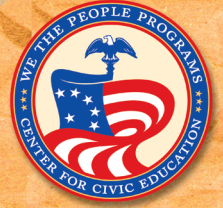


STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT  Citizen



Inspiring a Village

In San Miguel Arcángel, Argentina, students wanted to do more than just a regular class project: They wanted to help community members live healthier lives. Through their participation in Project Citizen, the students helped their village gain essential medicine and showed the community that diplomatically working with local government can bring about positive change.

Community Connection In the small village of San Miguel, there is a first-aid station but no pharmacy where residents can buy necessary medicines. Students at the Instituto Senderos worked together on a plan to supply pharmacy items to the community. First, they would need to ask everyone in the community to help them prepare a fully stocked first-aid kit. Then the students would ask their local government to replace items in the kit as they ran out.

Taking Action The students requested an interview with a local government official, who liked their idea. Together with health workers and other local authorities, students put the plan into action. The government even formed a committee to oversee the project. Now, when the first-aid kit is empty, government officials purchase replacements and make sure that these items get to San Miguel.

Since this successful project, there have been larger changes in San Miguel. In the past, residents did not approach local government officials with ideas to help the village. Now, says teacher Mabel Oliva Ruppel, “some groups of the community are . . . thinking about proposals to be made to the local authorities regarding other problems.”



Students in San Miguel Arcángel, Argentina, worked with officials to ensure that people in their small village had access to important medicine and a complete first-aid kit.

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Project Citizen

KEYWORD: SZ7 CH23

SERVICE LEARNING

1. Why did the project for the first-aid kit need to involve both community members and government officials?
2. What are some important ways that these students have helped to improve life in their village?
3. How can one person's attempt to change his or her community affect others?