The PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF) proudly supports PMI chapters as they leverage their professional skills and knowledge to deliver social-good programs in their community. Learn how four chapters are combining their passion for project management with their desire to give back:

**PMI Montevideo, Uruguay Chapter**

When municipal government coordinators of the Young Leadership Program contacted the PMI Montevideo, Uruguay Chapter in hopes of securing an educational session, PMIEF/PMI Chapter Liaison Karime Ruibal Faral, PMP, and five volunteers answered the call. They provided project management training for 45 attendees, ages 19 to 23, using *Project Management Skills for Life*<sup>®</sup> materials. “They were eager to learn,” said Ms. Ruibal of the participants, who planned seven initiatives, including a diversity festival.
and a tutoring program for hospitalized children. Surveys revealed very high satisfaction from attendees and organizers, which made the volunteers feel great, according to Ms. Ruibal.

Another recent effort, “Proyectando,” offered group workshops to six nonprofit organizations (Ronald McDonald House, Doctors without Borders, Gurises Unidos, Uruguay Diabetes Foundation, Roosevelt School and Idas y Vuelta) to develop their raw ideas into workable projects. The organizations, guided by 35 volunteers, also presented their ideas to fellow participants in an inspiring exchange of innovation.

An earlier 2017 “Proyectando” activity trained 140 teachers at Escuela Integral in project management skills for children.

“We tell teachers the objective is to use project management with kids, but we also show them the advantages of project management in their own work as well,” explained Ms. Ruibal. Twelve volunteers used the Project Management Toolkit for Teachers® materials in Spanish to provide basic concepts. While the program was a success, “Teachers want education projects as examples, not bridge construction,” she said, as she reflected upon their chapter’s lessons learned. “Improvements are under way.” Participants expressed tremendous gratitude to volunteers for giving up free time for them, but Ms. Ruibal sees the situation differently: “In the end, volunteers get more than they give. It’s a special feeling. And they want to do more.”

# Feeling Inspired?

Many of these project management practitioners utilize PMIEF no-cost resources to support their community social-good programs. Consider volunteering your time and professional expertise to support local programs benefiting youth or nonprofit organizations in your community. Visit pmief.org/library/resources to check out Project Management Skills for Life®, Project Management Toolkit for Teachers®, Managing Life’s Projects and more.

**PMI Madrid, Spain Chapter**

When Fernando Ley, PMP, PMI Madrid, Spain Chapter board member and PMIEF/PMI chapter liaison, arrived at Clarissan Missionary Sisters School in rural Lunsar City, Sierra Leone, West Africa, he asked fellow volunteer Cristina Caballero for an outlet to charge his mobile phone. He quickly learned that there was no electricity during daylight hours; power produced by a single generator was exclusively for the dark of night.

“My presentation was titled ‘Using Project Management with Limited Resources,’” recalled Mr. Ley, “and in this region everything is limited. There are plenty of humans, but they lack skills and raw supplies.” He used PMIEF’s Project Management Toolkit for Teachers® to instruct staff and the sisters about the basics of project management, and gave them copies of Gary Nelson’s book, The Ultimate Treehouse Project, from the Project Kids Adventures series, for their students.

Then a project began to form. The school, serving 3,000 girls, had just one boiler to cook all meals. “There was no concept of a real kitchen,” Mr. Ley said. But that would soon change. The founder of Pequeña Nowina, a nonprofit organization helping females from Sierra
Dedicated PMI Chapters Leverage Project Management for Social Good®
Continued from page 11

PMI Pune-Deccan India Chapter

One pervasive challenge for education in India is a lack of resources. “In some schools there is no power at times and no internet access,” noted PMIEF/PMI Chapter Liaison Makarand Hardas, PMP. “Students show up barefoot; they carry books in plastic bags. Schools are challenged in many areas and when it comes to solutions, one thing is always true: If it is not practical, it is not a solution.”

Mr. Hardas and fellow PMI volunteers devised innovative project management-based programs to find workable solutions fine-tuned to various schools. “We don’t just push our own agenda,” he said. “As we work with educators, they develop a grasp of how to manage tools [and] they see how problems that once seemed insurmountable can be overcome.”

Chapter volunteers began the outreach by transforming project management sessions into the local Marathi dialect. They also created an analogy between the sport of cricket and project management. “We showed how cricket stars began their personal journeys—‘projects’—by identifying a desire to be cricket players, planning what to do to become athletes, and working hard to achieve their goals,” said Mr. Hardas.

Students have since been tapped to participate in a “Dream School” drawing contest to illustrate and identify items—from additional desks and better lighting to more books and computer stations—that would turn their classroom into a “dream” learning environment. “Based on the drawings, we will start plans to fulfill outstanding needs,” Mr. Hardas said.

Mr. Hardas shared his vision: “Project management often impacts highly educated professional people. But I believe we need basic skill development for people who have minimum competency. Then it can grow and become a sustainable skill for life. This is what we are doing in schools.”

Josiane Ballin, PMP

PMI Alaska Chapter

Josiane Ballin, PMP, PMIEF/PMI Chapter Liaison for the PMI Alaska Chapter, realized that there was a large community in her state that could benefit from some support, and the chapter was well-positioned to help. “In Alaska, there are more than 5,700 registered nonprofit organizations … providing more than 44,000 direct jobs, which in turn creates thousands more,” she said. “If nonprofits were considered a single industry, they would be second only to the oil and gas industry when it comes to economic impact.” With their ambitious missions and limited resources, nonprofit organizations and their staff members are ideal candidates to learn some project management basics.

Ms. Ballin leveraged the chapter community to provide a starting point. She connected with fellow PMIEF/PMI Chapter Liaison Paulo Camargo, PMP, of the PMI Southern Alberta Chapter. Mr. Camargo
shared a useful organizational tool that the nonprofit partners could take back to their organizations.

The PMI Alaska Chapter delivered two six-hour training programs in the cities of Juneau and Anchorage. Volunteers marketed the events to nonprofits directly and received tremendous interest. The chapter also demonstrated commitment to the project management community in Alaska by having additional chapter board members present at the events.

Ms. Ballin shares the best feedback possible. “We have received requests to bring a similar program to native Alaskan communities and the plan is to deliver this year—fall of 2018,” she said. “By reaching out to share the importance of project management with a large industry like [the nonprofit sector], we have the opportunity to bring new members into the chapter community.”

### Events Calendar

#### 3–4 November

**2018 PMI MENA Conference**

Kuwait City, Kuwait (3 November) and Manama, Bahrain (4 November). Many international speakers will share the latest in topics ranging from project excellence to strategic PMOs to business analysis, and much more—a unique learning and networking opportunity. [pmimenaconference.org](http://pmimenaconference.org).

#### 12 November

**PMI German Chapters/PMI Southern Germany Chapter PM Summit 2018**

Munich, Germany. The PM Summit is one of the biggest project management events in Germany. The theme this year is “The Human Success Factor in Projects.” [pm-summit.de](http://pm-summit.de).

#### 12–14 November

**PMI Zagreb Croatia Chapter PMI Forum: Jump Ahead, Agile and Creative**

Zagreb, Croatia. We expect over 500 participants in this regional conference, open to anyone interested in project management or complex program management. Great speakers with professional stories such as Peter Taylor, Olivier Lazar, Oliver F. Lehmann, Agata Copek and more. Translation into English will be provided. [pmi-croatia.hr/hr/pmi-forum](http://pmi-croatia.hr/hr/pmi-forum).

### PMI Tour Cono Sur 2018

Under the theme “Manage, Adapt and Reinvent a World Through Projects,” this year’s Tour Cono Sur offers a varied selection of featured speakers and cities where you may strengthen the skills that compose the PMI Talent Triangle®. This will help you remain relevant and competitive, and enhance your ability to achieve success.

We invite you to visit the chapter websites where you will find valuable information, including calls for papers.