Following the 5K, MPI hosted a Fourth of July BBQ at the Centro for community members and Armadas and the United Nations Peacekeepers. A number of participants came from our partner organizations Universidad de las Fuerzas Rumiñahui, La Cueva Crossfit, Municipio de Rumiñahui, and Cooperative Esperanza y Progreso. This year’s 5K promoted health, learning, and wellness in partnership with Instituto Técnico. Thank you to our volunteer encouragers along the route!

Community members were encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or chair and enjoy the美味的 BBQ menu. The menu included various food options such as S'mores, Key Lime Pie, and Orangesicle for delicious marshmallow creations. Those who attended could also enjoy a variety of drinks, including apple cider for a refreshing and healthy beverage. The West Columbia Crossfit volunteered in the community to ensure a successful event.

Ecuadorian Yours, Leticia

**Ecuador Summer Reading Program**

This summer, MPI has doubled the number of children served in its Summer Reading Program to over 100 children! Children from surrounding communities are challenged to read books of their choice at their reading level throughout the summer vacation, with a variety of prizes to heighten the stakes! To date, the program has doubled since last year! The program is currently underway at the MPI community center in Ecuador. Children from surrounding communities are challenged to read books of their choice at their reading level throughout the summer vacation, with a variety of prizes to heighten the stakes! The program is currently underway at the MPI community center in Ecuador.

**Ecuador Summer Intern Projects**

Session two Summer Interns completed special projects: Jocelyn led the Adult English and Spring Break Volunteer programs from 2008-2009, Jocelyn led the Adult English and Spring Break Volunteer programs. As a Program Director at MPI’s Ecuador site, she built partnerships, raised funds, and oversaw the training and development of staff and volunteers. While establishing partnerships for the 5K in Rumiñahui this year, Jocelyn strengthened relationships with local government, NGOs, and individuals in the community. In addition to her work with the Ecuadorian Summer Interns, Jocelyn worked with a core group of women from Cedro Galán, teaching about anti-violence in the workplace.**

Nicaragua Summer Intern Projects:

Nicaragua Summer Intern Projects include: Lillian and Sarah’s project focused on nutrition and health promotion for children in the community. The project explored issues related to malnutrition, hygiene, and education. Summer Interns conducted surveys and interviews with community members to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by children in the area. Participants also engaged in cooking classes and health education workshops to promote healthy eating habits and regular exercise.

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In the past, Lacrosse the Nation’s programming was geared towards older children; however, they have added two practices per week to meet the many requests for programs serving this age group.

Learn more about Lacrosse the Nation.

What's Oobleck, and why are these kids making it? Find out here!