



(OMNIBUS 95)

DESCRIPTION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Jonathan Spangler

PROGRAM No. 518-06-01 - ECUADOR

After a competitive application process stressing applicant skills, adaptability and cross-cultural understanding, Jonathan Spangler was invited into Peace Corps service in Ecuador. Jonathan entered training on **February 6, 2006**, participating in an intensive twelve-week program of community based training in Cayambe which included intensive instruction and field work in Spanish, cross-cultural studies, personal health and safety, and the technical skills required in the Habitat Conservation Program.

Jonathan Spangler successfully completed training and was sworn in as a Volunteer on **April 21, 2006**. During his service in Ecuador, he was assigned to Comuna Unión y Progreso, Provincia Los Ríos and later the Municipio de Chaguarpamba, Provincia Loja. In these two sites, he served as an International Development Professional, engaging in environmental advocacy, technical assistance, and English language instruction.

Arriving in the rural coastal community of Peñafiel, Los Ríos, Jonathan managed to integrate quickly, overcoming language and cultural barriers with ease. His work began immediately and was diverse in scope. Throughout his time there he initiated and maintained projects related to the production and use of compost as an alternative to the frequent application of chemical fertilizers. Facilitating workshops with both the youth and adult communities, he was able to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of using locally-produced organic raw materials to enrich the agricultural production in the area.

With the the local high school - a newly formed institution in the community - Jonathan acted as both an environmental educator and an ESL teacher. Working alongside the school's two professors, he started two community gardens (producing fruit, vegetables, flowers, and medicinals), later to be managed in full by the students themselves. In his frequent English classes, Jonathan often incorporated topics of local importance, such as environmental and health education. He also hosted a large-scale community cleanup project with the students.

During July of 2006, Jonathan presented a community banking initiative to several members of the community. The idea managed to take off and within a month, the community had formed a bank and was running it independently.

In mid-August 2006, Jonathan was reassigned to work in Loja with the City of Chaguarpamba. There he worked directly with the municipality's environmental unit and again engaged in a wide variety of activities. Being a graphic designer by trade and having extensive experience working in various computing fields, by default Jonathan became something of an information technology resource in the municipality. In collaboration with all of its different departments, he built the local government's website while teaching the fundamentals of graphic and web design to the director of the environmental unit. In addition, Jonathan frequently collaborated on presentations and documents covering the management and classification of municipal waste, cantonal sustainable development plans, and ecotourism.

Jonathan also traveled to work as an outside advisor to the Municipality of Arenillas and CARE International, a global NGO whose projects focus on sustainable community development. In several rural communities located in the Canton Arenillas, he worked with potable water systems, particularly in regard to the reuse of household wastewater to irrigate family gardens.

In Chaguarpamba, Jonathan continued working as an English teacher in his spare time, giving private lessons to several adult community members.

Pursuant to Section 5(f) of the Peace Corps Act 22 U.S.C. 2504(f), as amended, any former Volunteer employed by the United States Government following his/her Peace Corps Volunteer Service is entitled to have any period of satisfactory Peace Corps service credited for purposes of retirement, seniority, reduction in force, leave and other privileges based on length of Government service. That service shall not be credited toward completion of the probationary or trial period of any service requirement for career appointment.

This is to certify in accordance with Executive Order 11103 of April 10, 1963, that Jonathan Spangler served successfully as a Peace Corps Volunteer. His service ended on **29 December 2006**. He is therefore eligible to be appointed as a career-conditional employee in the competitive civil service on a non-competitive basis. This benefit under the Executive Order extends for a period of one year after termination of Volunteer service, except that the employing agency may extend the period for up to three years for former Volunteer who enters military service, pursues studies at a recognized institution of higher learning, or engages in other activities which, in the view of the appointing agency, warrants extension of the period.

(Country Director's signature and date)