



"Run with Manna" 5K in Ecuador

On July 2nd, 116 community members ran in MPI Ecuador's family-friendly 5K race, an annual tradition stretching back many generations of Program Directors! Ten children also competed in a 1K for participants under twelve years old. Runners complimented Program Directors and Summer Interns on the ease of race check-in, directions on course, and the extra words of encouragement along the route!

This year's 5K promoted health, learning, and wellness in partnership with Instituto Técnico Rumiñahui, La Cueva Crossfit, Municipio de Rumiñahui, and Cooperative Esperanza y Progreso del Valle. These local partners provided awards for winners of each age and gender group. A number of participants came from our partner organizations Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas and the United Nations Peacekeepers.

Following the 5K, MPI hosted a Fourth of July BBQ at the Centro for community members and volunteers, thanking them for their hard work and participation. It was a fun afternoon of sharing some of our volunteers' cultural traditions with our Ecuadorian friends!

[You can see the photo album here -->](#)

Meet MPI's New Board Chair



Jocelyn Lancaster is MPI's new Board Chair. As a Program Director at MPI's Ecuador site from 2008-2009, Jocelyn led the Adult English and Spring Break Volunteer programs while supporting other initiatives such as Women's Health & Nutrition and the after school program.

Currently living in San Francisco, Jocelyn recently completed her Master's Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Her professional interests lie in organizational development and international work teams. She is thrilled to continue supporting MPI in this capacity.

[Meet our current board members here -->](#)

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Wondermade is an award-winning confectioner in Orlando, Florida that is generously partnering with MPI in the month of July. Wondermade has been featured by Martha Stewart, CNN, and Huffington Post for delicious marshmallow creations like [S'mores](#), [Key Lime Pie](#), and [Orangesicle](#).

Whether for yourself or a friend, it's a great time to try Wondermade! Use the code "MANNAPROJECT" at checkout, and 15% of your purchase will benefit MPI. Shop before July 31 to make a difference while enjoying the best marshmallows of your life!

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Ecuador Summer Reading Program



Participation in our summer reading 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!

[You can follow MPI Ecuador here -->](#)

Summer Venta in Nicaragua



On June 25, MPI Nicaragua held its annual summer venta sale at El Farito. The summer venta provides community members with access to affordable clothing, shoes and accessories that have been donated to MPI over the course of the year. For example, a community member is able to purchase a pair of shoes for 15 cordobas, or \$0.50 USD.

[Follow MPI on Instagram for daily updates -->](#)

New Partnership in Rumiñahui



While establishing partnerships for the 5K in Ecuador, Program Directors and Country Director Nancy Shattuck developed new partner relationships. In addition to sponsoring the 5K, the Instituto Superior Tecnológico Rumiñahui offered the use of their computer labs and classroom space for MPI's entrepreneurship classes, help with fundraising efforts, and partnership development contacts with other local organizations to revitalize our Women's Initiative.

Building Confidence In Nicaragua



Girls' Health students at Chiquilistagua made informational posters on the topics they have learned so far this year: puberty, healthy relationships, exercise, nutrition, stereotypes and beauty. After making their posters, they presented their work to the class. The posters are now on display at their school.

[You can learn more about MPI Nicaragua's partnerships with local schools here -->](#)

Ecuador Summer Intern Projects



Session two Summer Interns completed many programs and events, helping to reach more community members and organize new activities in our community center.

Program Directors and Summer Interns participated in a community improvement project in the community of Chaupitena to help improve the local primary school. This *minga* is an Andean tradition of collaborative work, in which neighbors volunteer time and effort to achieve a shared goal that benefits the community.

Though our Summer Interns have departed, you can read more about their experiences on the Ecuador blog!

[Read interviews with MPI Ecuador's Summer Interns -->](#)

Lacrosse for Elementary Students



Partner organization Lacrosse the Nations is now holding morning practices for elementary school children at Chiquilistagua.

Nicaragua Summer Intern Projects



Summer Interns in Nicaragua immersed themselves in the culture, bonded with community members and participated in homestays. They were all excellent teachers and contributors to the MPI Nicaragua team. In addition to programs, some interns completed special projects:

Patrick taught clean water education to students in Generation, MPI Nicaragua's Youth Medical Career Education class in Cedro Galán. Patrick taught students to become peer educators who will continue to spread information about clean water for improved health in the community.

Nicole and Anaisy took an ambassador approach to health promotion. They worked with a core group of women from Cedro Galán, teaching about anti-violence in the home. This core group of women are now equipped to lead similar educational sessions in the community.

[Session Two Highlights from Nicaragua -->](#)

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

[Learn more about Lacrosse the Nations -->](#)



What's Oobleck, and why are these kids making it?

[Find out here! -->](#)

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