

Katelyn Moretti and Samuel Ogden, '09
La Mora, El Salvador



El Salvador came one step at a time and we found that for many who lived there, life comes the same way. This proved especially difficult for the gentleman above, whose lack of adequate healthcare nearly led to the loss of a toe. We (Sam and Kate) spent the summer working in the community of La Mora, primarily at an NGO-sponsored medical clinic. Some of the most rewarding work was unexpectedly simple, such as providing this man with a pair of sandals.





Some of our other work at the clinic included painting the building, cleaning, reorganizing and distributing medicine from the pharmacy and updating the patient database. We also found ways of getting involved outside of the clinic. We gave nightly English classes to the youth of La Mora which gave us a unique way to bond and integrate into the community.



We also found ways to enjoy the company of many our age and older when we discovered the women's softball team. Soon we were playing during practices and even games and when they discovered Sam's

baseball history, they asked him to coach. We had been fully accepted by the close-knit families of La Mora.



El Salvador's bloody history has left deep wounds, although at first glance they may not be apparent. By living and working side by side in the fields of these subsistence farmers, we were privileged to hear their stories of the war that ended merely sixteen years ago. Given their warmth and acceptance, we would never have expected the horrors they had lived through as guerillas, nurses and refugees from the war.



El Salvador taught us not only what we have but what we have been spared. Healing often has to continue long after the physical wounds are no longer visible. As we develop into physicians in the future, we will always carry gratitude for the lessons these people have taught us by sharing the deepest parts of their lives.

