



# SEBASTIÁN HOMPS

Executive Director,  
Association of Friends of Patagonia

Sebastián is an IVLP alumnus from Argentina who participated in the NGO Management in the U.S. program in June 2016. During his program, the group met with the Colorado Nonprofit Association, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the UC Denver School of Public Affairs, the Denver Shared Space Project, Community First Foundation, One Colorado, and Groundwork Denver. They enjoyed dinner with local families, a day trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, and an evening volunteering with the Samaritan House.

In July 2020, Sebastián was featured in Global Ties U.S.'s Citizen Diplomacy Map. Read his COVID-19 story below and read more like his [at this link](#).

"I have been called the "Denver lover" in my IVLP group. I would love to return one day. I was amazed by Rocky Mountain National Park and the Botanic Gardens, the art of 16th Street, and the work of the Children's Hospital and other local NGOs. I loved everything. Denver was really great and its people, very kind and generous.

In Argentina, for those who don't know us, we love to get together with family, friends, and coworkers. We always meet on birthdays and celebrations. We love to hug. Greeting each other with a kiss is very common no matter what sex you are. So the most difficult part of this situation is not being able to meet or to hug our families. Also, it is important to understand that a third of the Argentine population is below the poverty line. For many of them, it is difficult not to leave their houses since they live with what they earn every day. If they don't go out, they don't have food to eat or feed their children.

Personally, as executive director of the NGO Amigos de la Patagonia (@amigosdelapatagonia), my biggest challenge is motivating my team to work remotely and to continue carrying out our mission. Many sponsors are cutting budgets and no longer making donations to NGOs. It is a new challenge to reinvent ourselves.

We will get out of this storm! And we will come out strengthened. Having known more deeply the person who shares a roof with us. Having shared more time with our children. Having learned yoga virtually! (hahaha—at least we will try!) We will recognize the importance of meditation and we will greatly appreciate meeting again. I wish you well and from Argentina, I send you a big hug and a kiss on each cheek."

– **SEBASTIÁN HOMPS**