

# ... Bringing laughter to the backyards of Argentina



**The Clown One Italia Tour in Argentina - Ottobre 2004".** The clowns participating in the trip are: Italo Bertolasi, Ginevra Sanguigno, Ettore Sacchi, Elena Reduzzi, Mariangela Baldinini, Claudia Fantuzzi, Dario Perego, Dario Brambilla, Roberto Pansardi, Fabio Agostoni, Sara Mazzuchelli, Glauco Sivieri, Rossella Berga, Alfonsino Serra, Silvana Busillo, Adriana Westra, Ruth Glick, Larry Jay Jones, Joyce Gay Brack, Tammy Lee Danforth, Maureen Therese Mould, Wildman Adams.

Ginevra *Gin Gin* Sanguigno of *Clown One Italia*, organized the trip to Argentina, Oct 1-16, 2004. The group had clowns from America, Argentina, Italy and Holland and spent a week clowning in slums and barrios in Buenos Aires as well as hospitals and schools. Many of the clowns then traveled north to the towns of Posadas, El Dorado and Misiones doing similar visits.

From "Wildman" Adams: "The tour of Argentina was a bit different in that most of the time we were clowning in the barrios or slums. I really enjoyed this approach in that we were in their back yard rather than a facility. We saw more of the family dynamic and clowning with the whole rather than a part. It also helped to see how they lived and got more of a sense of what they needed both as a family and as a community. The Argentine people were very receptive and were most gracious and hospitable, especially the Payusmedicos or the hospital clowns of Buenos Aires. The hospital in town gave them the most respect of any group I have ever had experience with. They welcomed them and us as though they knew how important our work was in the healing process."



*Balloon Train: Mariana Ramos playing the accordion, a staff/organizer from Clown One Italia with Maureen Mould. Children are from an Indian Reservation in Northern Argentina, Cataratas - Puerto Iguazu.*

Maureen Mould "OOCHEE" from Yakima Washington comments: "Whenever the clowns went into a "barrio" or slum area to clown, when we were all back on the bus, ready to leave, a social worker from the area would come on the bus, and with tears streaming down their faces, thank us profusely for coming. Most of them told us that there were so many children and adults who they had never seen smile until that day when we brought them music, laughter, dancing and joy. It really was a phenomenal trip!



*The Bedpan Brigade: Tammy Danforth (left), Maureen Mould (right) and Federico Codina, an Argentinean Clown from "Payomedicos," a hospital clown program in Buenos Aires.*



*Clowns left to right: Maureen Mould, Dr. Jose Pellucchi, Larry Davis, Joyce Brach, Wildman Adams and Tammy Danforth.*

Above, Yakima clowns with Wildman (Patch Adams's brother) and Dr. Jose Pellucchi (founder and teacher of Payomedics, Arte y Salud, in Buenos Aires)

**Payomedics, Arte y Salud** means *Medical Clowns, Arts and Healing*. This is a 2-year training program in Buenos Aires. The first year is spent learning about the psychology of illness and the second year in theatrics of clowning. Before a clown works with a patient, they spend time with medical staff learning all about the patient's illness and their social-emotional issues. After planning activities, the clown spends up to an hour with the patient twice a

week. They then report to the medical staff and share how the session went. Most patients love the time, attention and fun so much, they don't want to leave the hospital when they are well enough to go home.

## Clown One Italia Tour 2005

*Healing through Humor*

*July 3 through 17, 2005*



Here we are about to take off with our Clown Tour in Italy! Last year two Japanese clown girlfriends of ours flew all the way from Japan to join us. This year every participant will gather in Napoli where our tour is going to start, and we will be traveling around with our clown bus. We only trust our friend Giuseppe Granato with the driving, along with his wife Ida.

After a few days in which we will be visiting hospitals and an institute for mental health, we will be leaving for Calabria, where we will be visiting hospitals and centers for physically challenged people, with the help of our friends from Teatro Prosenion.

This year we are going to add a new stop and finally land in Sicily, very close to the area in Calabria we are going to be. There will be "local" friends escorting us on this tour: They already work in challenging situations -with "difficult" teenagers, or in hospitals. They begged us to go there and visit them with our group of clowns.

At the end of the tour, the group will be taking off from the city of Lamezia Terme in Calabria, on July 17th. If you are interested in this project, please send us an e-mail, so I can keep you informed.

clown.one@flashnet.it – Ginevra (Pictured below)

