

Taylor Burch, '07
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

For my summer of service, I spent six weeks volunteering in a government funded orphanage, Nueva Esperanza, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The orphanage was the home of 100 children, ranging from infancy to 12 years of age. The living conditions were very sad and the children lacked an education or organized activity. I spent most of my days in the "sala cuna" or crib room, where about thirty infants and toddlers lived. There were only three nannies to take care of the children, so most of the babies were very attention starved and craved affection. It was so fun to just spend my day holding babies and playing with the toddlers.



This is Nicole. I spent a lot of time with this precious baby! The nannies used to joke that she thinks I am her mother. I fell in love with her very quickly and grew attached to her. She was my baby and I still think about her and cry.



At lunch time, we distributed food to the toddlers and they sit and fed themselves. The younger ones would stand in their cribs and I would help feed them.



The children were so easily amused; the girls would twirl around my finger in circles, dancing, and have the best time!



I also spent some time throughout the day downstairs, with about 70 children between the ages 4 to 12. Again, the children just loved attention and affection, so it was rare that I was not surrounded by loving, beautiful children!



We also went once a week to the Adolescent Women's Home, a center that was home to 50 girls between the ages 13 to 18. We spent time with the girls, as well as teaching math, Spanish grammar, and English. Many of the girls had horrible life experiences, including rape, abuse, young pregnancies and even gang involvement. However, it was wonderful to encounter bright girls who were very eager to learn and very grateful to us for being there with them.



Overall, my experience was incredible and everything I had hoped it would be! I have a passion for Latin America, and my time in Honduras really helped to solidify my interest in the region. I will never forget the faces of those incredible, warm-hearted children I had the privilege of caring for!