



12<sup>th</sup> Issue April 2011

*Building a world where all people can be happy*

The Foundation hosted two events since our last newsletter; one in Portland, Oregon in late February, and the other in Houston, Texas in early April. In both events, we were able to hear from people who made the projects funded by *AllPeopleBeHappy* work. A big thank you to Justin Hanseth who joined us in Portland and told us about his year working in Burundi with Village Health Works, and Brandon Blache-Cohen, Executive Director of Amizade, and Matt Mitro, Founder and President of Indego Africa who joined us in Houston. Unfortunately, the supporters of the Foundation are so geographically diverse that it is impossible to include all of you in these events. Though nothing beats that personal touch, check out our website [www.allpeoplebehappy.org](http://www.allpeoplebehappy.org) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/AllPeopleBeHappy](http://www.facebook.com/AllPeopleBeHappy) for pictures and videos.

## New and Renewed Grants

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year **Indego Africa** received a \$10,000 grant for their Hand Up program. Indego Africa works with women's artisan cooperatives in Rwanda, pays fair trade value for



their work, and markets their products in the US. A recent impact report shows truly remarkable improvements in the quality of life for these women and their families. The Hand Up program is designed to enable the women to become independent business women and includes basic literacy skills, business English, bookkeeping and computer literacy, as well as sophisticated entrepreneurship and small business concepts such as micro-finance preparedness, strategic sourcing and supply chain management, import/export

and customs logistics, governmental regulatory compliance, market research and analysis, and intellectual property rights. In 2011, the *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant will be used to begin the Hand Up program in two additional cooperatives.

**The Kossoye Project** also is receiving its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive \$10,000 grant. By working through the schools, the *AllPeopleBeHappy* grants have been used to initiate a household vegetable garden program in the 9000 person Kossoye region of Ethiopia. Two years into this effort, household vegetable gardening has become established practice for 25% of the households.

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Children and their mothers have become the primary gardeners and managers of the overall process. Garden produce is used for family sustenance and as a major cash income source, especially for teenagers and women. Important progress is being made in local production of seeds which should make family gardening self-sustaining in the next few years. In 2011, the *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant will be used to expand the program into neighboring communities. Other communities have indicated strong interest in replicating the household gardening activities and significant diffusion and replication in many rural areas of the Amhara region is anticipated. In addition, a faculty member at the University of Gondar has initiated efforts to develop a demonstration vegetable garden on the university campus and is supervising the new teaching garden at a nearby school. Further possibilities for collaboration with undergraduate and graduate programs are being explored.



For many years, Nepal has had one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in Asia. **Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation**, for the past 3 years, has provided assistance for salaries of five nurse-midwives in four rural clinics in Nepal, and for in-service training and transportation



expenses for the nurse-midwives. With the \$5,000 grant in 2010, Friends has 1) added 3 nurse-midwives to 3 of the clinics so to allow for 24-hour birthing service, and 2) upgraded the in-patient delivery facilities in one of the clinic. Each nurse-midwife provides reproductive health services to an average of 1400 persons per year, so the addition of 3 nurse-midwives strongly impacts the community. The 2011 grant will pay for the nurses' salaries for an additional year. The additional fund will also enable the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthing center to

complete improvements to its infrastructure. It is anticipated that by July, 2011, all 3 of the birthing center will receive government certification as well as government funding to help sustain their services.

**Maya Nut Institute**, formerly known as The Equilibrium Fund, received a new grant of \$4,800. The Maya Nut tree is native to the rain forest, is virtually draught resistant, and produces a highly nutritious nut. Processing and cooking with Maya Nut flour is an inexpensive, effective, and tasty way to improve nutrition. The 2011 *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant will be used in Honduras to train women in the districts of Choluteca, Lempira and Copan to produce, consume and market Maya Nut and to facilitate the planting of 25,500 Maya Nut trees to protect the watersheds and augment family food production and food security. These districts have a high rate of child malnutrition and mortality. The Maya Nut program is a long-term, sustainable solution to these problems as well as problems of environmental degradation, deforestation, marginalization of women, food insecurity and poverty.



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