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Proyecto Linguistico

Xela, Guatemala

This is an intensive Spanish school that provides 5 hours of private studies 5 days a week, host family, and food for \$120-140 a week. The school encourages volunteer experiences and there are plenty for medical students. The school is very 'political' and most of my conversations in classes had to do with women's rights, human rights, the war, and recent politics. Three to four trips to surrounding communities are offered every week, from hot baths to cooperative farming communities. It is an incredible school, and I have learned a great deal of Spanish and information about US foreign policy and politics in CA, as well as made some good friends.

Center of Teaching and Training

Xela, Guatemala

This is a crazy women's indigenous cooperative in Zone 8 (semi-rural and very poor) in Xela. It is run by the previous head of human rights of this area, Quetzaltenango, Elirio Ochoa. I gave health and nutrition lectures to the women of the cooperative and answered questions. This cooperative was started because the most downtrodden of the people in Guatemala are indigenous women and children (the majority of people killed during the war, the most health problems, 80% illiteracy rate). This center provides school uniforms and books for the local children, which keep most kids from attending the otherwise free public school, has a afternoon school to go over the information with more interactive teaching methods, as a literacy program for the women, offers below costs food and free vitamins, etc. It is an incredible center, and any help will be useful for them. Contact the Proyecto Linguistico for information about the center, drop Elirio Ochoa's name, they will know how to get in touch with the center. No English is spoken in the center, just Spanish and Qui'che. It is a good practice for Spanish and medicine.