

Pascuales: Photographic Summary

Nicki Lehrer is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology majoring in Aerospace Engineering and minoring in Applied International Studies. Last year Nicki spent 6 months living and working in the poorest regions of Ecuador. As a result of her powerful experiences, she founded the non-profit organization *Children of Guayaquil* to support the Ecuadorian street children she came in contact with while in their midst.

In a quest to provide educational opportunities for these children, her efforts have fostered a relationship between US and Ecuadorian institutions, and her passion has encouraged others to partake in an international exchange of culture and intellect.

Children of Guayaquil's first project is located in the small southern town of Pascuales, Ecuador. Nicki's foundation is constructing a children's community center, designed by MIT Architecture Professor Jan Wampler and a team of his architecture students. The center will provide a safe place for these children to go during the days, keeping them away from the drugs, alcohol, and prostitution which plague the streets. The facility, estimated for completion within the next 8 months, includes a library, daycare center, medical room, elementary school, and community room for cultural events and educational classes.

For more information, please visit www.EcuadorOrphans.org or email Nicki directly at nicki@EcuadorOrphans.org

1)



Nicki Lehrer holds 11 year old Alejandra in Pascuales, Ecuador during her trip to Ecuador this past January. Alejandra is lucky to attend the local elementary school which costs \$6/month.
Photo taken January, 2007

2)



Five brothers and sisters hang from the outside of their bamboo shack in Pascuales, Ecuador. The children, the youngest one under 3 years old, were left by themselves all day while their parents worked small jobs in the neighboring city of Guayaquil.
Photo taken January, 2007

3)



The architecture teams from MIT and the University of San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador unite to collaborate on work which will help future generations in Ecuador. The quest to build a community center in Pascuales has fostered a relationship between US and Ecuadorian institutions, and the energy behind the project has encouraged others to partake in an international exchange of culture and intellect.
Photo taken January, 2007

4)



Antonio is a six year old who loves to play soccer in the streets and wishes to be just like Superman when he grows up.

Photo taken January, 2007

5)



Maria and Carolina are two best friends that love to eat grape popsicles and play in the flower bushes that naturally line the dirt streets of Pascuales. Neither attends school on a regular basis but both wish that someday they could learn how to read.

Photo taken January, 2007

6)



Nicki laughs and dances with a group of mothers and daughters during the surprise going-away party that the town of Pascuales threw for her during her most recent visit in January of 2007.

Photo taken January, 2007

6)



A group of street children play on a bamboo fence on a hot January day.
Photo taken January, 2007

7)



A group of children gather for a photograph during the town celebration which marked the laying of the first stone for the new community center. With over 800 people in attendance to learn and participate in the programs, concrete was poured and each child placed their handprints in the cornerstone to mark a new and exciting beginning.
Photo taken January, 2007