Children running around with water balloons. Families asking questions about our nutrition classes. Little painted faces. Reggaton music. Women trying out some bailoterapia moves. What do all of these things have in common?

They all took place at MPI Ecuador’s Fiesta de Rumiloma. The Fiesta is a yearly tradition for MPI Ecuador. We started the day setting up tents, tables, the DJ and a raffle. Our partner organizations then began to arrive – including an organic farming nonprofit and the Ecuadorian Red Cross. People started to enjoy the festivities and inscribe for classes, learn about nutrition and exercise and play games. The kids especially liked musical chairs! The Red Cross stayed busy painting lions, butterflies and flowers on kids’ faces, while our other partner organizations talked with the adults about what services and resources their organization provides.

It was an incredible day spent getting to know our community better, and also allowed our community to get to know us better. Families that had never taken our classes or even seen the library were able to come talk to us and learn about what we do. One lucky family even won free English and art classes through our raffle! Overall, the Fiesta de Rumiloma was a blast, and such a wonderful way to remind us of why we are here and committed to working alongside this community.

Read more on MPI Ecuador’s blog.