



Supporting teachers in Latacunga

Teaching English as a Foreign Language



Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Ava Hacker Story



Ava Hacker with some of her teacher-students

I was part of OMN 119 and I was blessed with living in Latacunga. During my stay in this beautiful country, I served as an English teaching Volunteer in Unidad Educativa Victoria Vascones Cuvi high school and also in the Technical University of Cotopaxi. The Peace Corps Country Director at that time was Michael Donald.

Like any Peace Corps Volunteer, I don't really know what the impact of my project in Latacunga was. Sometimes you will never know and sometimes they will let you know many years later.

During my service my focus was on training English teachers, with emphasis on lesson planning and the development of interactive methods for students. My other goals were to help teachers to improve their English language skills through daily conversation and personalized grammar and composition classes.

While living in the beautiful city of Latacunga, I was able to develop a variety of teaching materials and organize them in several files that will remain in the English area office.

I believe the biggest impact of my service in Ecuador was in myself. I carry in my heart all my friends and remembrances of one year and a half of joy, and life lessons. My service was interrupted when my mother got sick and I had to return to the United States to take care of her. If that had not happened I would have stayed longer than those 27 months that Peace Corps had given me. Ecuador is a beautiful place with very welcoming people. My experience with Peace Corps will remain forever in my treasure chest of memories.