

ComMotion makes connections with communities in South America

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ComMotion – Community in Motion has a passion for bringing the joys and health benefits of music and movement to communities, both locally and internationally. Enthusiastic about the opportunity to make a difference in Latin America, the ComMotion team recently embarked on travels that addressed challenges faced by people in Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia.

Hospital patients in Argentina can find themselves dealing with one of the most stressful periods of their lives, as they and their family members struggle with a lack of control and fear of the unknown. During their recent travels, ComMotion visited Buenos Aires, Argentina to help bring feelings of ease to patients in the Intensive Care and Oncology units of Hospital Italiano. Patients of the hospital and their family members were treated to a performance of beautiful, soothing music to bring comfort during times of crisis and lower their stress levels. Local resident Mariano Botindari spoke of how art and music help bring people together. “Deep down, we are all humans and we want to be loved and we want to love...we’re all just trying to be happy.”



Buenos Aires, Argentina. ComMotion Artistic Director Andre Avila and the Arte en Salud team at the Hospital Italiano.

In Chile, ComMotion took the opportunity to help people who are experiencing homelessness, and whose numbers have been steadily increasing in the region. Without a place to stay, many



Santiago, Chile. Wellness & Movement program for residents of Hogar de Cristo.

homeless people feel a strong sense of disconnection from community and/or are battling with addiction. ComMotion’s team travelled to Santiago, Chile to lend a helping hand at Hogar de Cristo residential facility, which works to support people who find themselves without homes. ComMotion empowered residents by hosting a Wellness and Movement workshop, guiding participants through artistic self-expression and healing movement that they can use to ground themselves during difficult moments. All of the attendees were able to participate in the community and connection as they danced together from a seated position. While in Chile, ComMotion also met with U.S. Embassy staff to explore

how ComMotion can make an even bigger impact, through making connections with both existing programs and local organizations.

Many young people in Bolivia are working to expand their horizons by educating themselves. ComMotion’s method of multisensory instruction helps to make the learning process easier and more fun, especially the daunting task of learning English. While in Bolivia, ComMotion collaborated with Partners of Americas to incorporate musical, kinesthetic learning into English

language instruction for schools in rural Altiplano, and hosted workshops to teach this method to youth and parents at Casa Emuna. ComMotion shared their training and their multimedia educational content with Partners of Americas volunteers who are leading other educational programs for youth in La Paz and the Altiplano. Gary Limachi, President of the La Paz and Altiplano Chapter of Partners of the Americas said “The English classes focusing on learning through movement for children and adolescents are a unique and fun educational experience. This creative focus not only makes the classes more interesting, but also aids in vocabulary retention. Additionally, it promotes active participation, develops social habits, and improves motor coordination. It is an effective way to teach English, fostering integrated and didactic learning for children. We are glad to be part of this project and support the learning of a new language.”



Altiplano region, Bolivia. Incorporating movement into English language learning.

To bring awareness to students in the medical field, ComMotion also provided Artes en la Salud training courses for students in the department of Physical Therapy & Kinesiology at the Medical School of the Universidad Mayor de San Andres (UMSA). Through interactive activities, the university's students were excited to learn more about the field of arts in health, the health benefits of the arts, and concepts of inclusive programming and universal design.



La Paz, Bolivia. Arte en la Salud training for students at Universidad Mayor de San Andres

Within Bolivia, ComMotion also found a variety of other opportunities to contribute. One of ComMotion's missions is to help older adults stay mobile and maintain mental health. Social engagement and regular movement play a powerful role in maintaining a high quality of life, and are especially beneficial for people experiencing the physical and emotional challenges that can accompany aging. ComMotion brought the engagement of its Wellness & Movement workshops to seniors in both community and hospital programs in Bolivia.



La Paz, Bolivia. Wellness & Movement program for seniors at Casa Amandita and Club del Adulto Mayor

ComMotion's team feels privileged to have met so many wonderful people along their journey, and is excited to keep sharing the transforming power of movement, music, and artistic expression with people all over the world.

To learn more about the work that ComMotion – Community In Motion offers and how you can support their growing range of programs, visit

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