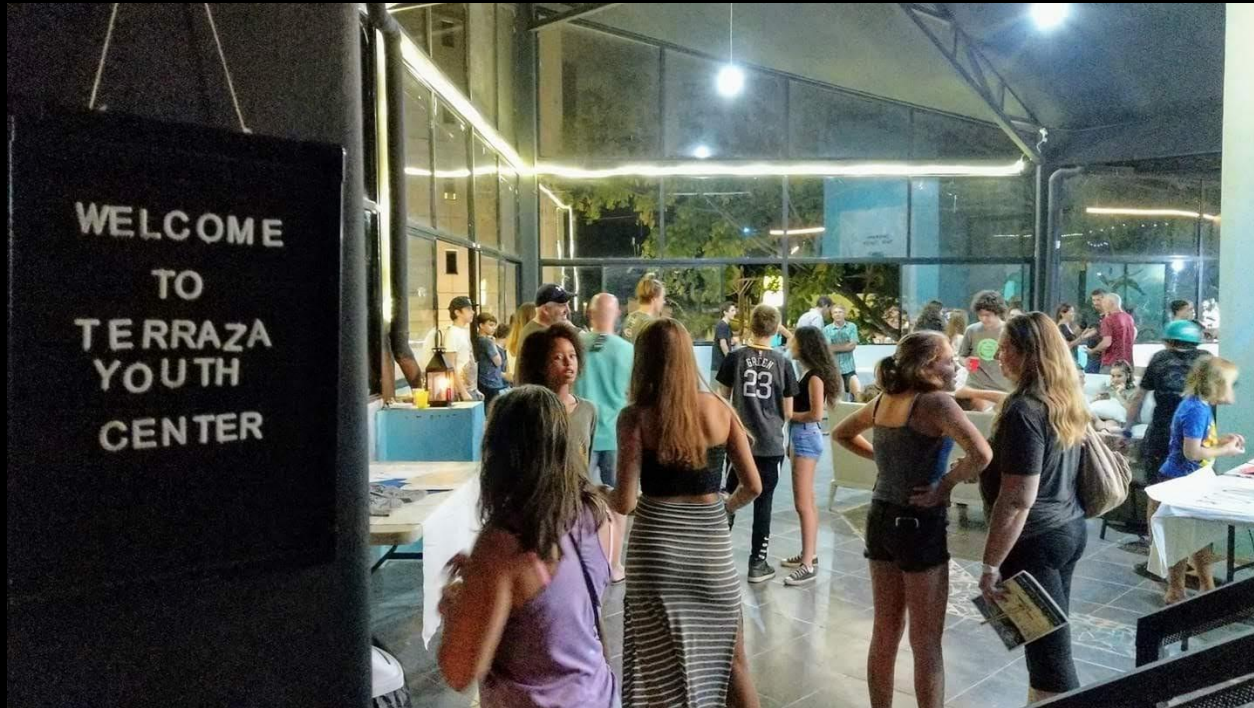




I'm Ashley Look, I'm 27 years old and originally from Flint, Michigan. I moved down to Costa Rica in 2014 for a school year internship with Young Life International. I fell in love with this country and its culture, and I haven't left! I really love ice cream and surfing. I have a passion for adventure, a heart for Jesus, and a love for people. I love getting to know people, hearing their stories and their hearts, and watching people discover and live out their purpose.

Terraza in Spanish means “terrace”. It’s a pretty simple name, being that we are located in an open space on the top floor of a building. But if you look closely, the “Raza” in Terraza is bolded. “Raza” in Spanish means “Race”. From local Costa Ricans to the international expat community, we want Terraza to be a place where all teenagers from every walk of life feel welcomed.



Tamarindo is a tourist town, full of surfers and vacationers ready to party. And aside from surfing, skating, or getting caught up in the party scene at a young age, there isn't much to do in Tamarindo for young people. Our team at Terraza dreams bigger than surf lessons and ladies night. We want to offer an alternative option, a space they feel ownership of, somewhere all students feel welcomed, safe, and comfortable. With weekend events like ping pong tournaments, basketball tournaments, video game parties, high school dances, we want to create a safe but epic alternative option to the party and drug scene of Tamarindo.







But more than just maintaining a space with fun events, we want to create a culture of opportunity. We envision this place being filled with english and spanish lessons, art classes, CPR training, school tutoring, job skills training, etc.

Terraza will be a place where young people can come take advantage of fun and opportunities. But above all, we want to create a culture of GIVERS. No matter your culture, race, or age, every person has something to offer. We want to discover strengths, build relationships with each other and in our community, develop leaders, and discover how we can serve our peers and our community. At Terraza, we want to have fun, dream big, love people, and do hard things.

















Bingo Night!













Some art at Terraza done by “Spam,” a 17 year old local ‘anonymous’ tagger.

Quick story behind this art: A lot of tagging goes on in Tamarindo. “SPAM” is EVERYWHERE! It never bothered me until Spam tagged a brand new basketball backboard that someone had put up in the park. After some friends and I spent an hour scrubbing it off with paint thinner, I posted a picture of it on my instagram story saying, “If anyone knows who Spam is, please tell him to quit ruining nice things, and if he wants to show off his talent, I have a wonderful space that could use some art. I’ll even supply the paint!”

My message got to Spam. And he replied with some rude teenage comments. After a week of conversation about vandalism vs. art, prices of paint, and wanting to stay anonymous, I convinced him that no paint price was too high because I think he’s worth the investment. He said he’d paint me something if I paid him in sushi and extra cans of paint.

After \$100 in paint, \$30 in sushi, more conversations about tagging, art, life, and future careers, we have Spam’s very first piece of paid art work in Terraza! He did say it was a little uneventful because the thrill of getting caught was not there haha.

I was amazed at his incredible skill and thanked him for his hard work.

He hugged me and said, “No...thank you.”



Moral of the story: Invest in young people. It can change the trajectory of their lives, and of our futures.  
No price is too high for that.



#DO MORE BE MORE