

ADA International Fellowship Program: 2017 Fellows

Fall 2017 ADA alum **Fiorella Guerrero Calle** works in the [Kuskaya Program](#), an interdisciplinary training program for innovation in global health, at [Cayetano Heredia University \(Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia\)](#) in Lima, Peru. Currently, she works on a research project that aims to reduce adolescent pregnancy.

Prior to that, Fiorella worked for World Vision Peru, where she designed and implemented various projects and programs that improved the quality of life and expanded educational opportunities for children with disabilities across Peru.

Fiorella intended to use her ADA International Fellowship to learn about inclusive education strategies that she could apply back home, with the hope of improving the quality of services for families of children with disabilities, as well as the infrastructure in urban areas surrounding Lima. She spent her fellowship at the [Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute \(MI-DDI\)](#) at [Wayne State University](#)

under the supervision and mentorship of Angela Martin, the center's associate director for community supports and services.

For her follow-on project, Fiorella planned to develop a sustainable model for a community-based comprehensive support center for families of children with disabilities within an existing rehabilitation center. Additionally, she sought to establish new and strengthen existing relationships with local stakeholders.



Fiorella Guerrero Calle

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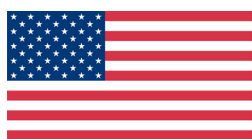
–Fall 2017 ADA Alum *Fiorella Guerrero Calle*

Figure 1: A Facebook post about inclusion from Warmakuna Hope.



After completing her fellowship, Fiorella co-founded a nonprofit organization named Warmakuna Hope. “Warmakuna” is a word referring to children in Quechua, the native language of Peru. The organization renovated the Rehabilitation Center of Manchay, which had been closed, and reopened the center to provide comprehensive services to families with children with disabilities.

The center now offers therapeutic services to children with disabilities, facilitates parent support groups, and trains local schools in Manchay on inclusive education. Fiorella has shared her fellowship experience and knowledge



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gained in the U.S. with her team and the volunteers at Warmakuna Hope (see Figures 1–3).

Warmakuna Hope signed an agreement with the National University of San Marcos (Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos) School of Medical Technology to serve as an internship site for physical therapy students. Fiorella hopes to do the same with universities that offer occupational therapy and speech



and language therapy training. She also managed to get the Rehabilitation Center of Manchay officially authorized as a local healthcare facility.

In terms of direct programming, Fiorella convened a support group for

parents of children with disabilities. It meets once a month and helps parents navigate school enrollment, which is complex in Peru because of the segregated education system. “In the past, children with disabilities remained at home, with no possibilities to develop their potential,” explained Fiorella.

Warmakuna Hope also is connecting these parents with the Peruvian Coalition for Rights in Inclusive Education to help them further advocate for their children’s rights. Fiorella, with support from volunteers, has been dubbing the MI-DDI Possibilities video series (portraying the lives and experiences of people with disabilities) into Spanish so it can be used as a training resource.

Fiorella has had a chance to debrief on her ADA International Fellowship experience and post-fellowship work with staff from the U.S. Embassy in Lima, who have connected her with other Peruvian alums from the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAi) who are working with children with disabilities in different areas. She and her fellowship mentor, Angela, received an outbound award from the ADA International Fellowship Program that allowed Angela to travel to Lima in April 2018 to provide additional in-country support and stakeholder training related to disability inclusion (see Figures 4–6).

Fiorella is planning to continue training teachers, as they have strengthened Warmakuna Hope’s relationship with the Advisory Service and Attention to Special Educational Needs. This is a local office representing the Ministry of Education near Manchay and mandated to support inclusive education. Warmakuna Hope will also implement the use of software aiding literacy in two schools. The software

Figure 2: A Facebook post from Warmakuna Hope about inclusive education for parents of children with disabilities in Manchay.



was donated by Jill England, an expert on inclusive education, who is affiliated with MI-DDI.

During the outbound visit, Fiorella and Angela met with leaders at the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities within the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations. This agency leads Peru’s efforts to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities, and designs services and strategies to serve this population.

MI-DDI subsequently published an article about Fiorella’s and Angela’s collaboration in the university newsletter (<https://ddi.wayne.edu/news/michigan-uccedd-completes-international-fellowship-project-with-peru-based-nonprofit-warmakuna-hope-31388>).

“After understanding the differences on education for children with disabilities between the American system and the Peruvian system, I see more possibilities, next steps, and the importance of engaging different stakeholders,” explained Fiorella. “By understanding the American support system for people with disabilities, I could understand the Peruvian system better and can see the steps for a system change.”

To sustain Warmakuna Hope, Fiorella has done fundraising and has submitted several applications to Peruvian and U.S. entities, including the U.S. Department of State's Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund. This application, a collaboration between Fiorella, her fellowship mentor Angela, the YLAI alum Gaby Sanz, and Cindy Fong, a council member of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Arkansas University, was successful, and Warmakuna Hope will soon receive innovation funds that will help them with their goals.

Figure 3: A Facebook post from Warmakuna Hope about physical therapy and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities in Manchay.



Figure 4 (L to R): Michelle Chan of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Angela Martin, Fiorella Guerrero Calle, and Sunshine Ison of the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru.



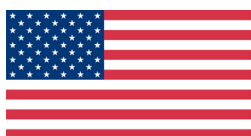
Courtesy of Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University

Figure 5: Fiorella (second from right) and Angela (third from right) training professionals at a health facility in Manchay on the social model of disability.



Courtesy of Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University

Figure 6: Fiorella (in front of Angela) and Angela (center, in striped top) training Warmakuna Hope families on inclusive education.



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