



26<sup>th</sup> Issue – November 2014

*Building a world where all people can be happy*

These days we hear a lot about Ebola, and though we are leaving the funding for this crisis to the foundations with much deeper pockets, *AllPeopleBeHappy* will continue to support people and communities working to reduce the risk of both this dreaded disease as well as the many preventable problems that continue to unnecessarily kill or harm hundreds of millions of people living in the Developing World. The sustainable solutions we continue to invest in include the availability of nutritious food and clean water, health care, and education. Over the years we have invested in many successful programs and the people who make them work. We are dedicating this newsletter to the many volunteers working tirelessly toward the day when All People have the opportunity to Be Happy.

## Update from Liberia



Vidiya Sathananthan was awarded a Volunteer Service Award last May for a yearlong commitment with **Last Mile Health**. Like several other VSA recipients, Vidiya has been volunteering with Last Mile Health for some time and was offered a salaried position with them shortly before leaving for Liberia in June. Her job was to evaluate and measure the impact of the supported health care programs, pinpoint challenges to care, and create solutions to improve clinical design and implementation. She was

just beginning her work when the Ebola outbreak became more serious and she and her team were evacuated to the U.S. That however is not the end of Vidiya's report. "When it became clear that Last Mile Health had a significant role to play in the Ebola outbreak, my work significantly shifted to focus on the program design of our community level Ebola intervention, specifically on data collection, community needs assessments, and the design of other evaluations to ensure that our intervention is as effective and safe as it can be. I returned to Liberia in late September and have since continued to work on our Ebola intervention." If you are interested in following Vidiya's work in Liberia, we will be publishing updates from our VSA volunteers as we receive them in our blogs. To subscribe to our blog, go to our website at [www.allpeoplebehappy.org](http://www.allpeoplebehappy.org) and enter your e-mail address.

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## Fall 2014 Volunteer Service Awards

We are pleased to announce the 7 new Volunteer Service Award grant recipients:



Lady Carolina Tavárez Varela is currently volunteering with **Ann Prepare Lavni, Inc.** (APL) in Haiti. Carolina, along with APL, have been working with a primary school in Anse-a-pitres, Haiti (Hispaniola's smallest border city). The government has donated land and Carolina has returned to Haiti to help build the town's first library since 2012.



Amelia Hulbert is a Volunteer Program Director in the Chillos Valley of Ecuador as part of a 13 month commitment with **Manna Project International** (MPI). Her goals are to expand MPI's programs to include childhood nutrition programs in the Fajardo community and a micro-finance program in the Miranda community.



Mary Grace Hamme with **Visions Global Empowerment** will be working with the deaf community in Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Region, Ethiopia on Deaf Education and Empowerment. In addition to participating in the training, she will be analyzing the impact of the programs and advising on how to adjust the curriculum to better meet the needs of the students and the community.



Kara McMahon is spending a year in Granada, Nicaragua with **Futbol Sin Fronteras**, also known as **Soccer Without Borders**. They are a youth development organization that enables girls to learn and grow by providing soccer instruction, teambuilding activities, educational opportunities, and health workshops to combat poverty.



Helena Lane is spending a year with **2Seeds Network** as a Project Coordinator (PC) for the Bombo Majimoto Project in rural Tanzania. She and her fellow PC individualize training focused on leadership building, accountability, and basic finance. They are encouraging their partner organizations to build networks and find new buyers so that they have more self-sustainable group sales.



Dana Hanley is spending 13 months with **Manna Project International** (MPI) in Villa Guadalupe, Nicaragua where she is project lead for a women's jewelry cooperative and helping to administer weekly classes for the women in mathematics, computer literacy, and empowerment. She is also helping to run a children's nutrition program, and teaching about girl's sexual health in a local public school.



Sydney McKenney is working with **Manna Project International** (MPI) for 13 month in Valle de Los Chillos, Ecuador. In addition to teaching adult English classes, she works with MPI's preventative health program in trying to raise awareness about Ecuador's major health issues, such as diabetes, and sexual education. She is also helping with the art programs and teaching nutrition classes to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

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