

We are very excited to announce that we have 5 winners for the *AllPeopleBeHappy* Volunteer Service Award. AND THE WINNERS ARE:

## CAITLIN NEWMAN – VOLUNTEERING WITH AMIZADE

Caitlin is a graduate student in International Development at University of Pittsburgh.

In May 2009 she received a BS in Business Administration (Finance) and a BA in Religion from Susquehanna University.



Her volunteer experience includes being an Immigration Case Worker Intern and a Microfinance Intern. She has already spent time in Uganda and has learned basic Swahili.

Caitlin's assignment with Amizade will be to work with the Site Facilitator in Karagwe, Tanzania, a local translator, and the Executive Director of WOMEDA, Juma Masisi. Caitlin will do research for WOMEDA on how women can or might be able to more easily access land ownership in rural Karagwe (one idea that they are currently exploring is through shared farming plots). She will shadow the ED, meet with other women's rights NGOs doing work in the region, meet with women struggling to gain land rights, and submit a technical report to WOMEDA on the state of women and land ownership in rural Karagwe. Through this work, WOMEDA hopes it will be in a better position to pilot new projects and have the language necessary to apply for new sources of funding.

## ELLIE KATES – VOLUNTEERING WITH INDEGO AFRICA



Ellie graduated from University of Virginia with a BA in Political and Social Thought, minor in History in 2006.

Her pre-Indego Africa work experience includes a number of relevant positions including Program Designer/Coordinator for an organization that supports indigenous women and their families in Guatemala, AmeriCorps VISTA, New Farmer Development Project Associate, Online Marketing Researcher for an international women's development organization, and work with Diversity and Inclusion groups at global advertising and marketing services holding company.

Ellie has been working in Rwanda with Indego Africa since January. Her responsibilities have included product design and development, helping to improve and implement quality control strategies for partner cooperatives, assisting in the development of business skills training programs, finalizing Kinyarwanda literacy curricula, helping to launch a specialized introductory English program, and teaching English classes. She works directly with Indego's partner cooperatives and has formed relationships with them as well



as with Indego field staff. The grant will enable her to stay in Rwanda through the summer rather than returning in June. The extra time will give her the opportunity to continue developing and solidifying these programs and relationships. Summer projects will include introducing new design ideas into the Indego line and further developing existing products, working with Indego and US-based designers interested in employing Indego cooperatives to produce orders, working closely with Indego cooperatives to produce such orders, monitoring quality control, integrating quality control and product development into the business training program, and continuing to develop the Kinyarwanda literacy and English programs.

## JESSICA BILECKI VOLUNTEERING WITH THE KOSOYE PROJECT



B.S. Environmental Science. Towson University, Towson, MD, graduate credits from Antioch University, Yellow Springs, OH 2004, Permaculture Design Course, Worthington, OH, April 2008.

Jessica has been teaching gardening and has managed outdoor recreation centers. At her last school, in addition to teaching gardening and managing the schools gardens, she was responsible for providing food used in school meals.

Jessica began her project with Kossoye last winter. Her service project focuses mainly on transitioning the current garden at the health post to a true demonstration garden which illustrates agricultural methods outlined in the gardening manual distributed to all Community Health Workers and Kossoye students. The manual will be a more powerful tool if there is at least one place people can visit to see what is discussed in the manual. The demonstration garden will also be a way of reaching mothers or farmers who might be illiterate and are unable to read the manual. Her proposal includes very detailed plans and schedules for how this project will be implemented. She will be managing the project remotely through the growing season and will return to Ethiopia in December. Since December is not during prime growing season, it will be a good time to host workshops. The first workshop will be offered at the demonstration garden for all twelve Community Health Workers. They will discuss the new garden design and apply knowledge by doing hands on activities in the garden. Following this, Jessica will help Health Workers plan their own workshops, and then assist them in facilitating a workshop in their work areas. This is a way to empower the Health Workers, citizens of Kossoye, to teach others, and enable those living further away from the demonstration garden an opportunity to learn key gardening concepts.



## HUAN DONG – SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CHANGE



**BA - UC Berkeley, Integrative Biology – December 2007**

**BA - UC Berkeley, Theatre & Performance Studies – December 2007**

Since graduating from college, Huan has been working in both the medical field and the theater arts arena. He has experience working with Kaiser Permanente in bringing health education through the medium of theater. His volunteer experience is fairly extensive including working in a men's free clinic and in dance and theater groups, as well as Vietnamese organizations. In 2006, he taught English in Viet Nam as a volunteer. His goal is to go to medical school and ultimately improve the health of entire communities.

SIC volunteers go into rural communities as part of SIC's awareness campaign in order to teach HIV/AIDs prevention techniques and educate both children and adults regarding facts about transmission. They often have to overcome both social stigma and language difficulties. The volunteers live with local families and are often required to walk miles each day. Huan's background in theater and dance could prove to be a useful tool in communicating SIC's message.

## LAURA REYES – SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CHANGE



Laura expects to receive her BSN (Nursing) from the University of Arizona in Spring 2011.

Laura has extensive volunteer experience in both the healthcare field and as a tutor. She has spent time teaching kindergarteners and visiting an elderly dementia patient in Hospice, playing piano and sharing memories. Her experience working with a broad age group should come in handy in Tanzania.

SIC volunteers go into rural African communities as part of SIC's awareness campaign in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. SIC volunteers apply and adapt teachings which educate both children and adult populations. The program focuses on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, as well as teaching those who are already affected. Volunteers face the challenge of effectively presenting information amongst the social stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and cultural barriers. SIC also advocates testing and mobilizing access to treatment. The volunteers live with local families and are often required to walk miles each day in between villages. Laura believes the experience in Tanzania will better prepare her in her nursing career to work effectively with a diverse community.