

PC Ecuador Informativo

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM PEACE CORPS ECUADOR

The 60's – A Beginning with Firm Steps

The first group of 47 volunteers were trained at Washington State University for two months before coming to Ecuador. The group was then transferred to Puerto Rico for two months where they were trained in Community Development, Agriculture and even physical exercise.

After training Mr. Eugene (Gene) Baird, the first Director of Peace Corps, welcomed them at the airport and they were sent to the coastal and the andean zones. When the Volunteers arrived at site, they developed skills and strategies to learn the local language by themselves.



1964. National Geographic magazine published the Rhoda and Earle Brooks' story, in its September edition

Couples who changed history



Rhoda and Earle Brooks

The Brooks were volunteers in Manta in Community Development. The activities they carried out included garbage collection, support for disadvantaged fishermen, construction of school kitchens, preventive health and carpentry.

When it was time to return to the United States, the Brooks received permission from Koki's parents to take him with them. The Franco's family thought their son would have a better life in the United States. Koki later became a Peace Corps Volunteer himself in Ecuador.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Emily y Peter Gladhart

Another story that left traces in the town of Mira in 1964 was that of Volunteers Emily and Peter Gladhart. At a time when everything was scarce and there was extreme poverty, this couple assisted 40 women in the production and sale of wool sweaters.

Emily and Peter observed that parents, who at one time didn't have enough money to send their children to school, now had their children studying at boarding schools in the city of Quito.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Community Development & Agriculture programs were the first programs Peace Corps Ecuador started in August 1962.