February *Member News*

YMCA of Uruguay

Uruguay

Uruguay is the second smallest independent nation in South America. Located between Brazil and Argentina, Uruguay is slightly smaller than the state of Washington. Once a Spanish colony, Uruguay gained independence in 1828. Uruguay's political and labor conditions are now among the freest on the continent.

Uruguay YMCA

The YMCA was founded in 1909 in the capital city of Montevideo. Initial programs focused on the moral and social development of youth, but they have since evolved to include recreation, camping, and educational programs that lead to community development. The Uruguay YMCA was instrumental in introducing the nation to sports such as basketball and volleyball and was a forerunner in the creation of 'indoor soccer.' Today, the Y is widely recognized as the national leader in the field of physical education–most notably through the YMCA University of Physical Education, Recreation and Sports.

The Uruguay YMCA is dedicated to working amongst the poorest communities—particularly with programs that address the needs of street children. Through government sponsored initiatives, the Salto YMCA is able to provide fully subsidized pre-school programs to more than 60 families. Because of difficult conditions, families often leave their children unattended, or have the children work in order to earn additional income for the family. The government initiative pays the families to keep the children in programs like the YMCA, thereby ensuring that the children are in a safe, wholesome environment where they can excel. The YMCA prepares the children through a combination of academic education, life skills education and fun. These children, because of the YMCA, are given a sense of hope in a loving environment. ▼

Uruguay / US Partners | YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region

YWORLD™

110661 01/07