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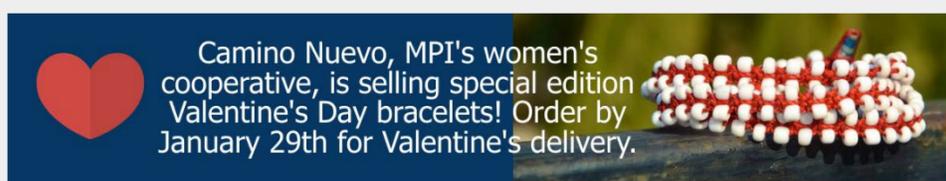
Clinica Médica Now Open in Villa Guadalupe



In collaboration with Austin Samaritans, MPI Nicaragua opened the new Clinica Médica in December, offering specialized medical services to the community of Villa Guadalupe. We are now able to provide gynecological care, and hope to add a dentist to clinic staff in the near future. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with consistent patient numbers and growing community awareness.

Through the clinic, MPI will continue to contain and decrease the prevalence of diarrhea, STIs, skin infections, respiratory problems and preventable diseases. Staff and volunteers provide vaccines, nutritional guidance, and teach general hygiene and sanitation through regular health-related educational seminars for families.

[You can see pictures from the grand opening here!](#)



Exciting Partnerships Begin as Classes Restart in Ecuador



MPI Ecuador is pleased to announce new partnerships with local organizations. In the coming months, Program Directors will provide support for water therapy to aid mentally and physically disabled youth, tutor teen mothers, assist with the at-risk youth center in the neighborhood, farm, and provide event support for the Red Cross.

English class enrollment for the quarter was extremely successful at MPI Ecuador, with a line out the door and a waiting list for every class. As English classes restart, so do cooking classes, children's nutrition classes and several other programs. The Ecuador team is also working to expand curriculum for community business classes in the next few weeks. At the end of the month, Program Directors will take their third quarter retreat into the Amazon.

[You can follow the Ecuador blog here!](#)

Occupational Therapy Team Visits Nicaragua



Occupational therapy students from Worcester State University (WSU) visited MPI Nicaragua and spent the week volunteering for local non-profit [Tesoros de Dios](#). MPI's Program Directors had the privilege of acting as translators for WSU students as they worked with children from our communities and around Managua. These children received support for a range of challenges, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism and spina bifida.

It was a great week to learn more about the importance of occupational therapy and see how neighboring organizations are bettering the health of our communities. At the end of the week, students visited favorite spots, Granada and Laguna de Apoyo - a relaxing end for a very inspiring and active week.

[You can follow the Nicaragua blog here!](#)

Do You Know Any Aspiring Med Students?



With the growth of our health programs in Nicaragua, we need Program Directors with an interest in medicine and health. If you know anyone who might be interested, [please share!](#)

Welcome New Program Directors



Our sites in Nicaragua and Ecuador welcomed new Program Directors! Michael, Allegra and Ann Lowry joined the team in [Ecuador](#) and Alexa, Rob, and Blair are now in [Nicaragua](#).

Thank You for Your Generosity!



You gave hope over the holidays in the form of more than \$32,000! Your generosity paves the way for a year of quality education, improved health and professional growth. [Thank you, thank you, thank you!](#)

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