Equipping Students to Pass the College Entrance Exam

"In my house there are four people - my grandma, my aunt, my cousin and me. Neither my grandma or aunt work, so I need to study hard so I can work as a doctor to support my family." - Génesis (above, center)

Génesis is a student in Cedro Galán, Nicaragua, who hopes to one day become a doctor. Through MPI's youth medical career preparation program, Generation, Génesis is taking the first steps toward accomplishing her dream. In a country where 29% of children complete primary-level education, her pursuit of education is an amazing accomplishment!

Unfortunately, 80% of applicants in Nicaragua fail the college entrance exam. In order to help students like Génesis pursue their dreams of higher education, Manna Project is starting a test prep course for Generation students. The class will meet once a week for 15 weeks, and will focus on preparing students for the SAT-type test, especially the math portion.

This opportunity has been a long time in the making, and we are so excited to begin. Test preparation is just one step in the admissions process, but it is a vital step! Génesis credits Generation with showing her she can achieve her dreams and create a better life for her family - through your support, we hope to help many of her peers say the same!

Would you like to know more about life in Cedro Galán? Read more ➔

A Packed House in Ecuador

Community members enroll in classes

More than 100 community members lined up to enroll in English classes on Inscriptions Day! English fluency opens a world of opportunities in Ecuador, where English education is too expensive for the low-income communities who need it most.

Manna Project's high quality, affordable English classes help students thrive. The new semester begins on September 8th, and all our classes are at capacity.

You can see more pictures here ➔

Keeping an Eye on Cotopaxi

Cotopaxi, in the valley of the giants

Ecuador's principal volcano, Cotopaxi, is showing its first significant activity in over 70 years. Though this is an exciting yet potentially dangerous event, our volunteers live and work in the government's declared "safety zone" and only had a few days of light ash fall. We have taken the necessary safety precautions and are prepared for any future incidents.

You can read Kristin's blog here ➔

ESPE University Partnership

Manna Project and the Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE) signed an official collaboration agreement, allowing Ecuadorian college students to fulfill their required 200 volunteer hours at the MPI Centro! In addition, Program Directors now have access to university resources, clubs, and informational seminars from professors.

Check back for an update when the new semester starts in late October.

You can support education in Ecuador ➔

Jewelry Co-op Expansion

Co-op members work side by side

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Learning to Drive the Micro

The beloved Micro

Many of the Program Directors you know and love are learning how to drive manual for the first time in our, the Micro! The Micro was purchased last year to replace our previous vehicle, which served MPI Nicaragua well for 10 years. The Micro was a generous donation from a sponsor family, and it has opened a world of possibilities in the communities we serve.

You can see the places we go here ➔

Lacrosse the Nations Visitors

And the best news of all...

MPI Nicaragua works closely with Lacrosse the Nations, teaching life skills for success both on and off the field. This month, Miles Makdisi of the Colombian National Lacrosse Foundation, and Washington and Lee University student Chris Rusbuldt were in town, training coaches and working on a film project for the Lacrosse the Nations Scholars program.

You can read Dan's blog here ➔

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