

*AMMAR inaugurates its Neighborhood Center for Comprehensive Health*

by AMMAR Córdoba, November 30, 2013

On this day, the Center for Comprehensive Health was formally inaugurated. In attendance were the supporters and authorities that, since May of this year, have helped make the new undertakings of AMMAR Córdoba possible.

In her welcome address, Secretary General Eugenia Aravena reflected on the beginnings of AMMAR Córdoba. Now an organization of sex workers and their advocates, AMMAR Córdoba was formed as a means of health support. Thanks to three women: Dr. Analía Cudolá, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Catholic University of Córdoba (Universidad Católica de Córdoba), Dr. Silvia Sanguino, gynecologist at Hospital Rawson, and Verónica Ambach, who has a degree in social work, AMMAR Córdoba had the institutional and professional support needed to breakdown prejudices present in health care, providing a comprehensive and humanistic perspective on access to health care and the right to live a healthy life.

To this date, AMMAR has had many achievements including offering testing sessions for STD's at their headquarters and in 2010, they received the Red Ribbon Award from UNAIDS for their work in HIV/AIDS prevention. AMMAR has positioned itself as a benchmark for community health, multiplying their knowledge in different areas such as neighborhoods, universities, secondary schools, workplaces, unions, and other places in the city.

The Center is a place free of prejudices; a place that is warm, respectable, and sensitive to the needs of its clients. The Center works with sex workers to provide a comprehensive view of health, taking into consideration the political and social climates from

where their clients heed. Daily, they bring attention to and treat a variety of potential health issues: gynecology, vision, nutrition, dentistry, vaccinations, infectious diseases, pediatrics, sexology, mental health, additionally providing a testing center for HIV/AIDS and a center for legal counsel.

Since May the Center has served more than 180 people; it is only due to the commitment of the la Universidad Católica de Córdoba, the Hospital Rawson, and the Central Laboratory and Provincial Program on HIV/AIDS that this program has been possible.

The authorities involved in this project, Rafael Velazco, Rector of the UCC, Doctor Cohen of Hospital Rawson, Eduardo Ahamendaburu, president of the Institute of Occupational Health and the Environment and advocate for the Provincial Program on HIV/AIDS, together with Secretary General Eugenia Aravena, signed an agreement of cooperation. Their participation and cooperation at long last gives formality to fourteen years of work to improve the quality of life for this sector of sex workers.

The rainy evening did not stop all of those who support and believe in the work of the organization. Some of the presenters at this great event were Dr. Miguel Díaz; Adriana Moriena, Vice-Director of Hospital Rawson; Luis Vega, coordinator of the Provincial Program on HIV/AIDS; Guido Dreizik, Secretary General of the CTA of Córdoba; María Teresa Romero, secretary of ATE, Liliana Pereyra, Secretary of the University Extension of the Faculty of Philosophy at UNC; colleagues from SERVIPRO; Alejandra Dominguez of the School of School Work at UNC; representatives of Catholics for the Right to Decide; Ricardo Bertone; La Red Nosotras en el Mundo; members of the Student Center of Philosophy (UNC); the student movement Enrique Barros and the student group Caleuche; Dr. Carlos Godoy of the health collective; Native Peoples and Youth of the CTA; colleagues from the

Organization Against the Penalty Code, and the Network for the Recognition of Sex Work.

The event ended with a warm toast, the presentation of a prevention kit for sex workers, and a present for the authorities who recalled the famous words of Eduardo Galeano, “*Small people, in small places, doing small things, can change the world.*”

Communication Team

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