



23rd Issue – 16 January 2014

Building a world where all people can be happy

Happy New Year! To kick off the year we want to thank all of you who helped make our annual fundraising drive such a success. Our stretch goal was \$50,000, and we received \$49,408! We are confident that the programs, volunteers, and fellows that will receive these funds will provide an astonishing return on our investments.

As has become our practice, we are honoring Eric's memory by releasing the guidelines and schedule for the 2014 Volunteer Service Awards on his birthday (allpeoplebehappy.org). We look forward to hearing from many remarkable people who want to give of their time and talent to get us all closer to the world where all people have the opportunity to be happy.

December Events



Early in December, we had the pleasure of hosting Deogratias (Deo) Niyizonkiza, the founder of **Village Health Works** (VHW). Deo spoke at Rice University and participated on a panel on poverty at a Houston Grantmaker's Forum meeting. The Foundation awarded the first of 5 project grants to VHW in late 2008, after we were introduced to Justin Hanseth, a self-described "plant geek" who was on his way to Burundi to help begin VHW's food security program. Childhood malnutrition is a huge problem

in this small sub-Saharan African country recovering from years of war. Traditional treatment of malnutrition was to supply food supplements. That was a good short term solution, but malnutrition returned as soon as the supplements ran out. Deo knew that the long-term solution was for people to grow their own nutritious food. The demonstration garden that Justin designed has become a fixture right outside the hospital's door and agriculture workers are there to provide instructions and seeds to patients and their families. Deo reported that in the last two years VHWs hasn't seen any malnutrition cases in children living in the area surrounding their clinic. The food security program that started back in 2009 has grown to become the gold standard of sustainable programs.



AllPeopleBeHappy foundation can be reached at info@allpeoplebehappy.org or by mail at 1302 Waugh Drive, #257, Houston, TX 77019-3908

2013 Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Reports from our returning volunteers provide an interesting insight in what can be accomplished by individuals working with communities anxious to find sustainable solutions.



Kat Christen only spent two weeks on the ground in Ethiopia working for **Kossoye Development Project (KDP)**, but she spent months in preparation for her visit. “In March, I designed a 10x10 foot...demonstration backyard garden plot that we would later promote in the Wogera District in Ethiopia. Antioch College students, Andy Carlson, Director of the KDP, and I implemented the plot using appropriate techniques to Ethiopia. We planted a diversity of crops selected for their high nutrient content and ability to grow in the Wogera climate.

In May, I traveled to Ethiopia for two weeks. I met the Kossoye Leadership Team, who organized two weekends of gardening workshops. As a part of the weekends, I taught two workshops on Starting a Garden and Building Soil Fertility. Other teachers included Agriculture Faculty from the University of Gondar. Together we trained over 140 people! I was able to show a lot of pictures of our demonstration garden at Antioch College, as well as examples of our organic soil building methods. Participants were especially interested in our composting systems and methods for rotating chickens to improve soil fertility.”

Sue Ron Gonzalez, an experienced teacher in San Francisco, didn't fit the profile of many of our



volunteers. Her first question was whether we had an age limit for volunteers. We do, volunteers have to be at least 18. Once that issue was out of the way, she was awarded a VSA to support her work in Ghana with **Tomorrow's Stars**. “This summer I had an amazing opportunity...to launch the Adehye girls club in Elmina, Ghana. Adehye means “royal” in Fante. The name was chosen because we want the girls to take pride in their lives.” In her own words, Sue told us about the success of the project, but we also received validation from the founder of Tomorrow's Stars, “I was in Elmina checking on our projects in November and I am

pleased to inform you that the project is going well ...I am pleasantly surprised with the energy of the "Royals" and how Letitia is helping and guiding them as a mentor with school and problems and just growing up...I just wanted to thank you again and give you an update on a project that I admit that I underestimated. Good job by Sue and thanks to APBH for getting us started.”

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