



20th Issue – April, 2013

Building a world where all people can be happy

Spring is a time for growth and renewal, a theme which resonates with the Foundation. In addition to renewing grants to 3 of our long-time partners, we are beginning what we hope will be a fruitful relationship with MyAgro and the farmers they work with in Mali. We weeded through many applications to select 10 recipients of the Spring/Summer Volunteer Service Award grants. Finally, in an effort to expand our impact, we will be announcing the availability of *AllPeopleBeHappy* Challenge Grants as well as the *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellows program in the coming months.

Renewed Grants

Through the work of the *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation's 2012 Volunteer Service Award recipient, Chloe Guss, **Indego Africa** began improving cohesion, goal-setting, raw material inventory management, record-keeping, and productivity at Rwanda's Ejo Hazaza women's cooperative. In addition, Indego Africa trained the women of Ejo Hazaza in a new, complicated bead-loom skill in connection with orders placed by designer Jill Golden. Indego Africa is currently working to increase global market access for Ejo Hazaza so that each woman can consistently meet her and her families' basic economic needs over the next year. Combining this income-generation activity with the basic literacy and business management skills training funded by the *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation grant will catalyze secure and sustainable livelihoods for each of the women of Ejo Hazaza.



We began working with **Village Health Works (VHW)** in 2009, supporting the food security program associated with their hospital in Kigutu, Burundi. We have continued our support of VHW as they have grown their support of the community. Beginning in 2012, our grants are being used to enhance education opportunities for primary school students in the area. In addition to providing supplies, our funds have been used for teacher training and after school programs. With the goal of improving student enthusiasm, engagement, and performance, our 2013 grant will be used to continue the on-going programs as well as expand the after-school programs.



Our final grant renewal was to **The Kossoye Project** for the expansion of their kitchen gardening program. Prior grants have enabled the creation of a seed bank and expansion of the seed distribution and "great gardeners" training programs. A portion of each *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant has also been used to fund on-going research into the effectiveness of this approach. A

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preliminary report indicates that efforts to promote household gardening are making a difference. Analysis of height and weight for 900 children in the Kossoye district over a 2 year period indicates that girls from households with kitchen gardens were an inch taller than girls without gardens. Based on this measurable success of the program, the University of Gondar has asked The Kossoye Project to “scale up” so that similar programs can be delivered to other communities in the region. The *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant will help enable this expansion.



New Grant

MyAgro works with farmers in southern Mali, teaching farming techniques to help improve their crop yield, which in turn will enhance their income and standard of living. The \$10,000 *AllPeopleBeHappy* grant will be used to create a permanent loan fund. Using an innovative micro-financing technique, the farmers can use the micro-dosing seeding and fertilizing machines provided by myAgro while saving for the purchase “little-by-little.” These “semoir” will enable the farmers to farm more acreage with less manual labor. Most importantly,



experience has shown that the extra income is usually used to pay for school fees, so their children no longer have to miss school due to lack of funds. Experience has also shown that the repayment rates of these loans is close to 100%, so over time the permanent loan fund will help thousands of farmers and their children.

2013 Spring/Summer Volunteer Service Award Grants

The 10 awardees represent 7 organizations, some familiar and some new to us. They will be working in 7 countries. As always, we wish them well as they embark on their journeys and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments.

Name	Organization	Country
Flannery McArdle	FaceAids/Ministry of Health	Rwanda
Gabriela Feliu-Markiewicz	GlobeMed	Uganda
Juliette Brown	GlobeMed	Uganda
Brittany Barb	Indego Africa	Rwanda
Kate Christen	Kossoye	Ethiopia
Catharine Parker	Manna International Project	Ecuador
Sara Shusterman	Manna International Project	Nicaragua
Madeleine Smith	Support for International Change	Tanzania
Maggie McWithey	Support for International Change	Tanzania
Sue Ron-Gonzalez	Tomorrow's Stars	Ghana

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