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...I learned that it is possible to follow your passion and at the same time make a difference in the world.

- ALISA CLICKENGER '84

Alisa Clickenger '84 in El Salvador.



## adventuring for a cure

Alisa Clickenger '84 recently re-located to Idaho with her partner who designs motorcycle gear. She's leading motorcycle tours, pursuing her writing career and preparing for her next motorcycle adventure.

Believe it or not, the dream started for me at The White Mountain School. Advanced Spanish classes all four years, combined with an Independent Study Project my senior year, gave me a profound interest in Latin culture. Fast forward twenty years, and a chance encounter while traveling made a connection that sparked my imagination: why not combine both my passions – motorcycling and love of all things Latin – into the adventure of a lifetime?

In 2009, I fundraised for breast and ovarian cancer cures through the Women Motorcyclist Foundation's Adventure for a Cure program ([www.WomenMotorcyclistFoundation.com](http://www.WomenMotorcyclistFoundation.com)). Later, as I planned a South America motorcycle trip, the thought occurred to me to combine fundraising with my big adventure. Thus was born my "One Woman, Two Continents, Two Great Causes" trip. I was graciously sponsored by Twisted Throttle, a motorcycle accessories company and planned to fundraise as I traveled. In seven months, I rode from Rhode Island to Argentina, passed through fourteen countries, journeyed on two continents and traveled over 20,000 miles. I documented the trip on my blog, [www.MotoAdventureGal.com](http://www.MotoAdventureGal.com).

Fundraising was more difficult in Central and South America. It was difficult to ask people for money for cures

when they had more immediate concerns: feeding their families, working the land, rebuilding a country from economic ruin. So instead, I turned my focus to awareness, and offered myself as a "personality" to doctors and clinics to bring light to early detection and the advantages of mammograms.

In Costa Rica, I teamed up with a female radiologist, and we were on the national news discussing the need for early detection and how a patient's quality of life is greater if cancer is detected early. In Peru, the evening news interviewed me (thanks WMS for all those Spanish lessons!) about my motorcycle ride and the need for early detection. In Paraguay, I spoke at a high school about making a difference in the world, and while I was riding for cancer cures, we focused on the importance of riding motorcycles with protective gear.

I learned many things traveling last year. I learned that the people met along the way are by far the best part of any adventure. I learned that while following my heart, I am the happiest I have ever been in my life. And I learned that it is possible to follow your passion and at the same time make a difference in the world. -AC