

Dear Church Parish Family,

I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to everyone who had emotionally, spiritually, and through monetary gifts supported and guided me to experience an adventure so worthwhile. During my first trip abroad, I visited remote and severely economically deprived villages that were a 2 hour bus ride from the main city, Riobamba, Ecuador. Throughout this journey, I learned how poorly the people lived with such horrendous healthcare and was able to assist in providing the medical attention needed for those who have received little to no care throughout their lives. While there, I also worked to restore a local building that is used by the villagers to process cheese to be sold to help financially support the community.

On the final day, we had been given a free day to sightsee before heading back to the airport. With the help of our tour guide, I set out to find a church. I discovered a religious convent in a small town called Guamoto in despair. Ran by a group of nuns, they provided much needed charity services to this poor community and was in great need as they had no electricity or running water. In the name of the Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church of Belle Vernon, PA, I donated \$100 towards their mission. They were deeply grateful to our church for its generosity.

This opportunity strengthens my desire to pursue a career in medical field and to continue to give and do more for those who are less fortunate. I'm deeply grateful to my church family for helping me get to be a part of something so humbling. Again, I cannot even begin to express my appreciation for everyone who had helped me reach my goal and allowed me to go serve others who were in such need and am looking forward to my next service mission.

Thank you all in everything you do.

With much love and appreciation,

Victoria Cooper



