

# Summer course 2022

## Calasanz Social Centre. Veracruz

*Tere Corres, coordinator Education and volunteering*



From 25th July to 20th August we held our summer course at the Calasanz Social Centre. The objective was the regularisation of subjects such as literature and exact sciences, integrating also other workshops.

Seventy primary school children and 20 secondary school teenagers were assisted by 23 volunteers.

We began with a diagnostic evaluation by the Ministry of Public Education, and found that the average grade was below 5.

With the youngest children, who are about to enter primary school, we began with basic Spanish and mathematical thinking, as well as Karate Do classes, led by teachers Madeline Hernández, a social service provider, and Susana Gutiérrez, an adult volunteer, respectively.

For the lower primary school children, work continued on reading and writing and mathematics, also involving handicrafts to work on fine motor skills. These programmes were led by Araceli González, Cecilia Oliveros, members of the fraternity and Rebeca Neri, coordinator of the Centre.

Spanish and maths were also taken up in the upper primary and first year of secondary school, depending on the level of each group, and included cooking and make-up, as well as sports. Led by Mary Ortiz, social service provider, Madian Lagunes, Jocelyn Neri, Marco Reyes, Frandia León and Cristopher Rivera, all university volunteers.

And finally, with our young people in the 2nd and 3rd years of secondary school, we worked on literature, algebra, physics, chemistry, Tae Kwon Do classes and workshops on vocational orientation and sexuality. The workshops were given by Marco Reyes, Litzy González, Carmen Zamudio, David Tejeda, university volunteers, Arturo León, social service provider, Xavier Cevallos, university professor volunteer, and Tere Corres, responsible for the educational programmes at the Social Centre.

Culminating each week with Saturday environmental activities, prayer workshops, and artistic activities, given by Blanca Fernández and Mary Sánchez, members of the fraternity and frequent volunteers, Juana Contreras, Rafaela Flores, Miranda Martínez (8 year old volunteer) and Fernanda Aguirre, Miranda's mother and adult volunteer.

At the end of the summer activities, significant advances in learning were identified:

The youngest children have begun their process of reading and writing and mathematical thinking, those in the middle manage to express their knowledge through representations or games and the older ones begin to identify their vocation thanks to the classes of subjects that even when they take them in their formal schools, are not taught with the same passion and preparation as that of our volunteers.

The volunteers and the children, in addition to the academic learning, discovered very interesting things, because in the summer the CSC becomes a space of encounter and love between the children, young people, mothers, volunteers and the work team. This is not something that is planned in the class sessions, it is not something that is expected before starting, it just happens.

Some of our teenagers, although the subjects seen in the summer were already taken in their formal schools, for the first time gave them real importance, because they were taught in a totally different way. And some have even found some affinity for them, thinking at some point of studying a professional career linked to it.

Teachers go with the sole intention of teaching and it turns out that they are the ones who learn the most from our children. They learn that love can be born and grow in a few weeks. They understand that education given with passion is the one that achieves the expected results in the pupils. They experience that no matter

what profession they have, in that place they all become Piarist teachers who, through letters and knowledge, are accompanying and changing the life of a child.

And so, once again, we reaffirm that the CSC is full of magic. That miracles happen every day in everyday life, that St. Joseph Calasanz is present in every person who allows himself to meet him with this community.

The Pietà and the Letters were true Piarist presence during the summer course 2022 of the Calasanz Social Centre.

