

People@KPMG

### Altruistic Traveler

Advisory Partner **Lori Greenawalt** is a self-described “experiential” traveler. She enjoys visiting third-world countries and tries to become familiar with the life and culture of the local people, even if that means spending time in areas without the basic comforts of home like electricity or running water. Her destinations have included Ethiopia, Vietnam, India, and Mali in West Africa.

But about six years ago, her adventures took an unexpected turn that changed her life – and the lives of scores of others. Three of her friends wanted to travel to a remote area of Peru with [Medical Ministry International](#), an organization that provides medical care to the world’s poor.

Her friends figured her experience made her the perfect travel companion for their trip. “They said, ‘We’ll go, if you go with us,’” Greenawalt recalls. “The first year I only went to shepherd my friends.”

Greenawalt is not in the medical field and she wondered what help she could offer. As it turned out, plenty. She rolled up her sleeves, and using the organizational skills learned as an accountant and business advisor, helped with the process of allowing the teams of doctors, surgeons, ophthalmologists, gynecologists, and dentists to treat more than 200 patients a day.

The next year, the lead doctor on the team asked if she would come again and help him set up a clinic in a different village. “I said, ‘Let me check with my medical friends,’ and he said, ‘No I’m asking you, I need someone to run my clinic.’”

She’s gone back almost every year since.



On her latest trip to Peru, Greenawalt sits with two clinic patients, one of whom just received new eyeglasses.



Greenawalt spent last New Year’s in Antarctica. Here she mingles with some of the local inhabitants.

When family illnesses forced her to put off some of her plans last year, “I knew something was missing. I needed to travel. I now know it’s a part of the fabric of my life,” she says.

So in December, she boarded an ice crusher and headed to Antarctica. For days, she and 52 others on the expedition observed icebergs, glaciers, and tens of thousands of penguins.

“It was spectacular,” she says. “We would sit on the boat each evening and just look at each other unable to speak. The experience was far superior to anything I had ever dreamed.”

What’s coming up next on her itinerary? Now that she has the cold-weather gear and clothing, her answer makes perfect sense: the Arctic.



Approved By Laura Marcy