

Alexis Feldman –Program Director in Los Chillos, Ecuador



Manna Project International
Communities Serving Communities

Combined International Affairs & Cultural Anthropology Major, Spanish Minor

Role of Program Director

- Develop and run community programs
 - Taught 2 English Classes
 - Led English Conversation Club
 - Facilitated Exercise Class
 - Onboarded New Farm Program
 - Assisted Daycare
- Manage organizational operations
 - Managed Budget
 - Ran Local Volunteer Program
 - Researched Grant Opportunities
- Raise awareness
 - Created Video Campaign
- Host short-term volunteers and train incoming Program Directors
 - Conducted Interviews
- Build relationships with local organizations and community members
 - Formed lasting friendships in Ecuador

Who is Manna Project?

- A non-profit in Ecuador with the mission “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.”

Conversation Club

- Twice a week I led conversation club, a space to practice speaking English
- I planned and facilitated new topics and games to spark conversation
- This was a great way to foster relationships in the community

Research, Education, & Outreach

- Conducted research on grant opportunities aligned with the organization’s goals in Ecuador
- Developed and ran English classes for students aged 8 to 55
- Taught 5 hours of English weekly
- Fostered strong relationships with 4 local organizations
 - Elderly Community Group
 - Special Education School
 - After School Program
 - Local Farmers
- Advertised programming to reach more underserved youth
- Recruited local Ecuadorian volunteers to co-teach the English classes in a more holistic manner

Relation to Academics & Career

- Authentic Spanish and Grammar at NU highly improved my experience in Ecuador
- Co-oping abroad emphasized to me the love I have for interacting with new cultures and expanding my global mindset

Elderly Community Programming

- I facilitated a weekly exercise class for an underserved senior community
- I rotated between dance, stretches, strength training, and outdoor activities to teach the benefits of staying physically active

Co-oping Abroad . . .

- Allowed me to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally as a young professional
 - I challenged myself with hikes
 - I reflected on my goals
 - I learned how to adjust to a new environment
- Helped me create lasting and meaningful friendships with people I would not have met otherwise, as we exchanged our cultures
- Demonstrated the beauty of nature in countries all over the world
- Exposed me to new cultural meanings, foods, and customs
- Provided me the opportunity to practice my Spanish language skills in a first-hand experience

