



Programme Information

Title	<i>Gente que Avanza Training Centre</i>	
Acronym	<i>Movimiento Latinoamericano Gente que Avanza (People on the Move)</i>	
Short Description	<i>Gente que Avanza Training Center offers a programme that complements academic education, within the Non Formal Educative System, searching to draw out the best in people for the benefit of those around them. It takes on the whole person in all his or her aspects, seeking to develop the multiple intelligences each person possesses - spiritual, intellectual, emotional. Our motto is: "nothing changes in the world, if I don't change first"</i>	
Type		
Frequency and Timing	<i>The programme consists of 10 months each year, that includes four stages. Two take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, and two are developed in the countryside of Uruguay and in other countries, primarily of Latin America.</i>	
Location(s)	<i>It takes place in Uruguay, and from there it reaches out other South American countries.</i>	
Active since	<i>It started in 1970 and since then has visited 17 countries.</i>	
Context	<p><i>Despite all the scientific and technological development, we notice that many people, particularly young people, tend to feel insecurity, frustration, anxiety, anguish, fear, and stress, commit suicide, use violence to resolve conflicts, use alcohol and drugs, and in the end, feel the existential emptiness.</i></p> <p><i>Psychological studies have identified a negative relation between the technical complexity of today's society and the ability of the individual to instinctively enjoy, decreasing the ability to enjoy life. Love, affection, friendship and mutual trust, that are fundamental components of a good life (a quality life), are not in favour nowadays because of the fast rhythm of modern societies. Human relationships become functional and utilitarian, diffuse an individualistic ethic of competition that tends to frame the interpersonal communication in terms of inhibiting deeper development of affection and cooperation.</i></p> <p><i>This situation reminds us of the need for training to enable a balanced development of different aspects of a person such as intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual development of young men and women.</i></p> <p><i>It is essential that people stop and find anew the contact with themselves, in order to attain ability of greater self-control, put forth their skills to be able to confront more assertively the challenges of a daily life to be protagonists of their personal history and also constructors of the societies that would be more just, united and pacific.</i></p> <p><i>Basing on the fact that society does not necessarily is to be considered as developed just because of disposing abundant capital, but on the fact how much it has succeeded in expanding the potential of the individuals within it. These potentials not only have to do with the professional performance (developing technical skills), but also involve the personal sphere, if we are willing to achieve a real quality of life. A quality life is not limited only to</i></p>	

economic progress but requires people to be able to grow and develop in an integral way.

Aims and Objectives

It is intended that when upon completion of the program participants:

- 1) Have a better knowledge and understanding of oneself, develop a healthy self-esteem, learn to value positively oneself and others, develop skills to create better interpersonal relationships.*
- 2) Be able to formulate a life plan that would include development of different aspects of his/her person: the spiritual, physical, intellectual and social.*
- 3) Discover the importance that has giving meaning to life and be able to establish a set of values that would guide their actions.*
- 4) Discover their ability to practice positive leadership, developing skills such as teamwork, decision-making and assertive communication with people surrounding them.*
- 5) Count with minimum theoretical elements that would allow having a better understanding of the global and Latin American reality, to develop a critical awareness of the surroundings of the person.*
- 6) Have a greater knowledge and appreciation of Latin American cultures, appropriating some of its forms of arts (music and dance).*
- 7) Assume an attitude of respect for diversity and plurality of the continent and appreciate integration and unity among nations and countries of Latin America.*
- 8) Ability to become changemakers in their families and communities, living values such as justice, fraternity, solidarity, tolerance and respect for life.*

Process and Approach

Some of the workshops facilitated for the GQA Training Centre.

*knowledge of oneself
Self-esteem
Human Relationships
Inner Freedom
Vocation and Purpose in Life
Leadership
Communication
Team work
Project in life
The Five Languages of Love
Stress within organizations
Working environment*

Each workshop could be facilitated with skits, songs and group activities in which the sharing of personal experiences of facilitators and participants enrich the content of each theme.

Living and sharing with host families

*This is a very important aspect, both for the learning process of the participants and for the life of each host family.
The fact of living in a family home, sharing its lifestyle, experiences and culture involves a mutual growing factor, building strong bonds of friendship that facilitate the integration of our countries.*

Cultural Performances

This an imaginary trip through the countries visited by Gente que Avanza, their dance, music, typical instruments and national costumes... an effective way of transmitting the cultural values of Latin America.

Impact

Since 1970, when Gente que Avanza started, we have visited 17 countries

and more than 900 cities. More than 1000 young people has been part of the training and now all of them went back to their communities with a broader vision and a deeper commitment. Some of them are working as public servants, companies' leaders, social workers, educators and rising families.

We do believe that promoting change of mind it is a very empowering way to help people to develop a different attitude, and also when than change it is backed with some personal stories of ordinary people than have achieved change in their personal life.

Most of the young people in our continent does not have a clear vision of their life; instead, they keep trying many things from the outside world that keep them busy and tired. The fact of having a year for themselves open their hearts and minds to a totally different world of opportunities, their self-esteem grows, their knowledge of themselves go deeper, their vision goes broader, their commitment strengthen and they could, from them, find their place in society and bring to it the best of them!

Testimonials Carlos Alberto Degiusti (49)
Resistencia (Chaco) - Argentina
toribio@satlink.com

"Thirty years ago I had my first encounter with what is now the Latin American Movement Gente que Avanza. And I marked forever. I found young as embodied in those values and lifestyle that my then 18 years trying to build. I immediately knew that this was the way he was going to go in my life.

I participated for two years of touring Latin America with the cast. I made a strong experience of working hard with youth and adults from different countries and cultures in favor of men and women of our continent.

Respectful, supportive and demanding brotherly coexistence within the cast was shaping my personality and gave me the joy of friendship. I was "guest-son" in almost fifty Latin American families. I shook hands and shared dreams, pains and hopes with young people from universities and slums, with workers and leaders, with believers and terminally ill.

Walking the continent and discover the pain of his people made me grow in the conviction with which I live: we need many men and women who honestly life, free from prejudices, animosities and selfishness, want to spend his life to offer our people the possibility a dignified, just and free life, as befits all children of God. It also made me discover God's call for me, and for almost 20 years I am a Catholic priest.

The experience in Gente que Avanza still present in my life and in my ministry. Since the beginning of my ministry I have devoted time and energy to the training of young people".

• Ana Teresa Soto Vidal (37) – Brazil
Nutritionist - Manager Industrial Restaurants Training and Development
Coordinator avidal@accorbrasil.com.br

"It's been 14 years since I got the experience of VLG-GQA. Today, I work in a multinational food company, confirmed every day how important were those 5 years of experience and exchange. The self-knowledge, transforming my abilities and have the awareness that needs to be improved, have been my main lever for professional maturity. Increasingly, companies are looking mature people who are active, that add value to their institutions, which express a clear and firm convictions, that are honest and leaders in what they do and believe and know how to manage conflict well and challenges that appear in the day. The process lived in the cast helped me discover who I am, what I can do, how far I can go, like helping others and how to make things better around me. I lead teams, managing restaurants and working with the different levels of management, I checked what I learned: →! "Things are important, but people is more"

• Ronald Cubillo Rodriguez

Lawyer - Costa Rica ronalrodri@hotmail.com

" Without fear I could tell that the experience in Gente que Avanza in my life marked a before and after. My desire was always to serve and this is where I found the tools that help me to do so, to fight for what I want, to be authentic, to reacquaint myself with my values . I found that to be a good professional should rather be a good person, good husband, good father and a good friend, that consistency should cover all aspects of my life. So I have found the happiness and fulfillment as a person , sharing my life with an amazing woman with whom we fight every day for the same ideals and the wonderful gift of our son. "

Gabrijela Leovic (27)

Translator and Interpreter - Croatia - Germany

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I've always been a very idealistic person, but also very dreamy. When I met GQA, I got attracted by the possibility to live my ideals on a concrete and realistic way, have the opportunity to bring a message of hope and commitment, open the eyes and hearts of the people and see how this message is able to touch thoroughly to people, as good "is in the hearts of all, just need to wake" because often it is covered by individualism, materialism, indifference, comfort, superficiality of everyday life, especially in European society.

But I myself can only give something if the first thing I find in my own life, and that is precisely the process that GQA staff wants to inspire and which has so enriched my life. Living with such a diverse and challenging group made more consciously questioning as what I say and do affects others and made me see how much damage especially my impatience and impulsiveness can cause to others. That was my first step on a path that I started GQA, wanting to beat all that prevents me live love people and put love in everything I do. Through GQA I feel more in tune with my life, keeping my past as a treasure and source of energy, using and enjoying the present and facing the dreams of the future with an attitude of confidence and faith.

Target Audience	<p>We aimed to exchange experience with all different kind of groups interested in growing, as a group and as individuals: groups from schools, universities, companies, churches, NGO´s and governmental people; mostly over 15 years old; although some activities could be adapted to the youngest.</p> <p>For those interested in joining our programme it is necessary to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ be between 18 and 30 years old,✓ have completed Secondary Education,✓ be available for one year to participate in the programme, from late February until middle December✓ be single and without children,✓ to have a basic knowledge of Spanish,✓ go through a personal interview,✓ count on the backing of parents or tutors. <p>If so, do please get in touch to Fabiana Duarte – fduarte@gentequeavanza.org</p>
Funding	<p>The programme is funded by Sponsorship, individual donations, participants' contribution and the sale of activities (workshops, cultural performances).</p>
Donate	<p>If you want to help young people from all over the world, mainly South America to have this life changing experience, do please get in touch to Irene Oliveira: ireoliveira7@gmail.com or Ismar Villavicencio: ivillavicencio@gentequeavanza.org</p>

Your contribution will be used for support the young people through covering their travel expenses from and back their country to Uruguay, payment of their monthly programme fees and some of the reaching out periods while in the programme.

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