

manna project international
communities serving communities

annual report 2010-11



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about us

Mission

To foster communities of young adults and encourage them to use their passions and education in service to communities in need.

Organizational Pillars

Holistic Approach

We take a holistic approach to development, recognizing that the challenges facing the communities we serve are multi-faceted.

Community Focus

By focusing on a specific community, or geographical area, we are able to effectively pursue holistic development with the vital foundation of building relationships and trust with community members.

Volunteer Development

Investing in our volunteers and their personal and professional development is an intentional part of our organizational structure.

to our supporters

Dear Manna Project International Community,

2011 marks the completion of MPI's seventh year of growth and learning. With the recent addition of our third international site, in Chaquiya, Guatemala, we have now tripled our international footprint since our founding. Further, we have grown our U.S. university chapter network from one campus to eleven. Expanding the MPI community has enabled thousands of young volunteers to deliver life-changing education, healthcare, and financial access programs to ever greater numbers of underserved individuals. In the 2010-2011 volunteer year alone, our 25 full-time Program Directors invested 13,030 hours into our 35 community programs, directly serving 1,340 participants.

To maintain this momentum, in 2010-2011 we made investments in MPI's organizational infrastructure, executive leadership, and human resources that will pay dividends for years to come. First, we invested in operating systems that increase our efficiency and enable us to better measure our impact. Second, we restructured our Board of Directors to ensure MPI has the vision and leadership to deliver on its mission. And third, we recruited talented, dynamic staff to help us take our international and domestic sites to the next level.

While these investments are important, it was the continued dedication of all members of the MPI community that made 2010-2011 such a special year. Our volunteers opened their minds and hearts to share their lives in a year-long cultural exchange. Our supporters provided the funding required and the encouragement needed. And finally, community members in each of our international sites gave their time, energy, and emotion to not only attend and learn from our programs, but also to actively participate in strengthening MPI as a community by investing in each of our volunteers.

This has been our recipe for success: the combined efforts of everyone in our MPI community acting together. MPI succeeds and grows because of its community, because it IS a community.

We are midway through 2011, the wind is at our backs and MPI's future looks bright. We are thrilled to have three new staff members who bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and new ideas and energy to our programs. Over the coming months we will be expanding our board of directors to recruit new executive talent. And our three international sites have just welcomed 18 new Program Directors to begin their 13-month volunteer commitment.

Our growth and success would simply not be possible without your continued support. Thank you for being a part of the MPI community and enabling our dedicated volunteers and staff to impact lives, transform communities, and continue to build a world-class organization.

With sincere appreciation,

Lori Scharffenberg & Zak Schwarzman
Executive Director & Chair of the Board



guatemala



2010-11 Team

overview

year founded	2010
location	Chaquijyá
programs	8
participants	410
staff	2
program directors	4
volunteers	26

milestones

July 2010 - MPI Guatemala launches in Chaquijyá with a team of six.

Sept. 2010 - First program teaching English to 4th - 6th graders in the local elementary school gets rolling.

Dec. 2010 - Summer education program teaches over 120 students for six weeks.

March 2011 - Spring Break volunteers install trashcans, build a library, and log over 300 volunteer hours.

"Poverty is complicated. The world is a lot bigger than your backyard. Take care of others."

Kat and Hudson, Guatemala Program Directors, to spring break volunteers

"Whether they live in an affluent suburb or cottage masked by the surrounding cornfields...whether they speak English or Kaqchikel, parents dream the best for their children, and MPI Guatemala will continue to support those dreams."

Ginny, Guatemala Program Director



guatemala

program spotlight

health

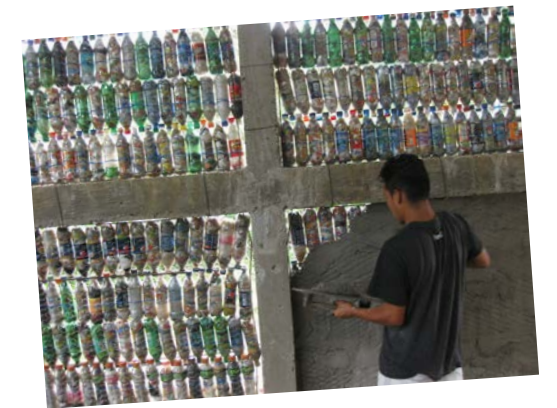
This past January we launched a series of in-school workshops to teach important lessons about health education to elementary school students. Every month we work with new classes, teaching age-related information to 1st through 6th graders. Topics include nutrition, dental hygiene, healthy habits, and puberty. In May we expanded to another local primary school, adding an additional 250 students to our health classes.

environment

When we first arrived in Guatemala, one of the first things we learned was that there was no waste-management system in place in rural communities. To tackle this problem, we initiated a drive to collect eco-blocks (discarded plastic bottles stuffed with inorganic trash) that will be used to construct an addition to one of the local primary schools in Chaquijyá. In the short and long-term, this venture will not only create much needed classroom space and temporarily address a larger waste management issue, but will also clean up Chaquijyá's water sources and spur environmental education.

english

From August 2010 to today we've steadily expanded our English program so that we now reach over 250 students. Through classes during and after school, we use a Spanish curriculum taught alongside local teachers to build their capacity to teach English and to encourage community-led classes.



nicaragua



2010-11 Team

"I wouldn't have this store today if it wasn't for Manna Project. Manna gave me confidence. They showed me that I could do something besides cooking and cleaning, that I could run a business."

Laura, community member impacted by Manna

"Soon after arriving in this country, I was humbled to realize that I would be the one learning a great deal during this month. The Nicaraguans I met had way more to offer me than I could possibly hope to offer them."

Kat, Nicaragua Summer Volunteer



overview

year founded	2004
location	Managua
programs	11
participants	400
staff	1
program directors	10
volunteers	48

milestones

April 2010 - Finalized community center library expansion, allowing us to expand programs for adults and children.

Nov. 2010 - First round of small-business loans distributed to 5 individuals.

April 2011 - Partnered with Lacrosse the Nations to utilize lacrosse, sport and nutrition to foster leaderships skills for Nicaragua's young people.

May 2011 - Second round of loans distributed to 7 individuals.

June 2011 - 4 of our Advanced English students were hired to translate for a visiting international organization.



nicaragua

program spotlight

english

In the last year, we added two new children's English classes and an adult intermediate English course, which demonstrates the consistent interest and positive feedback Manna receives from the community. We now offer 3 children's courses and 7 adult classes at the beginner, intermediate and advanced level. These 10 classes serve over 200 students in the community.



la chureca/child sponsorship

We continue to serve the 120 families living in Managua's trash dump. The Spanish government has promised to relocate all families living and working in the dump to new homes by 2012. Until all families are relocated, we will continue serving 50 mothers and their children aged 0-3 in order to prevent malnutrition by providing necessary vitamins, milk and formula and food staples. We also secured funding to continue to sponsor a health clinic in partnership with Austin Samaritans through 2011.



business development

In order to address high under/unemployment rates in the communities we serve, we decided to strengthen our Business Development courses. After a two-month business class, students were invited to prepare a business plan and application for a microfinance loan. This spring, our business class grew from 8 attendees to over 20. We have a 100% repayment rate on the 12 loans. Projects include a seamstress shop, cell phone repair business, a jewelry making operation, a DVD/cell phone vendor, and a food stand run outside of a local church on the weekends. Moving forward, we hope to incorporate personal consulting to support loan holders.



ecuador



2010-11 Team

overview	
year founded	2007
location	Chillos Valley
programs	16
participants	531
staff	1
program directors	9
volunteers	45

milestones

August 2010 - MPI ran a summer camp for 2 weeks with 30 kids.

September 2010 - Teen convention with child psychologist at a local University where students from multiple schools discussed teens' rights.

October 2010 - Began partnering with Jesus Divino, a children's home of incarcerated parents.

January 2011 - New library card system initiated.

March 2011 - Adult English program expanded to include 4 levels.

"Each of the students shared their feelings as entrepreneurs and how intimately proud they have been of their work of running their own businesses. Even better, our students discussed in detail how our course motivated them to make some concrete improvements to their businesses. The final moments of this class gave me a convicting reaffirmation of MPI's capacity to truly empower others."

Jack, Ecuador Program Director

"Manna, to me, seems to be not only an experience, but a launching point. This month becomes sustainable when it becomes a lifestyle. In that way, each little daily task is a small cog in a greater purpose, a realigning of my worldview and my purpose."

Grace, Summer Volunteer



ecuador

program spotlight

teen center

The teen center offers teenagers from different neighborhoods a place to spend time and relax with friends without the presence of drugs or alcohol. The space offers comfortable furniture, a ping pong table, supplies for art projects, various games, and guitar classes taught by one of our Program Directors. The teen center has firmly established itself as the prime stomping grounds of many of the local teens, and has become an essential part of the community.

library

The public lending library is the first of its kind and is the cornerstone of our community development infrastructure. There are sections devoted to adults, teens, and children; to reading, to research, and to play. Our library is a neutral space where differing community boundaries can be forgotten in the name of friendship, enjoyment, and learning. Children frequent the library after school each day, to get help with their homework, to use our computers for assignments, or to simply read and play board games. Adults come regularly as well to read and borrow from our adult book section and attend our women's exercise, cooking, agriculture or business classes while leaving their children to safely play in the library while they are in class.

small business development

Ten community members participated in a business course taught by Program Directors that included such topics as time management, SWOT analysis, the entrepreneurial perspective, organizing floor space, and using a balance sheet. Phase two entailed a more hands-on approach where program directors visited local businesses to help owners better understand their business finances, often for the first time. The team has also been able to make recommendations regarding unexplored opportunities.



u.s. campus chapters



Vanderbilt chapter's annual 'MannaFit' fundraiser

overview

active chapters 7

- Duke University
- Tulane University
- University of Georgia
- University of North Carolina (Wilmington)
- University of Texas
- Vanderbilt University
- Worcester State College

charter chapters 4

- Colorado University
- Pomona College
- University of North Carolina
- University of Pennsylvania

raised by chapters \$13,250
volunteer officers 38

milestones

August 2010 - UGA hosts first 'Manna Week' fundraiser, co-sponsored by six local businesses.

September 2010 - Vanderbilt's annual 'MannaFit' fundraiser.

March 2011 - 18 spring break trips sent to MPI sites.



UGA chapter spring break volunteers

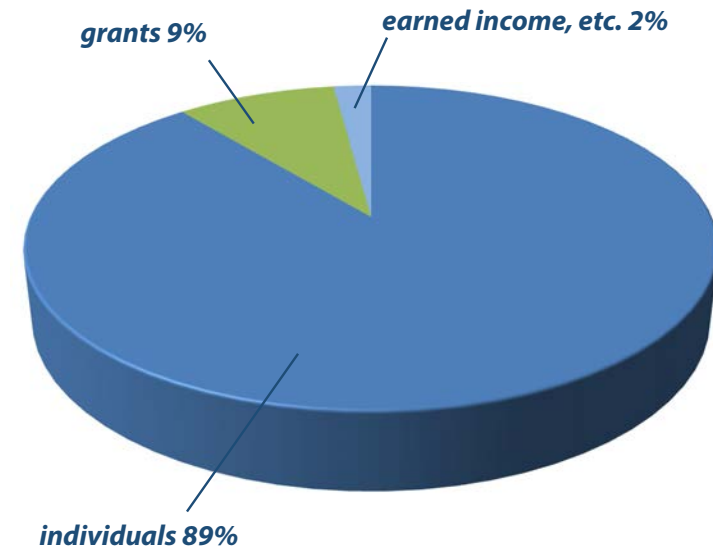
"Manna has become a huge part of my college career and will always hold a special place in my heart. I've made great friends, been through lots of stress, and had some crazy fun adventures, but most importantly I can leave my post at MannaUGA confident that I've made a difference. Along with two years of wonderful MannaUGA Exec members, I've been able to build something from nothing - we've filled a vacuum in the volunteer culture here at UGA and created a vehicle in which students can think globally and act locally, where we can strengthen our own community while working to strengthen others."

Ian, Manna UGA Chapter President



financials

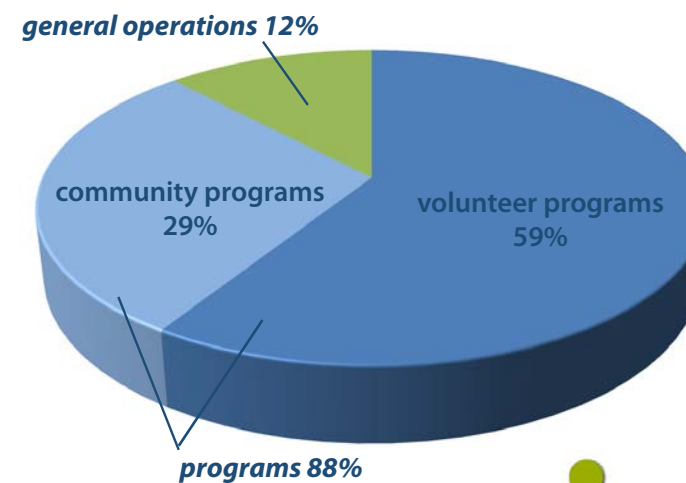
breakdown of revenues



"At Manna Project International, our pledge is to be effective in our outreach to those in need by being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Our commitment to financial integrity ensures that the maximum portion of each dollar donated goes to our programs on the ground."

Marcela Camargo, Board of Directors Treasurer

breakdown of expenses



overview

total revenues \$395,721.45
89.00% individuals
8.9% grants
1.3% other
0.8% earned revenue

total expenses \$426,824.12
88% program expenses
29% community development
59% volunteer programs
12% operational expenses

milestones

Feb 2010 - First organizational audit completed; launched new donor management database.

May 2010 - Revamped financial book keeping processes to be more efficient.

June 2010 - Board retreat to setup Policy Governance system of oversight.

March 2011 - \$25,000 anonymous donation received.

May 2011 - MPI-Guatemala receives \$2000 grant from the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation.

June 2011 - MPI-Guatemala Country Director, Dana Zichlin, receives seed grant from DoSomething.org.

We undergo an audit by an independent accounting firm to ensure transparency.

For more info, check us out on:





This has been our recipe for success: the combined efforts of everyone in our MPI community acting together. MPI succeeds and grows because of its community, because it IS a community.

Thanks for making it an incredible year.
Thanks for becoming a part of our global community that seeks to learn and help each other. There is strength in community...and we are just getting started.
Here's to another great year!

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**We would love to hear from you:
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