, the people involved, the fact that the volunteers come, did you comment that your
139 children are interested in learning languages, talking about what volunteers do, has there been
140 any kind of influence? Do people get involved in activities? Activities with foreigners, do they
141 support more?

142 A20 / No, no, maybe the universities are motivated to come, but the people do not see it that way.

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145 Q21 / Has there been any kind of meeting between the community and Fudebiol?

146 A21 / Sometimes fairs, but more people come from other places than from here.

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149 Q22 / Why do you think people do not get involved?

150 A22 / Maybe because they do not like the responsibilities, they do not like to collaborate in
151 anything, they do not have the knowledge of the importance that we have here, they believe that
152 the water is there and the water arrived and that's all. That there are people working there by the
153 water and that's it.

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156 Q23 / Would there be any idea on the part of this organization, how to involve people?

157 A23 / Well, maybe the board of Fudebiol has tried, but for the foundation costs to gather the
158 partners ** laughs ** they try to grow more, but the people when someone say meeting then they
159 say better not, they are lazy.

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162 Q24 / This is a project that works with the environment, but speaking of other social issues, what
163 do you think is fulfilled in Fudebiol?

164 A24 / There is contact with cultures, I already know everything from many countries ** laughs **.
165 Some meals are good, others are not ** laughs ** I like to ask them when they like something and
166 when they do not. The cultural exchange is very nice, it is incredible, we always tell ourselves what
167 things we do here and we ask the same thing to them.

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170 Q25 / Human rights?
171 A25 / Em ... ** pauses thinking ** well, maybe knowledge, a volunteer told me once, my dad
172 works with chemicals, and someone might ask him something but he did not want to answer any
173 more, there are things that they do not like to talk and we respect each other.
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176 Q26 / Social inclusion?
177 A26 / When we take kids to school, they help children in things that is difficult for them, the most
178 difficult subjects, that is growth, knowledge that helps us.
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181 Q27 / Poverty reduction?
182 A27 / A family.
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185 Q28 / How?
186 A28 / Well, not all the partners work, so when we started, it was because we did not have a source
187 of work, having a boy in the house is a job and a way to help, there are low income families, and
188 those families where these boys are coming to, are having a strong economic support.
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192 Q29 / The local economy and trade, does any benefit from having volunteers here?
193 A29 / When groups of volunteers come, they go and buy things. When they are individual maybe
194 not so strong.
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197 Q30 / What development has ASOFEQUE had?
198 A30 / We started by helping the young people who came, then came the need to come and cook
199 for the groups that came here, we had nothing, we had to put mattresses when people came to
200 stay, we put plates and spoons of our own, we could not charge a lot to buy things. Thus we were
201 several years and we were growing little by little, with the help of familiar people began to suggest
202 why not ask for help to the IMAS, etc. It is difficult in Costa Rica to get financing for projects, a lot
203 of bureaucracy, that's where we started. In the community there was an administrator girl, she
204 stopped working and she was helping us, but we had to pay a lot, so we decided to involve her as a
205 partner, in the end we were able to get a silver project, we set up the cathering service, the
206 foundation, but yesterday for example (11/08/2017) we had 4 events, we have grown a lot thanks
207 to God, but we have not finished there, we can not get tired and we have to keep growing, we
208 have already grown but if we always give the same we stagnate, so we have to progress and grow.
209 ** In the end they will have an international cathering -suggested by a viewer- ***
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213 Q31 / Do you have any suggestions from ASOFEQUE / Fudebiol, for ACI or for international
214 volunteering?

215 A31 / Emm, maybe ... I know ACI does, more emphasis on the guys knowing that Costa Rica is
216 different, that you can not put paper on the toilet for example ** laughs ** explain things about
217 the shower, give them a more intensive preparation.
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220 Q32 / Anything else?

221 A32 / No, an anecdote, we have never had big problems, only some small ones, we know that
222 when the boys come with the ACI organization we can call, we have the confidence that the help is
223 there. There are years of work, I know that you already know the families and as we are here, we
224 are very grateful to the organization. It's nice to walk the trails and say, this made it such a group,
225 that made X, and that would not be so without the volunteers.
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228 Q33 / Many thanks Guiselle, thank you very much for the time, we know you are busy.

229 A33 / With pleasure.
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232 Q34 / How did you feel?

233 A34 / You know, remembering is to see how we have changed over the years. I feel good because
234 it is talking about what we started so far.

235 Something we have learned over the years is to work with us, with the organization. Incredible
236 experiences. I am very grateful because without the volunteers nothing this is what it would be.
237 Years ago everything was different, I felt the change in me, giving more freedom to the boys I host,
238 giving them confidence, etc., very nice relationships we have had. The fact that sometimes I say
239 mom, or even little sister, and invite me to the disco ** laughs **.

240 I have learned a lot from them, so much that they work with nothing in return, and sometimes we
241 are lazy to pick up trash.
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End of interview