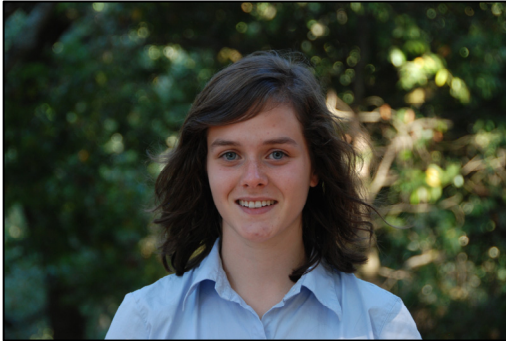


## CARE Partners with Global Citizen Year

**By: Chloe Bobar**  
**Fellow, Global Citizen Year**



I grew up in the small New Hampshire town of Charlestown, where I graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School this past June. During my time there, in addition to listening to indie rock, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and watching old horror movies, I served as part of Student Congress and Youth and Government, through which I became passionate about striving for change. I also began to learn about the difficult process by which change is made and the importance not only of voicing my opinions, but also of listening to the opinions of others.

As a result of my ever-growing passion for education and search for new perspectives, I decided to join the ranks of Global Citizen Year (GCY) and spend a bridge year between high school and college living and working in Ecuador. GCY is a non-profit organization that gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture of a developing country with the ultimate aim of preparing them for not only college, but also for a lifetime of confronting global challenges.

Through GCY, I have been lucky enough to be involved in CARE Ecuador's project, "Building a Healthy Maternity," as part of CARE's International Mothers Matter Program. The main goal of the project is to lower infant and maternal mortality in the canton of Cayambe, Ecuador, in part by expanding medical care to women who are not currently receiving it.

There are a handful of reasons why these women aren't getting proper medical care, and although all are important, the most interesting to me, and perhaps the most difficult to address, is the case of the woman who doesn't *want* to go to the hospital. She may believe that the doctors will treat her poorly, or she may be afraid of them. For whatever reason, she is excluded from treatment, and this exclusion can have devastating impacts on her and her child.

How to bring this woman into the system? I don't know yet, but I'm hoping to find out. Everything I have been doing over the past month has been eye opening and captivating, and I've learned a lot already. In the five months ahead, I'm looking forward to learning more, and to eventually knowing enough to answer this question or at least begin to.

*Photo depicts a workshop where indigenous midwives gather to share their knowledge as well as learn about tactics for reducing maternal and infant deaths. This photo shows a display of herbs and foods used by the women to treat their patients.*

