

Charlotte Goldfine, '11

San Marcos, Nicaragua



The summer after my junior year I spent six weeks in San Marcos, Nicaragua along with Gary DeRusso '11. The time I spent in this town in the mountains of Nicaragua was unlike anything else I had experienced up to this point. For the first six weeks we worked in the Centro de Salud which is the only health clinic in town.





This is Lorena, the woman we worked with in the emergency room at the clinic. She taught us how to give injections, take blood pressure, clean wounds, give breathing treatments, and remove sutures.



Working in a clinic funded by the government sometimes caused problems because many of the Nicaraguans are unsatisfied with their government, who would make national holidays when the people really needed to work and did not pay the workers well. There were many protests in the capital, Managua, because of the issues, and we attended one with the workers at the health clinic.



For the second three weeks, we worked in the Centro de Desarrollo Infantil Samuel Calero, which is a government funded day care for parents who cannot afford any other child care for their children. The ages of the children ranged from a few months to 5 years old. These children showed us so much love unconditionally. Every day they would run to us and hug us when we walked in.





During my time in Nicaragua, I learned so much about their culture and the many natural resources the country has to offer. Along with that, I met some amazing people that were so open and giving despite the hardships they endure. I will always remember the time I spent there and the friendships that I formed.

