



**Major:** Post-Baccalaureate Spanish  
**Children:** 1 daughter, cognitively disabled

### Why did you choose Peru ?

It was economical, and I didn't want to go to Spain because I had been there years ago.

**Host Family:** My host family was wonderful, and they were very serious about me speaking Spanish more, even with errors.



*“Do not let money hold you back;  
do not let fear hold you back because,  
if you do, you're missing out on a great  
opportunity, and it's Mount Mary's  
mission to see that you succeed & grow.”*

**First Impressions:** The people in Peru were very inviting, very open. Arequipa is a bustling city, and you could tell it was an up and coming city, full of growth. Everybody was very busy and had someplace to go. I also learned about culture and family from a Latin viewpoint, and it made me see how important family is. They are all very tight-knit in Peru.

**Academics:** I experienced that “aha” moment when something I didn't understand about grammar finally clicked, and I felt, “Wow!” Since I've been home, I try to talk a little bit more in Spanish. All of the things we talked about in Doctora's classes, and all the History I have learned came to life.

**How were you transformed?** I didn't want to come home. If I could have stayed, I would have stayed. People want the same things: they all want to belong, to be loved, respected, and appreciated. I think the experience also made my family realize that they didn't need me as much as they thought they did. They learned that they could still survive without me like I knew they could.

**Volunteering:** At Alto Cayma, Fr. Alex's statement that, “The very least that the poor can expect is the very best,” was very powerful to me. You can't have any pre-conceived ideas about superiority because the bottom line is that we're all human, and the experience makes you humble.



Kari at the Pacific Ocean  
on a beach day-trip  
from Arequipa, Peru.