Our partners are crucial to the work we do. They solidify our connections in the communities we serve. They expand and improve the programs we run. Most importantly, they give us the opportunity to offer more than we ever could alone. This month we highlight a few of our partners and showcase the incredible things we have been able to do, and will continue to do, together.

**forwardHEALTH**

Our partnership with the University of South Florida Health Colleges was established in December 2012. The goal was to provide affordable access to healthcare to the community of Cedro Galán through a primary care clinic and to educate through additional health programming. Only 11 months later, we have reached some incredible milestones:

- The election of the Cedro Galán Community Advisory Board to oversee all aspects of the forwardHEALTH initiative
- The start of Community Health Worker trainings led by the Nicaraguan Diabetes Foundation
- The inauguration of the Cedro Galán clinic on October 21, 2013
- 90+ patients registered in Week 1
- 15+ patients seen in Week 2
- $11,500 raised in less than 15 hours to help sustain the clinic through Year 1

We can’t wait to see what more this partnership will bring to the community of Cedro Galán. For more information, please visit the forwardHEALTH website.

**Patronato de Promoción Social**

Patronato de Promoción Social (PPS) has partnered with MPI Ecuador in various ways. As the social service branch of the municipal government they were critical to the success of the Small Business Development program. With their help our team of Program Directors identified the best candidates and taught pre-loan business classes to ensure the businesses would succeed. That is exactly what happened. The first round of loans saw 100% repayment.

Patronato de Promoción Social is also working with the Preventative Health Center to provide resources for various social problems including alcohol abuse, drug addiction and domestic violence. Visit the PPS website to find out more.

**Reweave**

Seeking to “help people help people” this young organization founded by inspired students at Northeastern University’s Social Enterprise Institute, has partnered with MPI Nicaragua. Reweave partners with “better-world businesses”, making their partnership with MPI and the Women’s Jewelry Cooperative a natural fit. Reweave worked with the women to establish their jewelry brand, Camino Nuevo (beautiful beginnings), and continues to increase the coop’s market access through Reweave’s online marketplace.

Reweave’s investment in the cooperative’s products has allowed our PDs to support the women as they develop their entrepreneurial and leadership skills, empowering the women to take this exciting venture to the next level. Read PD Kat’s experience with the cooperative on the Reweave blog here.

**Recycling Program**

Continues to Grow

This past month the Ecuador team recycled 23 kilos worth of plastic bottles. In their latest update the team explains the success of the program and where it is heading.

Read the update here.

**Meet Taylor Brown!**

We are excited to introduce Taylor Brown, our newest staff member. Taylor is a former Ecuador PD (2011-12) and very familiar with MPI. She will be in charge of US Recruitment as well as Campus Chapter coordination.

Read her full bio here.

**The Importance of Healthcare**

With the opening of the new clinic in Cedro Galán and recent fundraising efforts, the PD’s have been very busy. One PD, Kate S., took some time to reflect on what the opening of the new clinic has meant to the community.

Read her reflection here.