Spring Break Groups to Facilitate Community Projects

MPI will soon welcome nine Spring Break groups from universities across the United States, including the University of South Florida, University of Georgia, Worcester State University, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, Vanderbilt University and University of Pennsylvania. Each group will take on a community project, as well as have the opportunity to experience the culture of a new country. In Ecuador, projects planned by and for the teams include:

- **Health Week**: an assortment of health-based initiatives, events and services for community members
- **Women's Week**: a series of discussions and events focusing on gender equality and the challenges of machismo
- **Literacy Week**: a slew of events encouraging education and reading, including a book drive and spelling bee
- **Green Roof Initiative**: building a "green roof" on top of the community center as part of the larger environmental and agricultural initiative taking place at MPI Ecuador

Next month we will share updates from Nicaragua’s Spring Break activities. Are you interested in starting a Manna campus chapter at your university? [Sign up]!

Women's Nutrition and Exercise Class Prepares for Second Annual 5K Race

On March 7th, six teams will run in a 5K race to raise $6,000 for the Cedro Clinic in Cedro Galán, Nicaragua. The race is named in honor of women in our Women's Exercise program who are currently participating in a "Boot Camp" to prepare for the event.

Please show your support for these women who are stepping up as role models for their peers, and help an entire community have access to health care! You can:

- Meet the team leaders
- Sponsor a team
- Join the event page on Facebook

From the 5K teams and the community of Cedro Galán, muchas gracias!

Villa Guadalupe Clinic Receives $24,000 Grant from Austin Samaritans

Since 2007, MPI has had the privilege of partnering with the organization Austin Samaritans in our work in Nicaragua. Austin Samaritans has been integral in the Villa Guadalupe clinic’s development through the years, especially during the move from La Chureca. We are extremely grateful for their continued partnership in 2015, as they have generously granted $24,000 to cover more than half of the clinic's operational budget. Additional funding is also being provided for a much needed OB/GYN.

It is because of you, our friends and community, that we are able to improve health and nutrition in our communities - Thank you!

You can see photos of the clinic opening [here].

Carnaval Celebrations

MPI Ecuador Program Directors and community members celebrated Carnaval this month. Many traveled to the festival and parade in Guaranda. Crowds participated by throwing flour, eggs and water balloons. Carnaval is one last party before the arrival of the Lenten Season.

[Click here] if you'd like to read the Carnaval blog post!

Camp JAM: Meet Anthony

Camp JAM is a place where Nicaraguan children of all ages can develop creative skills through games, art and music in a fun and safe learning environment. Anthony is a Camp JAM regular who never misses an opportunity to ride to class on the shoulders of a Program Director. Do you want to work with kids like Anthony?

Volunteer with Manna!

2013-2014 Annual Report

If you have not seen MPI’s latest annual report, this is your chance to take a look at how your support is making a difference. MPI had a great program year in 2013-2014; it is through you, our volunteers and partners, that this work thrives.

Thank you for your hard work and generosity! You can see the numbers [here].