

3. Member Spotlight:

Tarush Nihalani, RPCV Guatemala, 2005-2007

1) A short description of your Peace Corps service:

I was a small business development volunteer in Oratorio, Santa Rosa in Guatemala. I was assigned to work with a savings and loan cooperative.

The savings and loan cooperative offered a loan to a woman who started a pharmacy. One of the projects I worked on was to improve inventory management processes for this local pharmacy, and was probably my biggest (professional) accomplishment in Peace Corps. We cut down the time taken to count end of month inventory from 20 hours to 2 hours in 8-9 months, resulting in a better quality of life for the pharmacist. We also cut down the time taken to produce inventory count sheets and also produce inventory valuation reports from 2 hours to 30 minutes. The pharmacy was doing well, so the board at the savings and loan coop decided to open a few more pharmacies in nearby communities. We rolled out the inventory management best practices to these units as well. The picture from my service is in the 2nd pharmacy the coop opened - we are stocking the medicines on the shelves.



2) Fun fact about your host country:

A scene from the original Star Wars movie, "A New Hope", was shot in Guatemala in the Tikal National Park.

3) Fun fact about your community:

The youth in my community loved basketball as much as they loved soccer.



4) Most unique part of your Peace Corps service:

The most unique part of my Peace Corps service was winning Oratorio's basketball tournament with my team!

5) What are you up to now?

Currently I work as a supply chain manager for LSG Sky Chefs.