New Year, New Initiatives

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Two months into the new volunteer year and the 2013-2014 Program Directors (PDs) have already improved, expanded and strengthened our existing programs. They have also initiated several new programs to further meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Nicaragua’s newest program, Camp J.A.M., is a great example. It was started to provide the children of Cedro Galan and Chiquilistagua a creative outlet. “J.A.M.” represents the three main areas of focus: juegos (games), arte (art), and musica (music).

Learn more about this amazing new program here.

A Focus on Nutrition

Modeling after the Ecuador site, Nicaragua’s Women’s Exercise program now has a stronger focus on nutrition.

The class itself has been extended by 30 minutes to accommodate this new focus. Every Tuesday the Program Directors share a healthy recipe or introduce a nutrition topic to the class. The first 30 minutes of class are dedicated to preparing the recipe together and/or discussing the effects of a healthy diet.

If you want to know more about Women’s Exercise and our other Health programs visit our website.

New Environmental Health Program

At the end of Summer Camp in late August the Ecuador Program Directors challenged their students to collect 200 plastic bottles with the purpose of recycling them. The success of that challenge turned this project into much more.

The Ecuador team is now trying to construct a greenhouse made from these bottles on the library roof.

Overall the team is working to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and waste management.

Find out how it all started here.

MPI Ecuador Goes on Retreat

The Ecuador team went on their first quarterly retreat earlier in September. They hiked, climbed, and conquered the Quilotoa crater lake.

PD Virginia tells all about their adventure in this blog post.

Go Bravos!

After a year without an active team the Cedro Galan Bravos, Manna’s baseball team, have finally started their season.

PD Danny shares his experience with baseball in Nicaragua here.

And So It Begins

Classes have started again in Ecuador. Last week Program Directors began planning, teaching and managing classes to the first time.

Read about their first week here.

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