



International Sports Programming Initiative: Sport for Social Change Participant Biographies



Name: José Rafael García Castro
Residence: San Cristóbal, Táchira
Sport: Karate

Mr. José García has a black belt in karate and is the technical director at Dojo Altamira. In addition, he is a karate instructor, personal trainer, and uses self-defense as a way to teach values to vulnerable children and youth. Outside of the sphere of karate he works in computer science and has been involved in the Imagine Cup, an annual competition sponsored and hosted by Microsoft that brings together young technologists worldwide to help resolve some of the world's toughest challenges. The project he worked on won the National Championship giving him the opportunity to participate in the World Championship in St. Petersburg, Russia.



Name: Jesús Enrique Becerra Roa
Residence: Barinas, Barinas
Sport: Karate-do

Mr. Jesús Becerra works as a children's karate-do coach. From 1995-2002 he was the assistant coach for the youth national team and up until 2008 he was the General Secretary of the Barinas Karate Association. Outside of the field of Karate-do he works at the Bolivarian School Creación Mi Jardín II and the Bolivarian School Group María La Riva Salas. He is the coordinator of the school newspaper and safety patrol. In the past he has taught various subjects including, health and physical fitness. He has also given courses and clinics on themes such as leadership in sports, basketball, and the ethics of teaching.



Name: Elvis Enrique Castellano Rodríguez
Residence: Maracaibo, Zulia
Sport: Track and field

Mr. Elvis Castellano is involved in track and field as a member of the "master" track and field team of the state of Zulia. Outside of track and field he is a heavy promoter for participation in sports. He is a physical education instructor at the Bolivarian School Barrio Modelo. He has taught courses on accident prevention and first aid, and he has a background in kinesiology. Mr. Castellano is a member of the Fernando Rincón Canaán Foundation for Peace where he works to foment peace, fraternity, and solidarity in the community.



Name: Heissy Corina Ruz Rodríguez

Residence: Caracas, Capital District

Sport: Personal Training

Ms. Heissy Ruz is involved in physical fitness in a variety of ways. She is a physical education instructor, as well as a trainer at the soccer school of the Pedagogical Institute of Caracas. She belongs to the Recreation Group of the institute, where since 2009 she has carried out recreational activities for children and youth such as sports tournaments and board games.



Name: Carla Sarai Guía Gutiérrez

Residence: Carayaca, Vargas

Sport: Gymnastics

Ms. Carla Guía is a physical education instructor as well as an artistic gymnastics coach and a trainer. She works at the National Bolivarian School Enrique Delgado Palacios. She has been a part of the Foundation for the Development of Falcón Sports (FUNDEFAL) 2008 and a workshop on sports training for young children. Ms. Guía has also been involved with the Gymnastics Association in the state of Falcón (ASOGIMFAL). Until 2012 she worked at the Institute of Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education in the state of Vargas as planner for the High Achievement Unit.



Name: Leo de Jesús Castillo Mijares

Residence: Valencia, Carabobo

Sport: Volleyball

Mr. Leo Castillo is one of the many trainers and coaches at the YMCA Valencia/Educational Unit Don Teodoro Gubaira. As such, he works with children and adolescents in the community, teaching them volleyball. To supplement his work with children and adolescents he has taken courses in emergency preparedness, first aid, recreational sports, and on how to form effective work teams.



Name: Freddy Aliskar Parra Vargas

Residence: Caracas, Capital District

Sport: Volleyball

Mr. Freddy Parra is a physical education instructor and an indoor and beach volleyball coach at la Concepción de Montalbán School and Simón Rodríguez University. He has participated in seminars about sports management as it relates to quality of life, as well seminars on how to improve as a volleyball coach. In men's volleyball he is a "master" level player and he participates in the professional volleyball super league. In addition, he was invited to participate in USA Volleyball Open in Louisville, KY in 2013 and in Phoenix, AZ 2014. Outside of volleyball, he is a volunteer firefighter.



Name: Rosa María Ibáñez
Residence: Maracay, Aragua
Sport: Kickball and basketball

Ms. Rosa Ibáñez is a teacher and coach at the Bolivarian Secondary School Talento Deoportivo Saúl Albano Moreno and the Simón Rodríguez National University in Maracay. She has experience as sports coordinator and has facilitated kickball clinics and has presented at clinics in community sports management. She is a volunteer basketball and kickball coach at the Sports and Recreation for Health School (Escuela Polideportiva y Recreativa Para la Salud). Additionally, she was a part of her state's basketball commission and a referee in the college youth games (JUVINES). Ms. Ibáñez has participated in international kickball congresses and has taken courses in security, community sports promotion, and the strengthening of the family unit.



Name: Roco Alejandro Lozada Ruiz
Residence: Valencia, Carabobo
Sport: Basketball

Mr. Roco Lozada has experience as a basketball and volleyball coach in various educational institutions. He currently works as a physical education and sports advisor at the Don Teodoro Gubaira Educational Unit in Valencia's YMCA. Mr. Lozada has participated in a physical education festival as well as Early Childhood Education Week, which were two themes of primary focus at the beginning of his career.



Name: Glendes Benito Pérez Pérez
Residence: Tinaquillo, Cojedes
Sport: Soccer

Mr. Glendes Pérez is the physical trainer, coach, and academic coordinator at *Semillero Vinotinto*, a soccer school. Additionally, he is a part of the Juan Arango soccer school foundation-- which seeks to develop youth using the values that soccer can teach-- and is involved in the Specialization in Goalkeeping Training Academy. Mr. Pérez has been a professional soccer player in the second division and the assistant coach at the Real Madrid C.F. soccer camp. Mr. Perez hopes to be able to open a soccer academy for children from low-income families.



Name: Marco Andrés Uzuriaga Estumbelo
Residence: Caracas, Capital District
Sport: Swimming

Mr. Marco Andrés Uzuriaga the swim teaching assistant at the Wagner Sports Academy Don Bosco Youth Center. As such, Mr. Uzuriaga works with adults and children, teaching them breathing and swimming techniques as well as helping them prepare for competition. Specifically, he coaches fourth level ("master" level) adults and children. In addition, he teaches water therapy exercises to children and adults with scoliosis. In addition to all of his work with swimming, Mr. Uzuriaga has also had experience coordinating and coaching soccer at the Caricua Soccer Academy.



Name: Imersi del Carmen López Meléndez

Residence: Cabimas, Zulia

Sport: Baseball

Ms. Imersi López is involved in baseball as the President of the Cabimas, Zulia Eastern Baseball League, and as the representative of the Level I team at the Ramón Castillo Baseball School and of the level I league of the state of Zulia. Ms. López plays a very active role in coordinating the Eastern League's events and works closely with the community members whose children play in the league.



Name: Larry Enrique Romero Hernández

Residence: Caracas, Capital District

Sport: Baseball

Mr. Larry Romero is a coach and referee for the Chucho Ramos baseball league and is a part of the Criollitos of Venezuela, the most well-known and widely implemented youth baseball league in Venezuela. In the past he has worked at two baseball schools, Cocodrilos Sports Park AC and Menor Batazo. He is also a community sports promoter, certified by the Popular Power Sports Ministry. Outside of baseball, he does not stray too far from sports and an active lifestyle, as he has been a physical education teacher.



Name: Carlos Rafael Rojas Wettel

Residence: Caracas, Capital District

Sport: Baseball

Mr. Carlos Rojas is involved in baseball as the Vice-President of the Crilloitos of Venezuela, the most well-known and widely implemented youth baseball league in Venezuela. He is currently working on an audiovisual system to help coaches and referees in the various sports academies throughout the country to teach baseball techniques. In all, Mr. Rojas has been involved in Venezuelan baseball leagues for thirty years and his experience includes organizing national and international tournaments.



Name: Joharley Amozanra Vargas de Acosta

Residence: Maracay, Aragua

Sport: Baseball

Ms. Joharley Vargas views sport as a way to increase the quality of life and the development of mental health in individuals. Her work with baseball comes specifically through her job as the manager of two of the children's divisions (pre-infantil and infantil) at the Blue Jays Community School. She is also the president of the Amozandra Foundation "Maker of Dreams" (Fundación Amozandra "Hacedora de Sueños"), which supports the activities that the baseball school carries out, in addition to other social and personal development activities. The foundation also works to collect funds to cover the health and care needs for members in the community.



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Name: Eleazar José Guzmán Brinceño

Residence: Caracas, Capital District

Sport: Physical Fitness

Mr. Eleazar Guzmán is the Operations Manager at Lido Fitness Spa Gym. In addition to his role as operations manager, he also gives advice to athletes training at his gym as well as to individuals dealing with health issues related to morbid obesity and diabetes. He hopes that through physical activity these people will be able to overcome the problems they face due to their lack of fitness. Mr. Guzmán volunteers his time to the Venezuela Chapter of Partners of the Americas as a personal trainer for their Integral Education program which is targeted to children and youth living in the at-risk neighborhoods of Petare in the municipality of Sucre in the state of Miranda.