



Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship

The Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship was created to help Manna Project International provide more underrepresented individuals with the opportunity to participate in a career- and life-enhancing experience abroad! Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship recipients will have the chance to volunteer with MPI as a Program Director for one year at our site in Ecuador.

Manna Project International's Program Directors lead a variety of impactful programs designed to meet the specific needs and opportunities of underserved communities in Ecuador. MPI's model creates a one-of-a-kind, impactful experience for our Program Directors and the communities we serve, and provides a unique opportunity to expand and build upon leadership skills while experiencing the challenges and rewards of international community development. Learn more below!





Rosa Elena Tránsito Amaguaña Alba

Manna Project International's Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship is named in honor of **Rosa Elena Tránsito Amaguaña Alba**, usually called "**Mama Tránsito**" or **Tránsito Amaguaña**. As a tireless **social justice leader** for most of the 20th century in Ecuador, she organized severely marginalized communities of **indigenous people** and **peasants** to break key parts of the cycle of poverty.

Amaguaña persevered through poverty, systemic mistreatment as a **Kichwa** and a woman, and limited educational opportunities to champion economic livelihood, education and human rights for underserved locals. Born and most active in **Pichincha province**, where MPI has operated since 2007, Amaguaña led organizations and community programs, gained career skills in foreign countries, and won the prestigious national award, Premio Eugenio Espejo, in 2003. Several schools are named for her, and the president of Ecuador attended her funeral in 2009.

What is the Scholarship?

The **Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship** was created to help MPI increase racial diversity at our organization and provide more underrepresented individuals with the opportunity to participate in a career- and life-enhancing experience abroad.

The Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship is designed for U.S. college students and recent college graduates who are part of the **Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)** community and have financial need. Award recipients will receive **a full scholarship to volunteer with MPI as Program Directors in Ecuador for 1 year**, providing the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally by:

- Directing community development programs.
- Receiving monthly training and mentoring in leadership and community development.
- Immersing in cross-cultural teamwork and a foreign language.
- Expanding their network through MPI teammates, Ecuadorian program participants, and some of MPI's over 2000 alumni.

Eligibility & Application

To be eligible for the Amaguaña Social Service Scholarship, you must:

- Be part of the Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC) community.
- Have financial need (as demonstrated by a FAFSA application or statement of need).
- Be able to commit to 12 months of service with MPI at our site in Ecuador.

To apply for the Scholarship, please follow these steps:

- Complete the [Program Director Application form](#) on MPI's website (be sure to check the box at the top to indicate that you are applying for the scholarship).
- Submit an additional 1-page personal statement explaining why you are interested in working with MPI and how the Program Director experience will help you reach your personal and/or professional goals.
- Submit proof of financial need (either a FAFSA for or a statement of need).

Why Become A Program Director?



Gain International Experience

Learn another language

Improve your leadership abilities

Immerse yourself in another culture

Apply your passions, skills, and
knowledge to impact a community

Learn about yourself and others in a
shared living environment

Gain hands on community
development experience

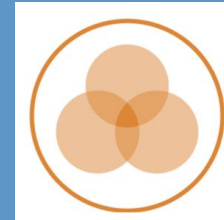
Change your life...

Change someone else's!



About MPI

Manna Project International (MPI) connects college students, recent graduates and young professionals with international opportunities where they can apply their passions, experience, and education. Our mission is to foster communities of talented young leaders to become the next generation of social change agents by engaging in collaborative, on-the-ground service with international communities in need.



Holistic Approach

MPI's holistic approach to development recognizes that the challenges faced by the communities we serve are multifaceted and must therefore be addressed through a variety of disciplines.



Community Focus

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



Leadership Development

Program Directors on the ground are supported and trained while simultaneously receiving a large amount of responsibility and autonomy, providing them with the opportunity to learn through both firsthand experience and the mentorship of established development professionals.

Communities Serving Communities



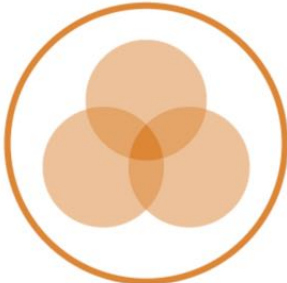
MPI's vision is to create communities of young leaders that help break the cycle of poverty in underserved communities around the world. It's why our mantra is "communities serving communities" and it's why we are different. We take a grassroots approach to development, assessing a community's needs through relationships, community feedback, and data collection before responding with targeted, specific actions designed to effectively meet established needs. By working hand-in-hand with locals and other international organizations, we are able to raise awareness of community needs and attract student and graduate volunteers seeking to pursue a specific call to service. Our volunteers receive first-hand exposure to the global issues that match their interests and further individual career paths.

The luxuries of growing up in a country of high standards of peace, justice, liberty, and prosperity inhibits some Americans from realizing the uniqueness of their lifestyle. Although many college students across the country are informed of the social realities of foreign countries, most have not had the opportunity to leave the confines of national borders to experience life in another culture. International opportunities bring students in contact with global issues, allowing them to identify with foreign cultures and gain perspective into their own lives. MPI participants broaden their horizons through first-hand contact with a foreign culture and gain valuable work experience by leading community development programs in areas of their education and career interests.

MPI directs its efforts towards communities in need: communities with inadequate access to basic educational, medical, and livelihood resources. MPI aims for a holistic approach to community development, working with people of all ages in various aspects of their lives. This broad approach enables our volunteers, who come to MPI with diverse career paths and skills, to work together and provide each target community with the resources to serve its specific needs.

Not sure what it means to take a holistic approach? Here's an example. If a community's health care needs are not being met, a linear approach would be to build a health clinic. A holistic approach might involve:

- Community-wide preventative health education
- Nutrition classes and lessons in healthy cooking
- Access to medical check ups and procedures
- Recreational activities that increase physical and mental health



Getting Involved



MPI seeks college students and recent college graduates to implement development programs in our partner communities in Latin America. Domestically, MPI serves through college Campus Chapters, University Partners and Alumni. These stateside participants complement MPI's international initiatives by raising awareness and support while working toward similar goals in their local communities. Internationally, MPI offers three types of opportunities:

1

Program Directors

Serve for **three** to **thirteen** months and are responsible for the long-term growth and sustainability of the organization and its programs.

2

Summer Internship

Work under the guidance of Program Directors at each site for five or ten-week terms, helping run daily programs while developing new initiatives.

3

Short-term Groups

Groups of six to twelve students spend one week at one of MPI's international sites, completing a project of their choice.

International Involvement



- Work with fellow members of the international team to implement community development programs
- Create opportunities for growth and education in our partner communities
- Broaden your understanding of current global issues
- Define your personal career goals
- Focus on your professional development through hands-on experience

Domestic Involvement



- Establish MPI chapters in U.S. universities and colleges
- Build bridges between universities and communities
- Engage with current students and faculty through local service opportunities
- Take part in short-term international development opportunities
- Encourage community programming events

Partner Organizations



- Network with international organizations on behalf of MPI
- Assist in supporting and sustaining the efforts of partner organizations also working with MPI's partner communities

Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

All of us in society have a moral responsibility, and great self-interest, to accelerate our nation's, and the world's, long journey towards justice, respect and equality. MPI is committed to building an organization that attracts and leverages diversity in our team and partners, and demands respect and inclusion in all our operations and activities. We proactively engage with people from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds, so they become more equipped with the skills, experiences and networks to thrive - personally and professionally - in our interconnected world.

We at MPI take an expansive view of diversity, so include people according to: Race, color, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, neurodiversity, physical and mental abilities, genetic disposition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran status, criminal history, or any other aspect which makes them unique or protected under federal, state and local law.

GOALS FOR PRIORITIZING DEI AT MPI

1. To raise the effectiveness of the MPI team in both parts of our mission by welcoming diverse skills and life experience, with supportive DEI training, into our social change-making programs and operations.
2. To reduce barriers for underrepresented groups in the U.S. and foreign sites, so they can thrive in their desired career and life opportunities.
3. To increase our community impact at foreign sites by attracting more foreign volunteers and local participants to our programs, while fostering diverse community-volunteer relationships that enable success in our increasingly heterogeneous world.
4. To increase our development of social change-makers, by training them in DEI best practices, and by doing our part to advance social justice while role modeling effective actions for DEI.

As a collective society, all of us global citizens need to address the underlying issues of widespread, systemic marginalization and racism, as well as conditions like economic injustice that get us here. To all marginalized groups, we are committed to fighting injustices and advancing social change, and stand in solidarity with you. We hear you, and recognize your unjust pain and suffering. We are listening and learning.

As for our mission-driven organization, MPI is taking action: integrating DEI into all of our activities; creating scholarships and deliberate support for underrepresented volunteers; supporting staff, volunteers and partners in building the skills and capacity to work in an inclusive manner with one another and with the communities we serve; reaching out to marginalized stakeholders to listen to them, and become allies with them; increasing our inward look at our organization's practices to improve them through DEI.



Program Director Role

"My time at Manna Project was one of the most formative years of my life. I was empowered by the autonomy that Manna Project instills in its Program Directors to take ownership, not only of the work we were aiming to accomplish, but of my role within the community at large."

-Robin Weekley Bruce,
Nicaragua '05-'06

Program Directors (PDs) run the day-to-day operations of MPI's community programs on the ground in Ecuador and Nicaragua. PDs live and work together with a team of up to twelve other Program Directors. Program Directors contribute to the organization's program design, implementation of new projects, monitoring and evaluation, short-term volunteer oversight, recruitment, financial oversight, grant writing, fundraising, social media, public relations, and donor relations. Program Directors have five primary roles for the:

- Running community programs
- Managing organizational operations
- Raising awareness in the U.S. of international issues
- Hosting short-term volunteers and training incoming Program Directors
- Building relationships with local organizations and community members

1 Program Directors Run Community Programs

MPI believes in the initiatives of its Program Directors, and grants them a large amount of responsibility and independence. While working as a team, Program Directors implement projects and hold each other accountable. Future MPI Program Directors are responsible for the continuation of all existing programs. Therefore, education, experience and interest in specific programmatic areas are especially useful. It is also imperative that Program Directors have a keen awareness of the background and purpose of each program. Each new Program Director has the ability to enhance programs throughout the year to ensure that MPI continues to meet the greatest needs of the community. Additionally, with a focus on sustainable impact, many of our programs are run hand-in-hand with local community leaders, giving Program Directors the opportunity to develop both personal and professional cross-cultural relationships.



2 Program Directors Manage Organizational Operations

Program Directors are given the unique and strategic opportunity to gain real-world experience in key areas of nonprofit management. As Program Directors are trained and select organizational roles in their areas of interest, MPI is able to continue organizational operations with a small staff team. Program Directors utilize their time and talents on site to assist with the ongoing operations of the organization, including but not limited to:

- Recruitment
- Marketing & Social Media
- Fundraising
- Grant research & writing
- Program Monitoring & Evaluation



3 Program Directors Raise Awareness

Since the ability to spend an extended period of time abroad is a privilege that few get to experience, MPI Program Directors act as a liaison between MPI's international sites and the USA by sharing their experiences with others. As Program Directors raise financial support they are also responsible for raising awareness of MPI's mission and the international issues it seeks to address. Program Directors are encouraged to keep in close contact with their supporters through social media, monthly newsletters, and journal entries published on the MPI blog, and to share about their work with MPI through presentations and slideshows at home.

4 Program Directors Host Short-term Volunteers & Train Incoming Program Directors

To further raise awareness of international issues, MPI Program Directors act as hosts for short-term volunteers and groups visiting MPI's international sites. Program Directors are responsible for corresponding with interested individuals or groups regarding the realization of such trips. Short-term trips provide an opportunity for participants to see and experience both the beauty and the injustices of developing countries. Furthermore, this time gives potential MPI applicants a glimpse of what a long-term commitment with MPI would involve.

During the final month of a Program Director's commitment they are entrusted with the transition of programs to the incoming team. Current Program Directors must introduce incoming ones to the community, train them appropriately, and turn over the responsibilities of the existing MPI programs.

5 Program Directors Build Relationships with Local Organizations & Community Members

Relationships are at the foundation of who we are as an organization and all that we do. We believe that positive change and sustainable impact is most effective and abundant in the presence of mutual trust and respect. In order to build and gain trust, MPI's Program Directors must know the community members where they are working, and likewise, the community members must know the Program Directors. As such, we believe that spending time in the community building relationships is a vital part of the Program Director job.



Structure & Responsibilities

MPI Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee the affairs of Manna Project International, Inc. The Board is responsible for maintaining the mission and vision of the organization, including setting the direction and policies for the organization, overseeing finances and fundraising, and linking the organization to others in the nonprofit and business community.

MPI Staff

MPI's staff includes our Executive Director, US support staff, and the on-site Country Director and Assistant Site Manager. MPI Staff report to the Executive Director, and the Executive Director reports to the Board. The Country Director & Assistant Site Manager are responsible for local program oversight, volunteer support, and the realization of MPI's organization-wide mission, vision, and near-term goals. They are responsible for the daily and long-term management and administration of the organization in Ecuador. Daily responsibilities include any and all tasks necessary to maintain and improve the operations of the organization, including legal operations, financial record keeping, community relations, program oversight, partner organization relations, and regular communication and accountability with Program Directors and short-term volunteers.

On-Site Organizational Program Director Jobs

At the beginning of the year, the new Program Directors determine which organizational roles they are interested in pursuing, including Recruitment, Grant Writing, Donor Relations, Marketing and others. These roles help give our Program Directors the chance to see how nonprofits function internally.

Decisions

MPI Program Directors are responsible for the daily operations of the organization on-site and have significant decision-making latitude within programs and projects. Most decisions are made collaboratively at weekly meetings.

Vacation

MPI allots 1 personal day per number of months of your PD commitment (i.e. a 5-month PD will get 5 personal days, a 12-month PD will get 12 personal days, etc.). Additionally, 13-month Program Directors will also get a 3-week winter break (generally December 15th - January 5th, but exact dates vary each year). In terms of holidays, PDs will receive the observed holidays that fall during their commitment time.

Work Expectations

MPI is successful because of the self-motivation and self-discipline of its Program Directors. Although projects do not run an entire day, MPI Program Directors are expected to maintain a normal workday. This means spending time daily working on lesson planning, project updates, organizational roles, and other jobs. Though Program Directors are responsible for their own schedule outside of programs, they are expected to work a 40 hour week and to fulfill the requirements of the Program Director job description.



Group Living Commitment

MPI Program Directors live together in a designated MPI house. The house is just outside of Sangolquí, near ESPE, one of the largest universities in Ecuador. The house is on a nice, residential street and is just a 15 minute walk to the Community Center or a 5 minute bus ride. This unique living/working environment demands a great deal of patience, but in return provides meaningful interpersonal and professional development opportunities.

Purpose

Living and working with people who share the same interest in development provides a home-base support network and establishes a network of in-country partners. In living together, Program Directors are challenged to evaluate and appreciate many different motivations and approaches to international community development. In addition, the shared living and working environment helps prepare college graduates for future professional endeavors by strengthening their cooperation, communication, leadership and relational skills.

Personal Time

House life provides a support network for Program Directors while simultaneously encouraging them to foster relationships in the community and outside of the MPI team. Since a great deal of time is spent at the house--eating meals, planning programs, and conducting meetings--flexibility, patience, and sensitivity are essential.

Cultural Immersion

Outside of language school and short-term homestays throughout their service, the level of cultural immersion experienced by an MPI participant depends upon his or her own efforts. Program Directors have the unique opportunity of entering into an established, trusting relationship between MPI and the communities in which we work. As stewards of these relationships for future generations of Program Directors, participants have many opportunities to participate in local day-to-day life and become integrated in Nicaraguan or Ecuadorian life.

Expectations & General Rules

Attitude & Personal Presentation

The actions and words of MPI's Program Directors reflect on our home country and on our organization. Program Directors are expected to be positive and open minded to local cultural norms. This requires flexibility when things are not easy or efficient, as well as enthusiasm and an openness to try new activities, foods, and experiences. It also means being respectful of others' beliefs and values, whether community members or other MPI staff.

Living & Workload

MPI Program Directors live with the rest of the MPI staff for the entire duration of their program. A spacious and comfortable house with many conveniences will be provided. The Program Director position is a full-time, 40 hour/week job. Participants focus the majority of their efforts towards developing MPI's programs in partner communities. Additional personal projects are highly encouraged, but are to be pursued outside of working hours. Program Directors will hold themselves and their colleagues accountable to this expectation.

Financial Responsibility

Program Directors are required to fulfill all financial obligations by designated deadlines.

Lifestyle Habits

MPI participants must abide by all laws of the country in which they reside. Additionally, volatile habits such as drug use or excessive drinking are prohibited while working for MPI. Such habits create unnecessary problems within the team and the community. Drug use and excessive drinking will not be tolerated. MPI is authorized to terminate a contract with a Program Director, without refund, if this policy is violated.

Marital Status

MPI Program Directors live in a group setting, with sleeping quarters divided by gender. Couples are discouraged from applying as MPI upholds this policy to prevent discomforts within the household and the community. For this reason, couples are discouraged from applying.



Fundraising

While scholarship recipients are not responsible for paying the typical Program Director fees, they do have the option of fundraising to cover **travel expenses** and **extra Spanish classes** if they choose to.

These funds may only be accessed by the participant on the basis of a reimbursement and cannot exceed \$3,000 in total. To receive a reimbursement, receipts must be presented to MPI's Director of Finance with a description of the expense. Travel expenses will only be granted if the travel is MPI-related, with a maximum of two round-trip flights not exceeding \$2500 total. MPI-related travel includes traveling to and from site at the beginning and end of the term, as well as one additional trip during winter break or another approved vacation time. For all other travel (i.e. job interviews, weddings, etc.), Program Directors must purchase their own airfare and may not be reimbursed by MPI. Excess and unused money at the end of the Program Director's term will go toward the MPI general fund unless designated to a specific program by the Program Director

Note: All donations to Manna Project International are tax-deductible. Upon receiving a donation, MPI's administration will send out the necessary receipt for claiming tax exemption. However, MPI participants can NOT receive tax-exemption for personal checks written to cover their own program expenses. Donations should be made out to "Manna Project International" and include the Program Director's name in the subject line. **All donations should be mailed from the donor directly to the MPI US Office:**

Manna Project
International
PO Box 536144
Orlando, FL 32853

MPI is happy to provide extra fundraising support and resources. Some fundraising options that volunteers have had success with in the past include:



Personal Support Letters

Although it can be difficult to ask for financial support, friends and family often find it a privilege to support the MPI experience. Fundraising brochures and examples of personal support letters are available to accepted applicants upon request.



Corporate Support

Approaching small and large businesses is another proven and effective fundraising mechanism. Coupling your request with a detailed fundraising proposal can increase likelihood of success.



Fundraising Events

Many MPI participants have hosted successful fundraising events such as golf tournaments, auctions, and dinners. With good organization and foresight, these events can raise significant support for individuals and for specific programs.



Grantwriting

There are many third-party grants and fellowships available for long-term volunteering projects. Researching individual grants and completing well-written proposals can be well worth the effort. For more info on grant opportunities, visit our **Scholarship and Grant Opportunities page on our website.**

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

In order to ensure the safety of our volunteers and community members in Ecuador, MPI will be implementing the following COVID-19 safety measures and protocols until further notice. For more information, please feel free to contact us at info@mannaproject.org.

Safety Protocols

- All on-site staff & volunteers must be fully vaccinated every day they are working on MPI activities.
- All MPI staff and volunteers must adhere to the COVID 2 of 3 rule at all times while outside the MPI Volunteer House.
- No outside visitors will be permitted at the Volunteer House, unless special permission is granted by staff.
- Staff and volunteers will adhere to all local and national government COVID protocols and regulations, such as meeting capacity limits, masking, physical distancing, curfews and transport limits, etc.

In the case of COVID symptoms or exposure volunteers will:

- inform his/her supervisor immediately.
- Take a PCR test at a local clinic (approx. \$45 cost covered by MPI up to \$100 maximum expense by MPI per 30-day period)
- Quarantine in volunteer house until PCR results are received.
- If positive test results, continue quarantine based on local health official recommendations and retest at appropriate date.

If a program participant shows COVID symptoms:

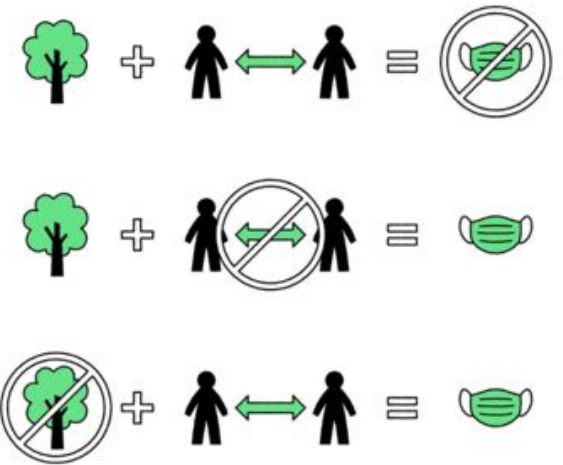
- MPI staff will ask that participant to leave the Community Center and extra environmental cleaning will then be completed where the participant was present.
- The participant will be asked not to return to the MPI programs until receiving a negative COVID test, or 48 hours after their symptoms subside without the use of medications.

If a program participant has a confirmed case of COVID:

- MPI will cancel programs for predetermined amount of time.
- Extra environmental cleaning will be completed where the participant was present.
- MPI volunteers/staff who had close contact AND show COVID symptoms will be tested.

****We expect these protocols to change. These are MPI's protocols as of September 2021. MPI will notify all volunteers via email of any changes or updates. Please feel encouraged to contact us with any questions. The full version of our COVID protocols can be seen [HERE](#).**

COVID 2 of 3 Rule





Final Words

Manna Project is confident that its Program Directors will be forever changed through their experiences with us. We are passionate about helping our Program Directors discover and develop their personal and professional goals while simultaneously improving health, education and livelihoods outlooks in the communities we serve. Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you on site soon!

For additional information, questions, comments, or concerns,
please contact us at:

615.290.5746 or apply@mannaproject.org

