

Fall 2013 Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Elizabeth Nicole Teal has been volunteering with **Manna Project International** in Nicaragua since April 2013, with plans to return to the US in April 2014. In addition to a number of other responsibilities as a Program Director, her biggest responsibility is managing a new health initiative in Cedro Galan. The initiative is holistically addressing disease through a primary care clinic. As part of a prior internship with MPI she discovered that the community had no access to quality, dependable health care. After returning to medical school at the University of South Florida, she convinced them to partner with her to address the issue. She is taking a year off to oversee this project.

Gregory Wahler has been volunteering in Ecuador as a Program Director with **Manna Project International** since July 2013, and plans to return to US in August 2014. He is working with ten other young persons from all over the United States. They work in three communities in the Chillos Valley outside of Quito. Programs include small business development (microfinance), sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and multiple preventative health and wellness courses, as well as English language classes for both children and adults. In addition to those programs, they manage a community center where children can use the Internet, work on art projects, read Spanish and English books, and receive homework help.



Joel Aftreth and **Rebecca Miller** are volunteering together in Nicaragua with **Green Empowerment**, and each received a Volunteer Service Award. They chose to work with Green Empowerment because of how they partner with in-country NGOs, use simple and effective technologies to reduce poverty and protect the environment, and seek to train people instead of merely provide for them. As a team, they work on renewable energy, clean water, and sustainable agriculture projects with communities in the Boaco region of central Nicaragua. They have been working in Nicaragua since mid-January and plan to return to the US in mid-December 2013.



Matthew Flemming has been volunteering with **Nyaya Health** as an Implementation Science Research Assistant (ISRA). He has been working at Bayalpata Hospital (BH) in rural Achham, Nepal, since August 2013, and plans to return to the US in March 2014 to complete his medical studies at Boston University. Nyaya Health operates BH as a public private partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal. BH delivers many services through its award winning clinical and Female Community Health Worker (FCHW) systems and one of Matthew's goals is to collect data as evidence to demonstrate how Nyaya Health and BH is accomplishing its service delivery goals.



Rebecca Gailey will be volunteering with **Amizade** in Karagwe, Tanzania from mid-November 2013 through mid-January 2014. She will be implementing the Ota Initiative, a new program



she helped design while volunteering with Amizade in Karagwe last Spring. It will consist of arts and science programs offered during major school breaks. The goal is to give students the opportunity to build creative and critical thinking skills.

Robel Haile will be going to Gondar, Ethiopia in late December to build a school. He plans to return in April 2014, but can stay through July if it becomes necessary. As a student at UC



Davis, Robel started a student organization called Bottles for Poverty to raise the funds needed to build the school. They collected recyclables (cans, glass bottles and water bottles) from the Davis community to exchange them for their California redemption value. In addition, they partnered with several local businesses to hold fundraisers to help reach their goal of \$24,600. Robel's inspiration was Dr. Rick Hodes, medical director for the Jewish Distribution Committee who has spent over two decades caring for the less fortunate in Ethiopia. **The Jewish Distribution**

Committee will also be the fiscal sponsor for this project.