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Building a world where all people can be happy

Project Grant Renewals

The **Kossoye Project** is a longtime partner working in Ethiopia that, among other goals, is teaching people about the best ways to grow nutritious food in small “kitchen gardens.” Sometimes the best way to measure success is to see outcomes that were not planned. As they revealed in a recent newsletter article, “Household gardening is spreading among urban people in the city of Gondar who are very poor and in constant need of nutritious food. These include



“street children” who could not be supported by their families in the countryside and were forced to go to the city of Gondar to beg and scavenge for food. The leader of a local non-governmental organization heard about our program and requested seeds and training for 120 street kids they rescued from miserable street lives. We provided seeds and training so each child has her or his own garden at the shelter where they live. Very recently 28 single mothers, who were

begging in the streets, were given small plots of land, and, with our training and seeds, began to grow vegetables. Planned? No! Highly valuable? Without a doubt!” In the past our funds were used to purchase seeds and tools for elementary school children, print gardening manuals, and establish seed banks. Over the years the program has grown significantly thanks in part to the strengthening partnership with the University of Gondar. We are proud to continue our support of Kossoye Project with another \$10,000 grant. It will be used to deliver nutrition and gardening workshops targeted at teachers and students during the school year. A small portion of the grant will also be used for innovation in seed production.

Village Health Works (VHW), also a long time partner of the *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation, operates a medical clinic in rural Burundi. For those who have been following our partnership, you may remember that our original grants helped VHW develop their food security program, teaching people how to grow and prepare nutritious food. Two years ago we were asked if we could help initiate an education improvement program, and this April we awarded our 3rd \$10,000 Project Grant for this education program. The program includes teacher training, after

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school tutoring, and needed supplies. This support ultimately is intended to improve the outcomes for students taking the exams at the end of 6th grade which will determine whether they will qualify to enter secondary schools. There have been a lot of lessons learned as a result of these efforts. The most obvious is that students shouldn't be expected to catch up with



everything they missed during the year leading up to the exam, and teachers who don't have the necessary background can't adequately teach what they themselves don't know. Without abandoning the current 6th grade students, tutoring and lesson plan enhancements were started in earlier grades. More importantly perhaps, teachers with the necessary background are being brought in from other parts of Burundi to improve the outcomes of

the current program. Specifically, in 2014, this program will focus and deepen VHW's education efforts in 8 primary schools in the Kigutu catchment area. In addition to this program funded by *AllPeopleBeHappy*, Village Health Works has also begun working with UNICEF to establish pre-schools in the area. The long term solution to subpar educational outcomes is to make sure that children are prepared at an early age to take full advantage of educational opportunities as they progress through an academically challenging school system.

New Project Grants

We recently approved the second *AllPeopleBeHappy* Project Grant to **Spark MicroGrants**. Spark has a wonderful business model: it assists rural villagers in the design, implementation and management of their own social impact projects such as schools, health centers and farms. Spark uses local university graduates to engage rural communities in a five month proposal development process, and requires the communities to commit their own resources before funds are granted. During 2012-2013, our first Project Grant of \$8,725 was used to purchase 185 goats for families in the Gahunga community in Rwanda. The funds generated by the goats were used to build a second water-tap for the community. This second grant of \$9,270 will be used to build a community crops storehouse for the village of Nyamusanze with 156 households in northern Rwanda.

Mercado Global provides business development support and connects artisan cooperatives in rural Guatemala to sales opportunities in the US. The organization currently provides fair wage income to over 300 indigenous women in 31 cooperatives and their 2,100 dependents. A \$10,000 Project Grant from *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation awarded earlier this year is being used to provide business and health education training to the existing co-op members. The business development curriculum covers training geared towards running successful community business and small enterprises. The health component offers training sessions on sanitation and hygiene, occupational and mental health, nutrition, and reproductive health.

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