



## **In This Issue**

**TIPS FOR FUTURE  
IPP STARTERS**

**IPP STARTERS  
REVEAL THE  
TRADE'S  
SECRETS!**

**IPP TRAINING**

**MORE IPP  
MEMORIES**

**UPCOMING  
PROJECTS**



Welcome to the  
latest International  
People's  
Project Newsletter!

In this edition we are pleased to bring you fascinating interviews with the visionary people who started off an IPP in their country. Find out what they did, how they did it and what advice they would give other people in the same situation.

You can also find out more about the impact IPP had on one participant as well as Canada's very first IPP which will be taking place this summer.

So sit back, read and enjoy.....

And remember your comments, questions and contributions are always welcome!

**Becky Ruffell  
and Maisa Feghali**



## To the future planners of IPPs

IPP has been around now for almost 8 years, since the idea first came up in 1996. There have been more than 10 IPPs now and we've had a wide range of different topics up to today. There have been IPPs on "nature and society", "immigration", "history", "poverty" and recently "homeless". Also the nature of the projects has been quite different.

In some IPPs people painted buildings, in others they had dig all day, and in others CISVers conducted activities for children or youth with an underprivileged background.

Naturally there has been some discussion within IPP participants, in the IPP taskforce or NAs, on whether some IPPs may be better than others, or some working project may be more appropriate for CISV than another.

Classically there is the "People's IPP department" that claims, that CISV has skills in working with people and should stick to it even within IPPs. On the other side is the "hands-on fraction" who think, that IPPs give academic people a great chance to do physical work and develop creative and practical skills. Similarly there have been people who claim, that certain projects were less "relevant" than others, thinking that some IPP themes had no relevance, and would therefore not be worth the effort.

As you may guess, I am quite upset about the whole discussion as a whole. First of all, I think that judging whether a project is cool or not is impossible without knowing the details. I have caught myself twice thinking a project was not-so-good, but when I spoke to participants afterwards I discovered amazing aspects of that IPP, which made me change my mind completely. Also, who are we to judge, whether a project is relevant or not? CISV is not the UNO or WHO, who have to carefully distribute their financial and human resources to humanitarian help. All IPP has to do is offer a worthy educational hands-on experience in a local community. And the interests and wishes

of participants may be quite different: Some may be interested in a certain topic, others may not. Some may enjoy working with people, others love physical work.

"IPP can be anything. That's the beauty of IPP", is what my friend Carla once said. And this is another reason I dislike comparing IPPs: Why try to narrow down the scope of what IPP can be? Why argue on whether IPPs should be of one kind or another? I think it's absolutely fantastic all the IPPs we've had so far where so absolutely different from one another.

I may sound a little angry in this article but in fact, what I'm trying to say, is that if we manage to bring "small and easy" IPPs to the people, we may be able to give many more CISVers a great experience with less effort. Imagine, if everybody tries to deliver the most perfect IPP on the most relevant theme we will still be stuck with 2-3 IPPs/year in ten years: All chapters would need ages to recover from that effort.

Conducting an "easier" IPP will still have a great effect on everybody, even if you are not touching the number one relevant theme or giving help to a community of a kind that has never been there before.

To summarize the above, there are two things; I would like to shout out to all the future IPP planners out there: Don't limit yourself to what an IPP can be. And always remember: Less may be more!

I do hope that many people will take the challenge, and start working on planning an IPP. It's not so difficult after all, and the IPP taskforce is always there to help you with any step in the process. We will also provide training for the staff and have one person in the taskforce directly responsible for coordinating your project. I am incredibly curious on what kind of IPPs we will have in the future

Nick Trautmann  
IPP taskforce coordinator  
[ipp@cisv.org](mailto:ipp@cisv.org)

## IPP Starter # 1: Elenita Gutierrez, Spain

Short presentation: name, role in IPP, current occupations...

I am Elenita Gutiérrez from CISV Spain and have been involved in the IPP from the beginning, both nationally and internationally. At present I am still involved in CISV, and closely follow the development of IPP as a growing activity.

Occupations apart from CISV? I am a lawyer and work for a Law Firm in Madrid, the city I live in.

How were you inspired to start this project?

IPP seemed a too good idea as for not to try it in our own country. So we started looking for a project with social relevance in which we could be of any help. CISV was good at education. And a child, irrespective of his/her social background or special circumstances, is still a child. We were convinced a CISV experience is always a marvelous one for any kid. If we could not take the children to the world, then we will bring the world to the children (through international volunteers).

How did you go about finding/contacting the designated LMO?

We asked the CISV families in our chapter if they had any contact with LMO's that dealt with Children in Care. One of our CISV mothers coordinated the Children's residence in Madrid. We had a few meetings and proposed to the State Agency organizing an urban summer camp for the kids. They were delighted by the idea.

How was the search for sponsors?

The search for sponsors was not easy. Firstly because CISV is not that known in Spain and secondly because we were collaborating with a state agency and therefore many companies assumed we would be getting governmental funds and did not need any more funding. And what is best, some of those

sponsors supported economically the next Summer Camp that took place in But after a huge mailing and many presentations, we actually got sponsors (both in money and in goods).

Spain and are still economically supporting CISV Spain ever since.

How far along did you contact the IPP Taskforce? In what area did you need their help?

We were in constant contact with Gian Taralli, the IPP Coordinator (at that time there was not a Taskforce) who was of tremendous help. Ours was still a pilot project and, as any newborn initiative, they way to proceed was not always clear.

Was it hard to find staff? What about training them?

No! On the contrary we had overbooking!!! In Spain IPP in general and in particular was extremely positively received. Many people were longing for something like this to happen within CISV. Even ex cisvers were involved again just because of IPP.

The staff was basically trained by the LMO through seminars and talks and by the IPP national Coordinator. That year Local Work activities were centered in the IPP theme: Children under Care, and we went to Children's home on a weekly basis to do CISV activities with the kids.

In addition the staff had two weekend retreats to start working as a group and getting to know each other.

Very briefly point out how your IPP fits into CISV's general theme.

Our IPPs objectives centred in promoting the knowledge, understanding and respect of different cultures and the knowledge and respect of human rights and children's rights.

We were also very keen in encouraging co-operation as confronted to competition and teaching children non-violent ways to resolve conflicts.

In my view that is 100% CISV. We conducted an urban summer camp that very much resembled a CISV village. The only difference was that we adapted activities to the special needs of the children in care.

And as for the Cisvers involved, IPP participants from different nationalities worked together and learned or strengthened their capability of communicating across cultures. They also gained awareness of a worldwide social problem. It is my hope they also reinforced their will to become

active members of a peaceful and more just society.

Would you do it again?

Yes! Without any doubt.

Any recommendations for current/future IPP planners?

1. Believe in what you're doing.
2. Always listen to the recommendations of the LMO (they are the experts).
3. Trust your participants. They are adults.
4. Be very clear in your previous communications on the purpose of the IPP and the participant profile.
5. Be very clear about what the participants should and should not expect, taking into consideration cultural differences.
6. .... And never forget to enjoy every minute of it before, during and after the IPP.

**In case you still don't know....**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

**[www.cisv.org/ipp](http://www.cisv.org/ipp)**

**Projects, Pictures,  
FTP Download area,  
Documents, Forms, Guides and more!**

**Write us at**

**[ipp.list@cisv.org](mailto:ipp.list@cisv.org)**

## IPP Starter # 2: Kathy LaCombe, USA

Short presentation: name, role in IPP, current occupations

Kathy LaCombe, National IPP Chair for USA, IPP Task Force Member, Current Occupation is School Psychologist in Livonia, Michigan, USA.

How were you inspired to start this project?

There were two Detroit IPPs

2001 Promoting Dignity for All People, which was working with Urban poverty in Detroit, Michigan with Focus: HOPE as our partner organization.

2003 Takes a GLOBAL Village, which was working with Howell Nature Center and the Presbytery of Detroit to build a house from Thailand for their Global Village which teaches the local community about poverty and hunger in the third world.

In both cases, I was inspired by the possibilities that IPP provides for people to learn first hand about important issues in the world. Learning by Doing is always the best way to learn, and contributing to the community at the same adds motivation and personal reward.

How did you go about finding/contacting the designated LMO?

Focus: HOPE is a very prominent organization in Detroit, and it simply was the first thing that came to my mind when I thought of a partner organization. I simply called up their volunteer coordinator one day, and made an appointment to meet with him. It was that simple. I took some literature about CISV, and smiled a lot. It was basically the same thing with Howell Nature Center. One of our chapter members was there for an activity with his daughter's Girl Scout group, and told us about it. We called, and made an appointment. It was a natural match.

How was the search for sponsors?

We had no sponsors. Our chapter raised the money through membership and donations, but the cost was very low because of tremendous support from the members.

How far along did you contact the IPP Taskforce? In what area did you need their help?

AS soon as we met with the LMO the first time, I contacted the task force to let them know our idea, and when we got the "go ahead", we wrote our proposal. We presented the proposal in the summer before AIM. We didn't need too much help, because I was on the task force, and new what was expected.

Basically, I just followed the Guide. It was simple.

Was it hard to find staff? What about training them?

Finding staff was easier than I thought it would be. It seems that there are a lot of people eager to try out this new thing called IPP. We also had some people who were second time IPPers, who loved it so much the first time, they wanted to do it again.

Very briefly point out how your IPP fits into CISV's general theme.

I think IPP takes all of the principles and concepts that we teach children and puts them into practice in a very concrete way. Because we use the education circle, and develop goals and objectives, we function just like any other CISV program.

Would you do it again?

I am already thinking about the next one, and anticipate a new proposal in the next year or so. I can't get enough of it.

Any recommendations for current/future IPP planners?

My recommendation is to relax. Putting together an IPP is so much easier than a program for children.

You don't have nearly the things to consider and worry about. It is also good for your chapter, as you can really involve a lot of chapter members in a simple and fun way.

Love, Kathy

## IPP participants training

In Germany IPP participants are now prepared for their IPP in a one-day workshop. Read on to learn what they did.

In early March this year, we, two trainers and three participants, got together for the first part of the preparation for the IPP in Canada - when their participation had only been confirmed about two weeks earlier. All three of them live in very different areas of Germany so we decided to meet somewhat in the middle of the country. We also took the opportunity to meet at a Local Work Training weekend that was held at the time by CISV Germany with about 20 participants.

Since we, the trainers, only arrived Saturday morning the participants had already started to get to know each other as well as other CISVers and this way the social environment of a CISV meeting. In order to cover what we had planned we thought one whole day would be enough. As all of them were fairly unexperienced in CISV we started off giving them a general overview on the Organization itself as well as its Philosophy. We tried to be quick in order to sooner get working on IPP in general and most importantly *their* IPP.

We showed them a short film that was made in the IPP in Germany in 2002 as a start off and continued with the general goals of IPP including a short review of the IPPs that had taken place until now. Of course it was going to be hard to answer questions concerning expectations for *their* IPP in Canada since it is going to be very different to all other projects so far but it made it easier having been Staff in an IPP before in order to deal with those expectations. However not having much information about the project part of the IPP in Canada did not allow us to further work on the preparation for this part.

In the afternoon we continued with concentrating on the participants own preparation and started to approach the general topic of the Canada IPP. We collected a wide range of themes sorounding disability and society and at the same time tried to plan how to work on those specific themes through gathering material. Furthermore we discussed points of interest for a country presentation and topics that each one could prepare herself (yes, all three are girls!) with indiuidally. It was good that we as trainers were prepared for the discussion on the educational content of this IPP - in the end the outcome was very fruitful and the participants raised very interesting aspects.

By the time we were about to finish with brainstorming and discussing the topic it was already late in the day and the participants worked out a list of topics and practicals they would have to work on until the beginning of the IPP. Having started with the preparation early in the year gives them a lot of time for the rest of their preparation and the planning of the country presentation as well as many possible weekends to meet one more time.

A well prepared delegation, including their country presentation, is a very beneficial contribution to the educational part of the IPP. Being active not only during the project part is something the group and each participant individually will profit from.

Felix Trautmann, Germany  
[Felix.trautmann@de.cisv.org](mailto:Felix.trautmann@de.cisv.org)

## Thoughts From The Past

IPP Sweden

How did the IPP influence my life?... It was the second IPP in history. It was my first CISV thing after my Seminar (the camp I thought could never ever be better).

Our theme: "Xenophobia and Racism". The first days we spent together with the staff talking about the topic and getting to know each other then we moved to a school in Malmo. We were going to get a Circus Training to work together with the community kids and at the end of the IPP present a program to the families. The first adventure was recruiting the kids, I never thought a bunch of strangers dressed as clowns could convince anybody to come and play with them! I cannot imagine what this circus trainers thought when they had to make this group of lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers, etc. learn to do human pyramids to dance with handkerchiefs and the plate with the stick thing, etc.

The days with the children were funny and very demanding. At night the activities between us, were interesting, I still remember shocking facts of the reality of migrants and minority groups in other delegation countries.

The staff's dedication, motivation and amazing work are things that definitely changed my point of view of "staffies" around the world. IPP is different to staff than any other program because of the special details of partnering up with other organization, because of the changing situation of being inserted in the changing reality of a society, the task is hard but it was well taken care of and it inspiring.

After I came back I tried to convince all the people I know to go to an IPP, and was pretty successful in it, I still talk to all the delegations we send about "The IPP experience". Last December I even convinced an old school friend who had been listening to me talk about CISV forever and he went to Malmo too, some of the participants in my IPP were staff in his IPP.

Now a group of Costa Ricans (ex IPPers and non-IPPers) got together to start planning hosting an IPP in Costa Rica. It is very interesting to see all the possibilities of partnerships with other organizations that you have around in your country and if it was not for the IPP plan, they would have not been considered. New links between the Costa Rican Local Work and the IPP are being thought of.

I met really amazing people in my IPP, in the IBM (now AIM) in USA we had a mini IPP reunion and took a picture, we were 5 all together (that's not easy!).

The whole experience did change me; it was different than my Seminar, yes. It was different than all the rest. I talk about MY IPP as THE IPP (don't we all?) but I think I have digested what I learned a few years later, the impact of IPP keeps getting even better and better.

I cannot really explain what "did" it for me in the IPP if it was the work with the children, the families, getting to know the town, if it was the circus training, the participants, the staff or maybe all together!

Carla Jiménez- IPP participant 1998



Children's International Summer Villages

## CANADA'S FIRST IPP PROJECT

With a little help from a friend...



This summer 18 participants from 6 nations, along with 4 staff, will explore the theme:

### “People with Disabilities and Society”

Easter Seals provide, among other things, summer camp experiences for children, youth, and adults with mental and/or physical disabilities and we are pleased to be partnering with our local Camp Easter Seal for this IPP.

While exploring the IPP theme, our IPP group will spend time living and working at Camp Easter. This will give the IPP participants first hand experience and knowledge of the challenges that people with disabilities face every day.

We are very excited about this IPP project. If you are one of the participants coming to Canada's first IPP and we haven't heard from you, please contact Laura @ [lscrivener@polarservices.ca](mailto:lscrivener@polarservices.ca).



### Not coming to the IPP?

#### Here's how you can participate from home!

It is not possible for everyone to come to the IPP. However, the following resource “Linking Canada's IPP and Local Work: A Resource for Canadian Chapters” is available to any chapter requesting it. Please contact Laura @ [lscrivener@polarservices.ca](mailto:lscrivener@polarservices.ca) if you would like to receive an email copy. Anytime your chapter links Canada's IPP theme with local work during the next year, the International Local Work Committee [localwork@cisv.org](mailto:localwork@cisv.org) would like to hear from you. Your feedback will help with the development of future IPP and Local Work links.

## Other Upcoming Projects!

IPP-02-GBR-04

**Location:** Hull, Great Britain

**Dates:** 17.7.2004-8.8.2004

**Delegations of 3:** Costa Rica, Egypt, Great Britain, Norway, Portugal, Thailand, USA

**Topic:** Teenagers and Self-Esteem

**Partner Organisation:** Adventure Zone

**Abstract:** CISV will work with Adventure Zone in an area in Hull which has suffered economic and social decline and high unemployment. This has had a devastating effect on the community and there has been an increase in drug and alcohol abuse, crime, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. There is lack of opportunities and choices for young people. The IPPers will facilitate the teenagers in planning an event for their local community and work together with them to create a permanent physical reminder of the project, such as a garden or mural. Exposure of the teenagers to the different cultures of the IPPers will also help them appreciate the importance of diversity and open their eyes to the world beyond Hull. It is hoped that the project will help the teenagers to change the way they think about themselves and their community and encourage them to act as positive role models for younger children, thus helping to stop the cycle of lost opportunities. The educational part of the project will focus on topics such as: the role of teenagers in society, opportunities and aspirations, impact of self-esteem on health, risk taking, empowerment.

IPP-03-ITA-04

**Location:** Modena, Italy

**Dates:** 27.12.2004-12.01.2005

**Delegations of 3:** Austria, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Sweden

**Topic:** Marginalisation

**Partner Organisation:** Porta Aperta (Caritas)

**Abstract:** Porta Aperta (Open Door) provides many services to community including: emergency basic accommodation and meals to homeless people; social consultants for immigrants (legal advice); houses for young immigrants, single mothers in distress, lonely elderly people and people with psychological problems; distribution of clothes, furniture and toys to families in need. Each group of participants will work on different sub-projects, most of which will take place in the Porta Aperta house. Staff and delegates will also organize one or more special events to promote Porta Aperta and CISV in the community, as well as celebrate New Year's Eve in Porta Aperta.

Every evening delegates will help serve dinner and will eat with the people who use Porta Aperta, establishing the contact with them and providing much needed human interaction.

That's all for now...

Until next time enjoy the lovely spring weather!