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### **Atrapados en la necesidad...alternativas posibles**

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Caught in the need...possible alternatives

#### Introduction

We herewith present a working experience of psycho-social occupational therapy in Argentina within the Occupational Therapy Program in Primary Attention of Health.

This experience is part of the Occupational Therapy Service of the José Tiburcio Borda Interdisciplinary Hospital of the city of Buenos Aires.

It started in June 2008, taking place in Vuelta de Rocha, a tourist spot in the neighbourhood of La Boca.

Our job is executed both together with and within the community, working on daily issues, looking for new alternatives of change, in order to face adverse situations.

Since its inhabitants are excluded of the economic circuit generated by the worldwide known tourist activities, people have a high rate of unsatisfied basic needs (educational, residential, labour and health).

#### Objectives

Give the population tools that might be useful to achieve better living standards

Tend to facilitate social inclusion by emphasizing Labour Occupation

Stimulate motivations and potentials so as to allow personal and collective development, in order to strengthen social bonds.

#### Description

Our job on the street is done with various forms of intervention and it takes place where people live and develop

Among our tasks are evaluations, orientations, follow-ups and derivations in an early stage, protected by community devices.

#### Results

Significant changes have been observed both in personal and familiar aspects such as recognizing their own needs, interests, possibilities and their capability of taking decisions, solving situations as well as more consideration of themselves, their families and their environment.

Being professionals who work in health, we do consider our presence in the neighbourhood as highly beneficial since it allows direct contact with the population as well as planning and executing together occupational strategies.

#### Conclusion

We emphasize the importance of preventive as well as health promoting actions, which prove that our speciality can and must adapt itself to the new challenges of our society.

Contribution to the practice of Occupational Therapy

This experience contributes to the professional practice by offering an integral view and emphasizing the singularity of every individual in his social environment.