

Spring 2013 Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Brittany Barb has been volunteering in New York with **Indego Africa** for over a year, developing and expanding their brand, helping with marketing and communication strategies through design and photography. Traveling to Rwanda this summer would enable her to focus on generating new photographs, video footage, and other imageries, which is collectively a crucial next step in sharing not only Indego Africa's story, but the story of the 500+ women they aim to empower every day.

In 2013, the **Kossoye Development Project (KDP)** will be focusing on promoting small, intensive 5x5 step (approximately 100 square feet) kitchen garden plots using sustainable methods in Ethiopia. **Kat Christen** has been working for months on the design of these small gardens. In May, Kat will be traveling to Ethiopia to teach gardening, assist in the building of demonstration gardens, distribute seeds, and collect information on soil quality and climate appropriate plants. Once she returns home, Kat will continue to consult with KDP and promote opportunities for collaboration with students at Antioch College where she is the organic farmer.



Two of our Volunteer Service Award recipients will be volunteering with **Support for International Change (SIC)**, **Madeleine Smith** from the University of Massachusetts and **Maggie McWithey** from the University of Arizona. SIC aims to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS by educating and working with communities in rural Tanzania while shaping its volunteers as leaders.

Volunteers spend 8 weeks in Tanzania, beginning with an intensive, expert-led orientation. Following orientation, volunteers move into a "homestay" with a host Tanzanian family. Their primary assignment is to run an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign within their partner community. The majority of their time will be spent teaching, lesson planning, and training peer educators.



For the first time, two **GlobeMed** interns will be receiving Volunteer Service Awards.



GlobeMed is a student run organization that has brought together students at over 50 universities around the US with a common purpose, to help spread awareness about global health inequity and work to relieve health disparities in developing countries. The two VSA recipients are from chapters on opposite sides of the country, but each will be traveling to Uganda this summer. **Gabriela Feliu-Markiewicz** is with the Northeastern

chapter. She will be working with Kitovu Mobile AIDS Clinic in Masaka, Uganda. **Juliette Brown** is with the UCLA chapter, and she will be working the Nwoya Youth Center in Anaka, Uganda, which is a branch of a larger NGO, Straight Talk Foundation.



Flannery McArdle is graduating from Carleton College in June and will spend her summer working in Rwanda as a research intern under the supervision of the Minister of Health of Rwanda, seconded to the HIV/AIDS Unit in the Rwanda Biomedical Center. The Ministry of Health and the Biomedical Center work together to promote quality, affordable and sustainable health care services to the entire population of Rwanda through innovative evidence-based interventions and practices. Last summer, Flannery raised \$8,000 for FaceAIDS while biking across the country on the FaceAIDS Ride Against AIDS. **FaceAids** is Flannery's fiscal sponsor for this award.



Manna Project International (MPI) is an organization that connects recent college graduates with international service opportunities to collectively apply their passions and education through service to communities in need. MPI strives to alleviate poverty and improve quality of



life with a focus on holistic and community led development. The two MPI Volunteer Service Award recipients will each be spending 13 months with MPI. **Sara Shusterman** will be working with a team of about 10 in Managua, Nicaragua, to respond to the needs of the community through education, health, sports, and environmental programs. She will be leading health related programs, such as nutrition, sex and reproductive education, aiding the opening

of a new medical clinic, and leading a new parasite and anemia initiative. **Catharine (Cate) Parker** will be working with the communities Rumiloma, Tena and San Francisco, Ecuador to improve access and quality of basic educational, medical, and recreational resources. Her team will work alongside locals and other community organizations to improve the overall standard of living in the communities in which they serve through an asset-based community development approach. The goal is to empower community members, strengthen existing institutions, and build networks among individuals and local institutions.



Sue Ron-Gonzalez contacted us prior to applying, asking if the Volunteer Service Award has an age restriction. The answer is yes, one has to be at least 18. That wasn't a problem for Sue. She is an experienced teacher, someone who would be referred to as a "seasoned professional" in the corporate world. This summer, Sue will be returning to Bantuma School in Elmina, Ghana, a school she visited 3 years ago, to implement a girls club. The girls will learn about powerful women in history, will participate in various learning activities (based on the research of



successful African girls clubs), including health and hygiene, pregnancy prevention, money management, safety and peer pressure. All of these lessons will help the girls build important assets as they continue their journey of becoming empowered young women. She will leave behind a curriculum binder with other staff so the club can continue after she leaves. Sue's sponsor is

Tomorrow's Stars, a small organization whose mission is to make education possible for youths of Elmina.