



30<sup>th</sup> Issue – November 2015

*Building a world where all people can be happy*

In light of the events of the past week, it is hard not to think about all that is wrong with our world. While we at the Foundation acknowledge that the problems of the world often seem insurmountable, we work at focusing on what we can do. Eric, the inspiration behind the Foundation once said, “the world’s greatest currency is friendship,” and what we have done is built on that wealth of friendship between people and communities in at least 31 countries in the developing world. Individuals and communities have been working together to eliminate the root causes of extreme poverty, to give once desperate people the ability to find happiness, and the knowledge that they have friends in every corner of the globe. So, as you prepare to sit down with family and friends to celebrate this Thanksgiving, remember to be grateful for the simple things that we lucky few tend to take for granted; clean water available from multiple taps throughout our homes, lights that can be turned on and off with the flick of a switch, climate controls, and of course, the availability of an abundance of nutritious food. In spite of all the less than perfect aspects of our lives, we still have a lot to be grateful for. As we head into the holiday season, please help us to continue the Foundation’s important work by donating today at <http://www.allpeoplebehappy.org/donate>.

## Challenge Grant Update

The Foundation tries to continually evaluate the best ways to help the communities and organizations we work with. In late 2013, we developed the idea for a potentially more impactful source of funding, the Challenge Grant. For our part we would provide up to \$100,000 over a 3 year period to help an organization make a significant expansion of their programs if the organization could obtain matching funds from other grant making organizations. One of the initial grant recipients is **Indego Africa**. They work with women artisan groups in Rwanda, helping them find markets for their products, but perhaps more importantly, giving the women the education they need to truly become independent entrepreneurs. Indego Africa planned to use the funds to spread their program to another country



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in Africa. We are proud of their efforts, and beginning in January 2016, they will be officially launching their programs in Ghana. Earlier this month Louisa Owusuaa Adu was hired as the Country Director for Indego Africa Ghana. The Foundation is not the only organization which has been impressed by their efforts, several other major funding organizations have also awarded sizable grants to the organization, at least in part, in response to the *AllPeopleBeHappy* challenge. At the end of this year Indego Africa will receive the final \$30,000 installment of their Challenge Grant to help with the completion of the Ghana roll-out. Way to go Indego Africa!

## Fall 2015 Volunteer Service Award Recipients



**Domenique Ciavattone** has been working with **2Seeds Network** in rural Tanzania since September 2014 and plans to continue to volunteer until Summer 2016. She has previously received a Spring 2015 Volunteer Service Award. During her time in Tanzania, 2Seeds Network volunteers along with their community partners have worked on finding ways to take advantage of the areas fertile soil in spite of difficulties in getting produce to market. To that end they have built green houses and planted garlic, a more profitable and easier to transport crop. To help Domenique with her continuing expenses, she was awarded a supplemental Volunteer Service Award of

\$1,000.



**Andrew Curran** is also with **2Seeds Network**. He began working in the Usambara mountains of Tanzania in late August 2015 and plans to volunteer there until March 2016. While the Usambara mountains boast fertile soil and ample rainfall, local farmers face the many challenges of market access. The goal of Andrew's team is to sustainably improve production, coordination and access to markets for the member of the local farmers' group. Andrew received a \$1,500 Volunteer Service

Award.



**Jill Jahns**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fall 2015 Volunteer Service Award recipient from **2Seeds Network**, is working in Kijungumoto, Tanzania. She received a grant of \$2,500. She will be spending around 7 months in the community (August 2015 to March 2016) helping transition the established businesses (vegetable gardens and beekeeping) which have been in place since 2011, into truly independent, sustainable businesses that will continue to thrive once the 2Seeds Network project coordinators leave.

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**Kayla Sloan** will be spending just over a year (July 2015 to August 2016) volunteering with **Manna Project International** as one of the program directors assigned to communities near Managua, Nicaragua. Her responsibilities include directing a child sponsorship program, supporting the local public schools through a math support program, empowering local women through a women's jewelry cooperative, and fostering creativity in young children through an after school kid's program. Kayla received a grant of \$2,500.



**Melissa Picon** is a program director with **Manna Project International** volunteering for 13 months (July 2015 to August 2016) in Ecuador's Valle de los Chillos community, just an hour outside of Quito, Ecuador's capital. Manna Project International volunteer program managers live and work together to implement a variety of community development programs focused on improving health, education and livelihoods for communities in need. Manna Project International's work is built on the foundation of long-term commitment and earned trust. Melissa received a \$2,500 award.



**Tracy Lucas** is planning in January 2016, to begin her 7-month volunteer assignment with **Manna Project International** as a program director, also working in Ecuador's Valle de los Chillos community. She will be in charge of planning and running four programs - Small Business Development, Entrepreneurship Training, English Language, and Teen Center activities. She will use her business training and entrepreneurial experience to strengthen these programs. She was awarded a \$2,000 grant.