

August 31, 2016

Dear JJCF Board,

When I first arrived in the rural beach town of Brasilito, Costa Rica, I had absolutely no idea the amount of growth I would experience, the deep and meaningful relationships I would build, and the genuine appreciation I would gain from the many members of this special community. Initially, I was planning to stay in Brasilito for only 6 months, however I soon realized that 6 months would not be sufficient time for all that I wanted to accomplish. When I inquired about the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation grant, I was elated and grateful for the opportunity to extend my time here through the board's generosity. I would like you to know that because of your kindness and generosity through the grant, community members of Brasilito have been impacted in positive ways. Impoverished women have gained knowledge about health and nutrition, women have been empowered and listened to, children have received consistent English classes, and middle school aged children have had the opportunity to learn about reproductive health and the responsibilities that come with healthy relationships. There is no doubt that this journey has been challenging and at times really tough, but if I look back on this past year, every ounce of my energy was worth it, and I would do it over, and over again if I could. So, to the board, your generosity has allowed me to be apart of a special project that has become so dear to me. You have given me the opportunity to follow my passions, which are to empower community members to achieve their goals as well as to create awareness for public health. Without your help, it would not have been possible, so with the deepest gratitude, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Morgan Behrens