

The FOE Quarterly

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**Frosty adventurer,
Megan Miller ('02-'04),
atop Cotopaxi's 19,300
foot summit in 2004.**

Saludos!

It is hard for us to believe that ten years ago this month the two of us arrived in Quito to begin training. We remember Hotel Colon in bustling northern Quito where we were greeted and asked to complete more forms. There were tremendous feelings of adventure, optimism, and altitude sickness. When we think back to our experience, the flood of memories, good and bad, still move us. We know that we learned more from our experience in Ecuador than we were ever able to give back during our service. That's been our reason for getting involved in Friends of Ecuador (FOE) and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

We are now in our third year of having taken on running FOE. We are proud to have offered a number of communities and community-minded groups our financial and moral support. We are especially proud to have forged important links with the Volunteers themselves, particularly with the raffle ticket sales of the Gender and Development Committee and the calendar sales of VAC. In email exchanges with current PCVs, news from the Peace Corps office, and photos and blogs depicting once familiar scenes in the Sierra, Coast and Oriente, we re-live our Volunteer experience vicariously through the continued service of our successors.

Over the past three years at FOE, we have experimented with different fundraising approaches and have found that groups and individuals sponsoring projects have been most successful when they reach out to friends and family to donate through our site. Last year, Karen Levy, a doctoral student at Berkeley raised nearly \$3000 for a water workshop in Esmeraldas this way. The photos of the participants really connected with us emotionally. We hope the organizations we support are able to rekindle in you that same sense of connection to Ecuador.

What's interesting and something of a challenge is that our official numbers of members in the parent organization NPCA are declining, even as the scope of our activities and support increases. We know from first hand experience that NPCA has its share of problems. Josh was on the Board of Directors last year and Ben has been active on the Group Leaders steering committee.

Friends of Ecuador as an RPCV alumni group functions best when the family of RPCV groups are growing, when the spirit that motivated all of us to become PCVs moves us to continue to be RPCVs. We would encourage you to renew your membership again with NPCA. We also provide a direct membership through us, but we really encourage you to renew on-line through NPCA and identify FOE as your preferred affiliate group.

The main reason we are making this appeal is that we still think there is scope for NPCA's renewal as an organization that represents all of us, not just those who served in Ecuador but the more than 190,000 RPCVs who served around the world. RPCVs represent a group of Americans with unique global perspectives who can and should be mobilized for tremendous good works. As RPCVs we are continually advocating for good works like Karen's water workshop but as a community of internationalists, as Americans with friends in villages and cities from Albania to Zambia, we can also use our collective efforts to encourage our government to support our friends in Ecuador and other countries struggling for justice and peace in this challenging era.

Thanks again for your support in 2007.

*Best,
Josh and Ben*

FOE Supported:**Aiding Pedernales Children With Disabilities**

In October I traveled to Ecuador and spent two weeks in Pedernales, a small coastal town in Manabí Province. I went back to visit friends and check in on the projects I had worked on nearly two years before as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Since leaving the Peace Corps I have found a job working for **New Global Citizens** (www.newglobalcitizens.org), a small non-profit organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area that works with high school students, mobilizing them to help solve the world's biggest problems. We do this by engaging them in innovative high school clubs that are committed to advocacy, community education and fundraising on behalf of social entrepreneurs and grassroots organizations around the world. These organizations address major community challenges and are led by local organizations and people. One of the projects being supported by a high school club is the *Fundación de Personas con Discapacidades "Simón Palacios Intriago"* ("**Simón Palacios Intriago**" **Foundation for People with Disabilities**), a group I worked with while serving in Ecuador.

The Foundation was founded in 2001 by a group of impoverished mothers of children with disabilities. They wanted their children to have the professional

care they need to address their disabilities and have the quality of life they deserve. Weekly meetings held by the foundation have given these women the opportunity to share their experiences and to share the emotional challenges of having a child with disabilities in an unaccepting environment. They have formed more than just a foundation; they have created a community. I was lucky to become part of that community while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer and I am equally fortunate to have the opportunity to continue to support the amazing work they are doing.

Engaging high school students in the US in supporting the Foundation has been incredibly rewarding for me. A year ago I was approached by two young women, Lorianne Burns and Monica Vesga from Walnut Creek, CA, who wanted to work with New Global Citizens to fulfill their senior project. They decided to support the Foundation and began a dedicated project to raise funds, which they called *Huellas de Esperanza* or Fingerprints of Hope. They were able to raise over \$6,500 for the Foundation in 6 months.

Now with support from these amazing high school students and Friends of Ecuador, the foundation is going to be able to move out of the small bodega where the trained therapist does physical,



O. Chichester

occupational, and language therapy. (Currently the therapist attends multiple children at once – a few engaged in physical and occupational therapy while the others sit quietly and practice writing or drawing, what the children with disabilities call their school.) The Foundation is just beginning to construct two buildings on a donated plot of land – a space for the therapist to work uninterrupted and a one-room school. The Foundation is going to name the school *Huellas de Esperanza*, after Lori and Monica's project.

The partnership with the Foundation has continued this year as another group of high school students, this time as part of the Hunter College High School Global Action Club in New York City, has taken on the project. This continued collaboration with Friends of Ecuador will equip the rehabilitation center and school. Because of these partnerships the Foundation is now going to be able to achieve their goal of reaching more people with disabilities and providing better services, while the young people I have worked with are transformed by the experience of helping others.



With a Full Heart

I'll never forget my first day at *Biblioteca Jose Marti*, the youth center that was to be my main project in Cotacachi, Ecuador. As I crossed through the town market to open the library, twenty kids came running towards me screaming my name. Maribel, a rambunctious 7 year old, ran up and wrapped her arms around me in a huge hug. With a full heart, I tugged open the two metal doors of the library and watched as the kids piled in—pulling down games, flinging open packages, and scattering game pieces all over the floor. The serenity of the moment and my confidence evaporated when the first kid came up to me with two pieces of a game and started talking rapidly to me in gibberish. Okay, so the gibberish was actually Spanish but considering that my language comprehension was next to nil, I felt like they were talking to me in the unrecognizable tongue of the teacher in the Charlie Brown cartoons. I desperately struggled to pick out a few words and did my best with gestures to help the kid out. I remember shutting the doors at the end of the first day and talking a long walk, wondering what in the world I had got myself into and scolding myself for not spending every minute



A. Foreman

during training talking in Spanish.

Looking back on it now, I feel like my first few months at the library were one big charades game. The kids accepted the responsibility of becoming my personal Spanish teachers and spent countless hours laughing at my futile attempts to communicate. When one of the little kids came up to me and I didn't understand what they wanted me to do, one of the older kids would come up and complete the task explaining to me very slowly in Spanish the verbs they were performing. Before the library, I got through most situations and answered a variety of open-ended questions by flashing a huge smile and nodding—all the time praying I wasn't admitting to anything crazy. However, when the kids would run up to me and tell me "*se acabó la película*," my dazed smile and nodding just weren't up to the task. One of the kids would grab my hand and drag me to the movie room so that the credits scrolling through the screen would convey the message that my limited Spanish comprehension failed to decipher. Learning Spanish became a process; more often than not, when I would tell the kids to do something a first time library visitor would get a bewildered expression on their face and one of the "regulars" would translate my feeble attempt at speaking into correct Spanish.

I can't imagine how different my life would be if I didn't have the kids. My site is the self proclaimed "Leather Capital of Ecuador," this fact coupled with our close proximity to the largest artesian market in South America means that my site sees more than its fair share of tourists. I am your text book example of a *gringa*—tall, fair skin, blue eyes, and blonde hair—so many of the adults in town assumed that I was just yet another tourist passing through. I really felt that I was missing out

FUNDING REQUEST!

Nutrition Education in San Martin

The Quito Project, a student organization at the University of Michigan (UM), works in partnership with *La Fundacion San Martin* to develop and implement intervention programs in the San Martin neighborhood of Quito.

For four months each summer, UM students travel to Quito to implement a variety of social programs and to utilize existing community resources in making these programs both relevant and sustainable.

The Quito Project requests FOE members' assistance in meeting their \$950 budget to provide one year of weekly classes on health and nutrition, led by *La Fundacion San Martin* and attended by adult members of the San Martin/San Blas community.

The series of weekly classes began in the summer of 2006 to provide nutrition education and strategies for cooking nutritious meals on a limited budget. Each week approximately 20 participants attend a two-hour class. Each class includes a lesson on the week's nutrition topic followed by a group cooking activity where they learn to prepare a healthy and affordable recipe.

Visit www.friendsofecuador.org to contribute and to learn more about this valuable community resource!

on truly integrating and having that sense of community that is a unique element of any PC experience. However, I began to realize that I couldn't walk through town without kids yelling out my name and running over to do the library's signature handshake greeting. Little by little their parents and others began to know and trust me. I can't say that I know everyone in town and that my absence will be noticed or missed by all but I have carved out my own niche in the community. To these people I do matter and I can't leave for the weekend without being asked, "*¿Dónde te has perdido? Estaba extrañándote.*"

Although sustainability is the goal of all my projects, I am not sure what lasting affect my presence here will have on my community once I have left it. However, I know that I will be remembered by the 60 kids who regularly use the library and the 140 students that are in my HIV/AIDS & Sexual Education classes. Maybe they'll remember that for 2 years of their adolescence there was this crazy gringa enticing them with *chupetas* to attend life skills *charlas*. Maybe they'll be playing baseball one afternoon and they might vaguely remember who taught them which hand to put the glove on and the rules of the game. Maybe just maybe, they'll remember that when their stressed and over-worked parents didn't have the time or the energy to talk with them or help them with their homework that there was someone who thought that they were the most important things in the world.

Recently when I was reflecting back on my first year of service, I realized just how much improvement in behavior, cognitive ability, and self-esteem that I have seen in my kids. The 20 some odd hours I spend each week at the library has given them the confidence to come out of their shells and they have blossomed. Every time I see one of my kids pick up a book on their own and start reading, or when they come running up to me to show me the "20 *sobre* 20" that they got on their test, my heart swells. I often wonder if they will ever understand or know how much they have changed me—how they have made me humble, more sympathetic, and have taught me about unconditional love and acceptance. I find myself feeling guilty because they have taught me and given me so much more than I have

given them. I know how the Peace Corps motto used to be "The hardest job you'll ever love" and I completely understand all the dimensions of this adage as only a PCV could; but I am convinced that the hardest part is going to be saying goodbye.



Peace Corps Ecuador's 2007 VAC Calendar

Order your calendar easily and securely online at:
www.friendsofecuador.org

*The 2007 Wall Calendar
Includes...*

- Regional Country Info
- Twelve 12 x 14 Inch Photos of PCVs at work & play
- American, Ecuadorian and International Holidays

Congratulations to Ecuador's New PTO, Dana Platin!



On the wintry evening of February 10th a merry group of RPCVs, former Peace Corps-Ecuador staff, and their friends and relatives met at the house of Ecuador's former Program Training Officer (PTO), Michael Ketover, in Rockville, Maryland.

Aside from just wanting to hang out in the New Year, the group met to celebrate Dana Platin's recent promotion from the APCD of the Youth and Families (Y&F) program to the PTO position—second in command after Country Director Cisco Ruybald. Dana certainly comes to the role with excellent experience. After her initial service in Ecuador ('97-'00) as a Y&F volunteer Dana received her Masters in Public Health at the University of San Francisco in Quito. She then served a couple terms as technical trainer for the Y&F program in Ecuador and helped Peace Corps-Peru design and implement their first Y&F program. Dana earned herself the APCD spot soon afterward and was in charge of the Y&F program for two and a half years.

The get-together was organized through Evite.com, an online site for simplifying event planning. Although the list of invitees started out small—based on RPCVs who the Ketovers knew were in the area—the number of invitations quickly increased as the original invitees added the email addresses of others who might want to make it. RPCVs as far northeast as New York, as far west as Oregon and as far south as North Carolina were added to the growing list of names, as well as two RPCVs presently residing in Japan and the Dominican Republic.

Although not all of the invitees made it to the get-together, around five different omnibuses were represented spanning from 1997 to 2006. The list of attendees included former Country Director Ruben Hernandez and his wife Arlene, Dana Platin, Barbara Fleck, Christine Bixiones, Claire Tebbets, Beth Blacklow, Caitlin Gerdts, Jocelyn Getgen, Daniel Dedeo, Daniel Lapidus, Liz Lehman, John Varrieur, Andrea Vaughn, Stefan Chacon, as well as various friends and family members of the RPCVs.

Ecuador in Transition: A Lurch to the Left

Ecuatorians certainly knew which way they were heading when they voted for Rafeal Correa in the second presidential election on November 26, 2006. In what has been referred to as the most ideologically polarized race since 1978, Correa's socialist agenda and anti-US stance was a stark contrast to the conservative ticket of his opponent, millionaire banana magnate Alvaro Noboa. Some even say that Correa's popularity took off only after he received widely publicized support from Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chávez, who in polls is popular among 65-80% of

Ecuadorians.

By capitalizing on the vote of the many Ecuadorians who are disillusioned with the current political system, Correa won the presidential election with ease. Shortly after swearing in on January 15th, Correa secured further support by visiting Andean indigenous communities with Chávez and Bolivia's leftist President Evo Morales (see photo below).

Despite substantial public support, Correa will not find his first months in office to be easy. In his way stands Ecuador's Congress, whose power Correa seeks to

reduce by calling a national assembly possessing the authority to rewrite Ecuador's constitution.

Correa has repeatedly stated that Ecuador's Congress and its "political mafias" look after their own interests and are the cause of Ecuador's economic and political instability. Congress, in turn, has drawn its battle lines by way of their vice president, who recently stated to the press that Correa seeks a "totalitarian system" and that Congress will not accept a change to the nation's nine-year old constitution.

Political battles between Ecuador's executive and legislative branches are typically resolved in favor of the latter, with blocked presidential agendas or deposed presidents being common. But given Correa's popularity, Congress is finding it difficult to stymie the new president's demand for reform. Legislators' attempts to delay Correa's call for a plebiscite on

whether to revise the constitution have resulted in popular street protests in Quito and concessionary statements made by Congress.

As long as Correa maintains his popularity, Congress will have little option but to give in to his demands, lest they welcome their own political demise at the hands of an angry public. Yet, by allowing Correa a revised constitution, Congress could be inviting an even greater loss of power.

The interests of the US are also taking a beating as Correa's grip on power strengthens. Besides rejecting the US free trade agreement, Correa is opposed to extending a contract leasing an area on the Pacific coast that the US military depends on for one of its two forward-deployed air bases in Latin America.

How far can Correa go whilst making so many powerful political enemies in so short a period of time? For insight to that question,



President Rafael Correa (center) with Hugo Chavez (left) and Bolivia's Evo Morales

one might look to Chavez's steady rise toward absolutism in his own country. But one could also recall the fateful term of President Roldos, another reformist who won Ecuador's last great ideologically polarized presidential race in 1978. Not only were his policies effectively blocked by a resistant Congress, but his term was cut short in a plane crash that rouses suspicion to this day.

FOE Funding Criteria

Our model of fundraising relies very much on your organization's ability to fundraise. Once approved, we will add your organization to the drop-down menu in our secure e-pay page; we host your project description and we promote your project in our newsletters and email communication. While FOE members do donate to our approved projects, the most successful projects have relied on their own web of contacts, friends and family to visit our site. We are facilitators of funding but have very limited money of our own.

1. We support organizations that do grassroots development work in Ecuador.
2. We prefer to support organizations where small donations of \$1,000 or less can make a difference. Organizations that have large, established sources of funding should not apply.
3. For ease of communications, organizations we support must have an e-mail address and, preferably, a website. We will post descriptions of the organizations and the project on our website.
4. Organizations that receive support from Friends of Ecuador must submit a progress report within six months of having received a donation. A reporting form will be available on-line. Failure to fulfill reporting criteria will make an organization ineligible to receive further funding from FOE.
5. To receive funds from Friends of Ecuador, an organization must provide three references who are not relatives of contact person, at least two of which have e-mail addresses.
6. Applications can be in English or Spanish but must be submitted on-line.

Funding Request!

Esmeraldas Youth Skills Workshops

The *Fundacion de Progreso Social Manos Unidas* is requesting funds for two upcoming workshops on handicrafts and light industrial arts (artisan and welding skills) in the coastal town of Esmeraldas. The request has come from PCV Tyler Warmack ('06 –'08) who is currently working with Manos Unidas. In their words, “the aim of the workshops realistically addresses the basic needs of the community's youth, and equips them with skills that enable them to earn money, secure jobs, and learn how to manage their lives healthily and successfully.”

Manos Unidas was founded to combat the challenges that youth face growing up and living in marginalized barrios of Esmeraldas. They see unemployment as one of the largest contributors to social problems such as lack of access to quality education, teenage pregnancy, the spread of HIV/AIDS, poor nutrition, low self-esteem, violence, and drugs. After years of work in the social sector, the foundation has come to the realization that productivity is a key aspect to development; and Manos Unidas is now developing an alternative for the youth of Esmeraldas creating a venue to educate them socially and economically.

With your support, Manos Unidas can more effectively run their training programs and help more youth to finance their education and effectively support themselves and their families. To date, about one half of the requested \$986 has been raised. Please donate today at: www.friendsofecuador.org.



Photos courtesy of PCV Tyler Warmack ('06 –'08)

An RPCV Returns Home

RPCV Amy Waterman ('00 –'02)

I returned to the United States at the beginning of summer 2002. Two years and three months before, I'd gotten on a plane to South America, terrified as the others in the seats around me. There were thirty of us trainees in Omnibus 83, and we were heading to Ecuador to teach agriculture, resource conservation, and animal production.

We'd heard rumors. How we'd get kicked out if we didn't learn the language, the myriad and insidious tropical diseases, and the dangers of living in a Third World economy: theft, assault, and worse. A volunteer had disappeared in Bolivia, and not even the American embassy could track him down.

I read the handbook twice: the lists of recommended items to pack, important cultural points, how-tos for everything from banking to mailing letters. In country, we sat in classrooms for three months to learn everything again.

But what Peace Corps didn't prepare us for was the return home.

Another volunteer, Emily, returned to the U.S. a month and a half before I did. I called her from my home in Oregon to Pennsylvania, half-way across the country, and we talked.

“Lawn ornaments!” Emily burst out laughing. “That was my first impression of America. Those little gnomes people leave in their yards. No one steals them!”

“Cars!” I added. “I took my mom's car to the coffee shop, and I felt like I had to park my car in front of the window so I could see it. Then I kept looking over every so often to make sure it was okay. We always did that in Quito.”

In Washington, D.C., just off the plane, I'd mistaken a hotel bellhop, standing alert in his gray uniform outside the glass doors, for an armed guard. I ate at McDonald's and thought sadly about my favorite armed guard, who used to pace outside of the McDonald's in Quito in the morning before it opened. He'd sit sometimes on the bench beside the plastic life-sized clown Ronald, and one time I caught him with an arm around Ronald, embracing in comfortable companionship.



It was reverse culture shock, the Peace Corps nurses told us. No need to worry; the world would turn right side-up as we settled in and wrapped our old culture like a transparent sheet around us. But the things I thought in those first few weeks scared me, because this world America was no longer familiar to me; it was as foreign as Mars, a red, harsh, warlike planet so distant from the green-and-blue swirls of the Mitad del Mundo, the underdeveloped Center of the World.

I was luckier than most. Oregon's agricultural community depends on migrant labor, and the region where I lived had *panaderías* and *taquerías* in every town. I found friends to speak Spanish with and even helped a local Mexican baker promote his business. I gave talks about Ecuador to my aunt's women's group and a friend's second-grade class. Still, it wasn't enough. I missed being a volunteer, I missed speaking Spanish and, most of all, I missed knowing my identity. I wasn't the white *gringa* here; I was just one more average American amid a sea of Americans.

After a year, I left the U.S. I applied for a masters in writing program at the University of Wales-Aberystwyth. I'd fallen in love with Aberystwyth when I was working as a shepherdess on Welsh farms after college and always wanted desperately to return. The program would help give me a second career, since a knee injury in Ecuador had cut short my farming hopes. Plus, the writing program would help me do something with the 300-page manuscript sitting on my computer. "Two Years in Ecuador, by Amy Waterman." It was a less-than-brilliant title for a behemoth of a first draft, but it was accurate. Two years of scribbling in the evenings when there was nothing to do in my village but make dinner and watch television until bedtime. The Peace Corps creates writers from sheer boredom.

There were no Mexicans in Wales. My friends from the international student body were English, Chinese, Greek ... not even a single Spaniard among them. I missed speaking Spanish even more, and I found that my experiences were so different from those of the typical 19-year-old British university student that classroom discussions left me dumbfounded by the irrelevance of it all. I was older, and it showed.

I satisfied my desire for volunteer work by becoming a note-taker for students with special needs. It was the perfect move: one student who needed notes was in first-year Spanish. I sat through an entire year of Spanish taught by a Welsh professor teaching pure Castellano.

As the following summer wore into fall, I was finishing my thesis and wondering what to do next. I knew one thing: I couldn't go back to the U.S. It felt like part of my past, a link to my childhood rather than my future.

Goodbye Solitude... Hello text messaging!

Upon the entry of the most recent omnibus (Omnibus 95: 2006–2008), Peace Corps-Ecuador began implementing its newest safety and security procedure – the official issuing of cell phones to its PCVs. Each cell phone has a \$10/month plan paid for by PC-Ecuador, however PCVs can opt to increase that balance out of their own budget.

According to Ecuador's PTO Dana Platin, this is just a sign of the times, since many PC offices around the world are now adopting this precautionary measure to ensure that PCVs can readily contact their headquarters, and be contacted, in the event of an emergency.

An Australian friend's visit was just the clue I needed. His fantastic accent, sense of humor, and stories of Australian life reminded me how much I loved that part of the world. Although I'd already seen Australia, I'd yet to visit its neighbor. After he left, I logged onto the internet and did a search for "work abroad new zealand." Eureka. As long as I left before I turned 30 the following year, I could obtain a New Zealand Young Person's Working Visa for one year.

With that decision, my life came full circle. I returned to Ecuador just six months ago. When my plane from Auckland via Santiago touched down in Quito, my ex-boyfriend Vinicio was there with a huge smile and a hug to greet me. He took me to a dingy hostel, which nevertheless had hot water and a private bathroom for \$10/night. We wandered the streets until late in the night talking. It was dirtier than I remembered. I stumbled over broken sidewalks, coughed as buses belched black smoke, and held tightly to Vinicio as rowdy young men passed us in the dark.

I remembered how it felt to be wrenched from this country when my service ended and how, back then, it was the United States that seemed like a foreign country to me. Now, everything here was so strange. How could I have forgotten all this: the *controladores* shouting from the bus doors, the wrinkled indigenous women jerking cups in our faces, the brown faces that once were my family.

Memories broke like fragments of a melting iceberg. The Tortuga Verde where we'd drunk British beer and played pool. The *discotecas*: Papillion, Señor Frog's... Each new corner we turned brought an old memory. The burger stand that used to sell vegetarian burgers until 2 in the morning now served *comida típica*, so Vinicio and I ended

up making our way back to the Mariscal where we had nachos and margaritas at Red Hot Chili Peppers and filled each other in on our lives.

I was in Quito to obtain a document I needed to complete my New Zealand residency application. I'd found home at last in that wonderfully green, wild country. I had a good job with an internet design company that created online learning packages to sell to Americans. One of our products was Rocket Spanish (www.RocketSpanish.com), an innovative interactive language learning system that I'd created along with a Chilean colleague, based on how we were taught Spanish in the Peace Corps.

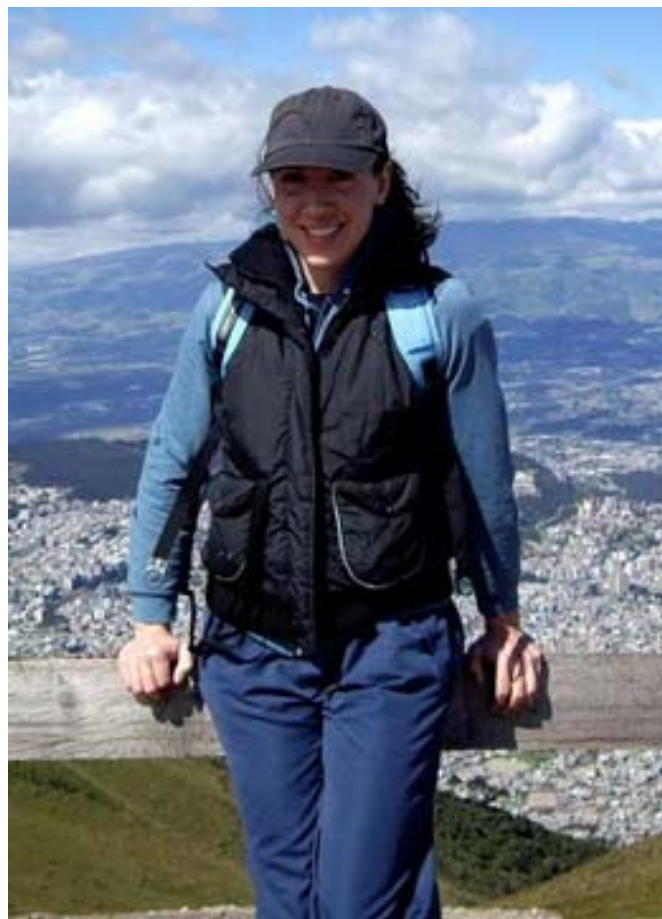
Vinicio told me that he was still struggling to finish his degree and make any money at all. He'd tried to open a restaurant, which had gone bust. He'd worked for the Pilsener brewery driving truck. He'd done the *recorrida* for the children who went to his sister's nursery school. He'd lost what little he

earned on ventures that never turned out, like taking tourists on horseback rides on Ilalo, which looked promising until someone stole the saddles.

As I looked at him and held his hand across the table,

seeing in his eyes the light of love that would never dim, no matter how far our lives grew apart, I felt such a deep sadness. I could travel anywhere. I could live anywhere in the world. He felt as imprisoned here as I had felt in the U.S., but he couldn't leave. What developed country would issue a visa to a young single man with no assets and no job?

I left Ecuador for the last time with my precious document in hand. This time, I boarded the plane with no regrets. As hard as it had been to leave my life as a volunteer, I had created new opportunities for myself. I had gone on to love again, though I had kept those I loved here close to my heart. I had kept their language alive on my tongue and taught it to others. My life would always honor Ecuador, not as a Peace Corps Volunteer, but as an RPCV who wore her memories with pride.



*Amy Waterman
standing high above
Quito during her visit to
Ecuador in 2006.*

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**We are looking for a few
good men & women!
Please consider
volunteering at FOE!**

Contact us at:

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Friends of Ecuador is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization. Anyone who has an interest in supporting grassroots development in Ecuador, (e.g., Ecuadorians, North Americans, parents, Volunteers, travelers, and students) is eligible to join. We provide web space to reconnect RPCVs as well as continue the legacy of service through promotion of screened community projects in Ecuador.

For more information visit: <http://www.friendsofecuador.org>