

Fall 2018 Volunteer Service Award Grant Recipients

Nikki Stoumen will spend 6 months volunteering with **Asylum Access** in Mexico. Asylum



Access is an organization that seeks to obtain lasting solutions for refugee rights through legal aid, policy advocacy, and strategic initiatives. Specifically, Nikki will be developing and maintaining relationships with allied organizations, coordinating events to promote awareness and visibility, and lead workshops and trainings for other civil society actors about refugee rights and how to enhance refugee inclusion in society.

Brenna Hale, Gaby Hochu, Jennifer Jones, and Kelly Teshima-McCormick are all volunteering as



Program Directors with **Manna Project International (MPI)** in Ecuador. The focus of the Manna Project is to take a more holistic approach in trying to beat the cycle of poverty. Their programs focus on three areas: health, education and livelihood, in order to provide well rounded support to the members in the



community. In addition to this holistic community development, MPI is also focused on the professional development of its volunteers. These volunteers are responsible for teaching various levels of English classes, programs focusing on preventing sexual violence, sports programs, and other health related programs.



Lissette Almanza will spend 6 months volunteering with **The Chain Collaborative** in Ecuador. She will be continuing to work with a women's agricultural cooperative AMC, to help them with their coffee growing and processing techniques to improve their product and their potential income. She will also collaborate with AMC leaders to build partnerships with key stakeholders interested in sourcing their coffee or otherwise working with the association to further their goals. Since

reaching these goals can take several years, she will work with AMC to build alternative markets for their fruits and vegetables, which will help them financially as they build their coffee business.