

EQV Internship
Raquel Ibarra '16
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

What is your major?

I am a Science in Society (SiSP) major with concentration in chemistry and anthropology. I chose SiSP because it offers me the opportunity to study both science and humanities while still focusing on health.

What was your job title and what type of work did you do through your summer experience?

This summer, I was a volunteer at Primeros Pasos, located in the rural Palajunoj Valley of Quetzaltenango (Xela), Guatemala. As an education program and healthy school program volunteer, I taught health classes on various topics like hygiene, nutrition, reproduction, self-esteem, and more to children in rural Guatemala; helped with data input and management for the clinic; distributed vitamin A and folic acid to mothers and children during mobile clinic weeks; and assisted with health events at the clinic.

How will your work this summer relate to your major or area of study at Wesleyan?

Working at Primeros Pasos really allowed me to learn and experience the health issues of Guatemala and its health system. I was able to learn and understand the health barriers in rural Guatemala and the country as a whole. As a result, I want to continue to learn about public health.

How will your work this summer relate to your post-Wesleyan career?

This experience helped me define what I want to do after Wesleyan. I now know that I want to continue my education in public health and medicine. I also know that I want to continue to travel and to be part of the global health community.

What did this summer experience mean to you?

This experience was life-changing! I was given the chance to move to a new country and start fresh in a new city. I was given the chance to try new things, overcome fears, and continue to grow as a person. I will use my gained knowledge and experiences to continue to pursue public health and medicine after Wesleyan and make a difference in people's lives!

Thank you!

Dear Donors,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the chance of a lifetime to be a volunteer at Primeros Pasos in the rural Palajunoj Valley of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Being there this summer gave me the opportunity to work with passionate and selfless people who are making a difference in the lives of the families of the Palajunoj Valley. I was given the chance to teach children about things I am passionate about such as nutrition, hygiene, self-esteem, sexual health, and more much! I also helped in mobile clinics treating families for free. I learned so much about public health, NGOs, communities, and the Guatemalan culture. It was a whole new world for me, and I am excited to use the skills and knowledge I obtained to keep pursuing my dream of becoming a clinician and making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for making this experience a reality!

Sincerely,
Raquel
Ibarra