



**Norma Morán**  
**Deaf Education**  
**Kenya 2000-2003**

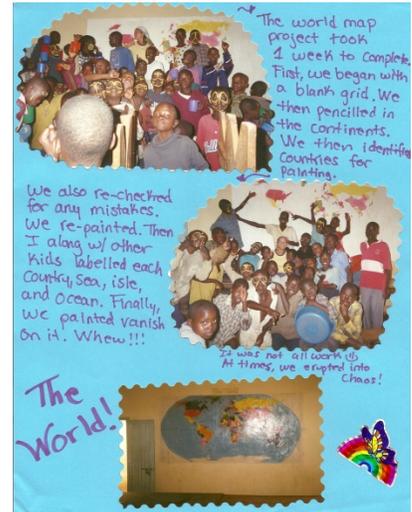
**EDUCATION:** B.S. Professional Technical Communication, Rochester Institute of Technology; M.A. International Training and Education, American University

**NOTABLE PROJECTS:** Norma was the first Deaf Peace Corps volunteer at her boarding school, Maseno School for the Deaf in a tiny equatorial town in western Kenya, a good six hours bone-rattling bus journey from the capital of Nairobi.

Despite the rapid emergence of HIV/AIDS materials in early 2000s Kenya, many Deaf students at Maseno could not fully benefit from the information due to language barriers. After frequent HIV/AIDS discussions, Norma and her Deaf students set out to convert verbal information into visual messages more understood by the students. Armed with only papers, markers, rulers, and staples, together they developed pictorial HIV/AIDS materials. This in turn led to more projects on developing other materials in Kenyan Sign Language.

**CAREER/SKILLS GAINED:** Marcel Proust's "The real voyage of discovering does not consist in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes" is an apt portrayal of my Peace Corps service. Due to my experiences developing accessible materials and working with a marginalized group of the Deaf, I gained a greater appreciation of empathy, communication, resourcefulness, and cultural consciousness.

**WHY DO PEACE CORPS:** After a civil war broke out in my country, El Salvador, my mother was determined to give me a better life in the U.S. As an undocumented child, I grew up knowing I was fortunate to have access to a quality life. After attaining citizenship status, I realized that I wanted to give what I could back to the developing world.



**“Despite leaving behind captioned TV, interpreters, TTY calls- the access I took for granted in the U.S., the Peace Corps did its best to provide an environment where Deaf volunteers can do “The toughest job you “ll ever love.””**

