manna project international
communities serving communities

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

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2008: Developing University Partnerships

In 2008 MPI partnered with Vanderbilt University's VISAGE program to provide a service-learning opportunity at our Nicaragua site. The Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) is an experiential academic program where students explore topics of global significance through a year-long learning sequence that begins in January with a core course at Vanderbilt, followed by a summer service or field-based project abroad. VISAGE partnered with our Nicaragua site for two years in 2008 and 2009. The partnership was relaunched this year, with VISAGE students currently interning with us at our site in Guatemala.

Additionally in 2008 our partnership with Worcester State University expanded from service-learning trips focused on micro-finance to include trips focused on occupational therapy. Every January since 2008, WSU occupational therapy students and professors travel to Nicaragua to partner with MPI.

The importance of these partnerships cannot be overstated. They allow us to better serve the communities we work with and provide much needed support for our Program Directors.

Caroline's Goal in Nicaragua: Get Out of the Comfort Zone

After arriving in Nicaragua our summer interns visited programs, met the incredible families we work with and asked a ton of questions.

To make sure they got the most out of their 4-week internship the group sat down on the first night and set individual and group goals.

Summer intern Caroline discusses her biggest goal, getting out of her comfort zone, as well as her first impressions in this blog post. Read it here.

A Message from Ecuador Summer Intern Jake Devine

The summer interns in Ecuador are helping in most programs during their time in-country but are especially present with our partner organizations. This past week they worked with various institutions including two special education programs, an after school program for at-risk youth and a pre-school.

Read Jake's experience working with Antorcha de Vida, a center for children with disabilities, on the Ecuador blog.

Alumni Spotlight: Kat Mueller

PD Year: 2010-2011
MPI Site: Guatemala
MPI History: Guatemala Site Co-founder & Country Director, initiated Health, English and summer camp programs.
MPI Communications Coordinator (2012-2013)

Where she is now:
Intercultural Learning Specialist, AFS-USA Inc.

Read Kat's full bio here.

Atlanta 10 Year Celebration Unites Alumni

Our Atlanta 10 year celebration was held on May 15th at Javavino. MPI alumni from various years gathered to share their experiences with MPI and celebrate 10 years of communities serving communities.

Check our Facebook Events page for upcoming celebrations this year.

Vanderbilt Visage Students in Guatemala

This month in Guatemala half of our interns are Vanderbilt University undergrads enrolled in the VISAGE program. Students take a class on issues related to health & development in Guatemala that culminates in a month of fieldwork & research in country.

Find out more about the work they're doing here.

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