Crossing the Spring Break Finish Line

It was a fun, productive month as our sites welcomed nine Spring Break teams from across the United States! From pediatric check-ups to spelling bees, each team gave their time and talent to support MPI’s long-term commitment to the communities we serve. In Nicaragua, more than 200 community members crossed the 5K finish line. They were cheered on by residents of Universidad de Guadalupe and raised $4,540 for the Cedro Clinic. Families attended primary care clinics, and the homebound received house visits from the University of South Florida’s team of doctors and medical students. Families living in the university’s student housing complex were taught environmental protection as a community service project, which was taught by Worcester State University students. The kids in our creative arts class planted a lovely new garden at the El Farito Community Center. With help from the University of Georgia, they created bright, cheerful planters from recycled materials. Over 1,000 people received medicine to get rid of harmful parasites during the University of Pennsylvania’s four-day de-parasiting clinic. Children in Villa Guadalupe lit up with creativity and inspiration at a creative arts camp taught by Worcester State University students.

Thank you, Spring Break teams! Your positive and energetic contribution made March an amazing month full of true change in the communities we serve.

For a recap of Ecuador’s Spring Break projects, you can see last month’s MannaMail. You will also find updates at the Ecuador blog.

Site Visit and New Partnership with Education Global Access Program

MPI Ecuador welcomed a visit from Shanyn Ronis, Executive Director of the Education Global Access Program (E-Gap). E-Gap works with vulnerable populations to help them access high quality education, ensuring a successful future. This fall, MPI and E-Gap will launch a pilot program to benefit unemployed youth and women. Shanyn’s visit was incredibly productive and we are excited to see how this partnership grows!

You can learn more about E-Gap here.

Manna Project Transitions to New Non-Profit Database

Through careful research and testing, we identified and selected Bloomerang as our new non-profit database. This database will save time and increase our ability to communicate with you. It also offers more support at a lower cost. For your protection, your recurring donor information must be reset. Please take a moment to re-enter your payment information to keep up the great momentum of your ongoing generosity. Thank you so much!

You will find the updated donation page here.

Hiring Site Coordinator

Do you dream of working in Latin America, or know someone who does? MPI’s Nicaragua site is growing and we are looking for a qualified Site Coordinator to provide excellent support for programs and volunteers.

Read the job description here.

Video: Books for Children

In June 2014, Manna received the International Association of School Librarianship’s Books for Children award to buy books for the library in Ecuador. Our Program Directors put together a video to say thank you for this generous award!

You can see the video here.

Revitalizing Teen Center

You made it happen! We are so grateful for all your support of the Teen Center. In just two weeks, you gave $2,335, more than twice our initial goal to revitalize the Teen Center. Thank you! You are awesome!

The team gets hit with pie here!