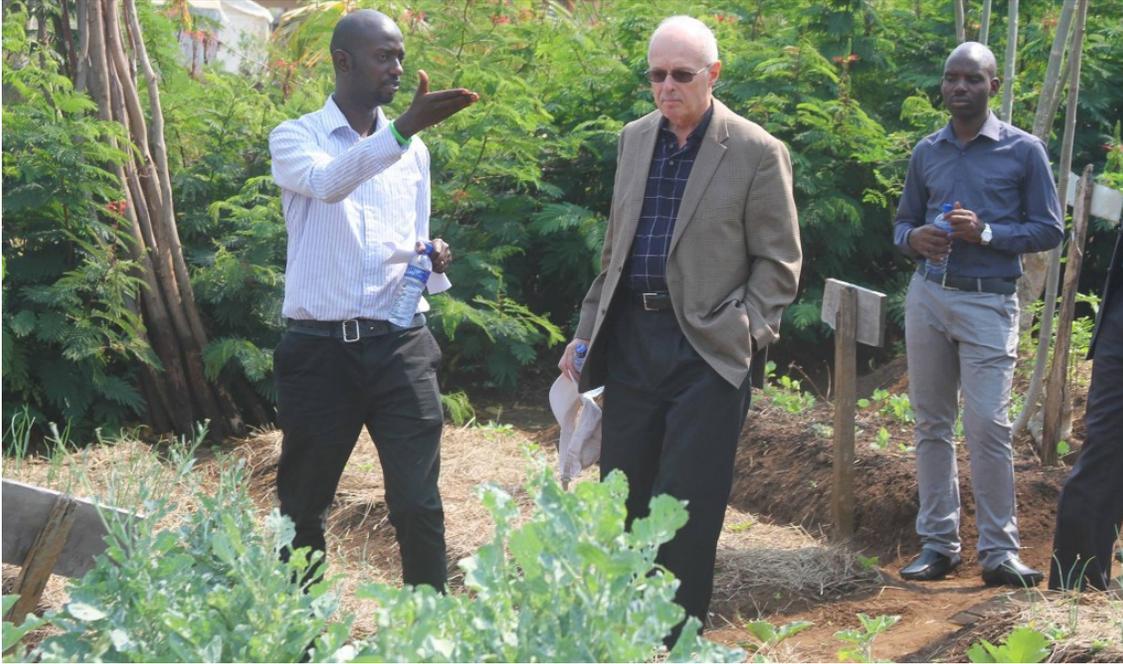




New Grants

At the very end of 2008, **Village Health Works** received its 1st *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation grant to help initiate its food security program. The funds were used for the basics; to buy supplies, including simple tools like hammers to help them build demonstration gardens, and uniforms for the agricultural extension agents who were being trained to run the program. Now, after several years of funding a program to help improve the local schools, we have once again been asked to support the food security program. In the years since our 1st grant the program has thrived. The agriculture program now supports 30 farming cooperatives, and 50 household gardens in the catchment area. The program also supports on-site demonstration gardens, livestock distributions, nutrition education, and the training of agricultural extension agents. This program has achieved remarkable results. It has also become a proof point for the holistic model, whereby the food produced onsite feeds all of the inpatients in its clinic, which in turn enables them to be better nourished and allow for quicker rates of recovery. We are confident that our latest \$10,000 grant will enable Village Health Works to exceed their goal of becoming a center of excellence and to be Burundi's premiere teaching organization for community-driven health, education, agriculture, and livelihood skills development.

The picture below is of US Ambassador Robert Whitehead touring the demonstration garden.



Earlier this year, Sam Schlesinger, working for **Green Empowerment** in Ecuador, was awarded an *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellow's grant. Among his goals was to expand Green Empowerment programming in South America and to help raise additional funds for those expanded programs. So it was no surprise that Sam reached out to us to help fund a much needed effort.

“In the immediate aftermath of Ecuador’s deadly April 16, 2016 earthquake, humanitarian aid has focused on short-term livelihood and housing needs, with government, international, and NGO efforts focused on urban and peri-urban areas with dense populations and relatively simple logistics. In hard-hit Esmeraldas Province, the basic needs of isolated rural communities, many of which long predate the quake, have been lost in the shuffle... In partnership with the ALTROPICO Foundation and the communities themselves, Green Empowerment proposes to respond to the most pressing needs identified by quake-affected rural communities in southern Esmeraldas – potable water and basic sanitation. Approximately 900 residents of four communities will benefit from this effort...” Green Empowerment was awarded a \$10,000 grant for the building of centralized water systems using shallow borehole wells, concrete tank foundations, HDPE tanks with biosand filtration, and public tapstands. This will result in 8 taps for San Salvador, 4 taps for Balzar, 6 taps for Mono Manso, and 7 taps for San Jose. The sanitation effort will result in the building of multiple composting latrines.



Editorial

Hard to believe that it has been more than 8 years since the *AllPeopleBeHappy* foundation was launched. The Board of Directors was, and still is, made up of folks who spent their careers working for large corporations; people with strong technical backgrounds and experience managing projects and contracts, but little experience with international development work. At first we relied on Eric's friends to tell us about small, grassroots supported organizations which could make effective use of our funds. After our 2nd or 3rd board meeting one of our directors worried aloud about what would happen once the stream of recommendations ran dry. Not long after that I received a message from a friend of a friend, letting me know that a friend of hers was developing a food security program for a fledgling organization in Burundi. That was the beginning of our long association with Village Health Works. It is also when we realized that as our circle of friends and supporters grew, so would the connections with organizations and people who do the hard work of enabling communities to find sustainable solutions to the root causes of their extreme poverty. Thanks to the many of you who have advised and supported the Foundation, there are people around the globe who know where their next meal is coming from, have safe drinking water, have health care available in their communities, and decent schools for their children. Though we take pride in what has been accomplished, we continue to press on knowing that there is so much more that needs to be done.

Barbara Tang

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