

2011 Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Clark Alves, Elaine Andres, Michelle Boros, and Nicole Vanessa Teran volunteered with **Support for International Change (SIC)** to support its mission to limit the impact of HIV/AIDS in underserved communities and to train future leaders in global health and development. These volunteers spent months preparing for their assignments, and spent additional time



in Tanzania, along with other international volunteers and Tanzanian college students undergoing intensive training before moving in with their host families in rural communities near Arusha. During their time in their home villages they taught reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention in both formal and informal settings, encourage residents to participate in HIV/AIDS testing opportunities, and helped reduce the stigma and enhance the acceptance of community members living with HIV/AIDS. Living in these rural communities, with no running



water or electricity was challenging, but by immersing themselves as members of the community these individuals had far more positive impacts on the lives of the people that they encountered than they will ever know. Chances are that their experiences in Tanzania will also have a lifelong and profound impact on the lives and futures of these young volunteers.

In the winter of 2010/2011, **Robert Fredrickson** participated in an **Amizade** program to build a library and computer center in Jukwa, Ghana. Toward the end of this program he theorized that



the addition of a digital projector, screen, and accompanying laptop would enhance training opportunities and could also be used to bring income to the center during non-business hours since there are no movie theaters in the area. He returned in the summer of 2011, to turn his idea into reality. After delivering the projector, he trained teachers and library staff on how to use it, and work with community members to continue generating ideas. Portions of the *AllPeopleBeHappy* funds went into electrical work needed to

complete the computer room, employing a local carpenter to build a table for the projector, paying for on-the ground transportation, and compensating his host family for their hospitality during his stay. After the projector was installed, he made a PowerPoint presentation on “the Internet and its uses,” presenting it to a classroom full of high school students who had never been online before. He was also able to purchase educational DVDs with lessons in math, science and history. In addition, on his final weekend in town, he held the library’s first movie

screening, showing a Discovery Channel wildlife program to a room of over a hundred awe-inspired children.



Nicole Kennerly spent her summer working with **Ghana Act** which runs a traveling eye clinic that visits local villages with little or no access to healthcare. On these trips, rural communities have free access to eye care, including general eye health, vision, and preventable blindness. She traveled to many villages where she took patient vitals and distributed supplies. On days the eye clinic didn't take outreach trips, she volunteered to teach the sixth grade at a small school in a rural farming village called Saviefe Deme. The title she chose for report says it all, "Lessons from the Unexpected in Volunteering: Taking Opportunities, Taking Time."

Alex Blake volunteered in Uganda beginning in March 2011 with **Global Emergency Care Collaborative**, establishing and piloting a training program that lays the groundwork for an informal system of pre-hospital emergency medical services in rural communities. The *AllPeopleBeHappy* Volunteer Service Award grant enabled him to extend his stay by several



months and to complete his project. The initial phase was assessment, giving local stakeholders an opportunity to weigh in on the best approach to the development of pre-hospital emergency services. Local stakeholders felt strongly that educating the lay community on how to recognize an emergency and where to seek help would be more impactful than teaching first aid that only addressed trauma. To address this challenge Alex partnered with the Nyakibale Nursing School to conduct structured

interviews with groups of lay community members. They compiled a list of danger signs using organization data on the locally most prevalent emergent conditions, things like malaria and pneumonia. Seven interviews took place, each with groups of about thirty adults. This enabled them to compile a list of meanings commonly assigned to each danger sign and the courses of action most commonly taken under such circumstances. Henceforth, these learning will be given as workshops by hospital personnel.



Molly Oshun volunteered as a project leader for **Global Student Embassy's** 6-week sustainable agriculture and youth leadership program in Ecuador. This was her 2nd summer volunteering with GSE in Ecuador. The projects undertaken were 1) ongoing stewardship of the GSE reforestation site at La Punta Gorda preserve just south of Bahía de Caraquez, 2) expansion of the organic garden site at Fanny de Baird High School in the town of Leonidas Plaza, and 3) establishment of a new organic garden site and associated student group in Tos Agua, a largely agricultural community inland from Bahía. In

addition, she worked on the personal development of the students through cultural exchange, language practice and reflection activities.

Crissy Vicendese had been working as an intern with **Indego Africa** in New York for over a year, before she spent 3 months in Rwanda furthering the development of new products and quality control systems at Indego Africa's partner cooperatives. In her own words, Crissy's accomplishments by the numbers:



- 87 days spent in Rwanda
- 3 newly engaged artisan groups.
- 90 purchase orders and prototype
- 12 new products added to the Indego Africa product line
- 4,490 scarves knit for the largest commercial knitwear order ever from Rwanda
- 2 new retail partners who ordered 12,623 units for Spring/Summer 2012