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Newsletter Issue #42

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AllPeopleBeHappy

foundation

It is amazing how quickly 2018 is coming to an end. This year, the Foundation has already invested over \$200,000 via our challenge grant, project grants, volunteer service awards, fellow grants, and our new opportunity grant in organizations, people and communities actively working toward a world where all people can be happy. This is also the time of year when we ask you to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$100,000 by the end of the year. We hope that you will consider donating today at

<http://www.allpeoplebehappy.org/donate/> or sending a check to

AllPeopleBeHappy foundation, 1302 Waugh Drive, #257, Houston, TX 77019-3908.



Project Renewal

Since 2010, the Foundation has been providing funds for 4 nurse mid-wives, so **Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation** and their local partners can provide 24/7 coverage at their 4 clinics in rural Nepal. Our investment for this coming year is just over \$7,000. It is truly remarkable what this organization accomplishes: “Between July 2017 and June 30, 2018, four clinics provided the following services to 24,784 patients and clients: Total: 20,042. General health – 14,153; Reproductive health – 5,037; ANC – 686; Deliveries – 197; New contraceptive acceptors – 445 together with 407 continuing acceptors for a total of 852 (including IUD, Implant, Depo Provera, pills, and sterilization); Pregnancy tests - 919; Referrals including complicated deliveries, prenatal issues, infertility, reproductive tract Infections (RTIs), suspected cervix cancer, uterine prolapse, epilepsy, surgery, and general health – 747.”



Volunteer Service Awards

In 2018, the Foundation awarded 14 Volunteer Service Awards. These relatively small grants, ranging from \$1,000 to a maximum of \$2,500, are intended to help volunteers, many of whom spend a year in the developing world, with their expenses. What is accomplished often has a huge impact both on the communities where they worked, and on the volunteers themselves.

Returning 2017 Volunteer Service Award grant recipient, **Hillary Rodriguez**, volunteering with **The Chain Collaborative**, spent a number of years working in the U.S. in the coffee roasting industry. The plan for her time in Ecuador was to work with AMC, a women's coffee cooperative, to help members understand the tastes of consumers in the U.S. and how to prepare their crops to achieve the highest quality product, enabling them to sell for top dollar. As with all projects, not everything goes according to plan.

“Looking back on my time in Ecuador, I have accomplished what I expected to accomplish, but also overcame some unexpected challenges. The women of AMC had been really struggling with group dynamics when I first arrived, fueled by the fact that the construction of their Centro de Acopio had stalled and their relationship with the local project coordinator, Martha, was coming to an end. Taking over coordinating the building's construction was not what I expected to do when I applied for the volunteer award in 2017, but it ended up being a big part of my work here. By working together with AMC and respecting their democratic processes when it came to decision making around choosing a construction manager, I was able to help them

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This brings me to another unexpected issue. This year's coffee harvest was surprisingly tiny. The local farmers reported to us that the coffee cherries simply were not filling in the branches like they normally would, and our investigations verified these reports. In fact, most of Chaucha's crops had a very poor output this year, including things like bananas, which are a common companion crop to coffee. Together, we tackled this problem in the best way we could: by carefully processing as much coffee as possible in the Centro de Acopio while also focusing the majority of our time and energy on plans and actions to grow and sustain the group's profits over the medium- and long-term."

Hillary's very detailed report goes on to describe long term plans for the sustainability of AMC's business plan. "Finally, I made critical contributions to the nursery program, which will supply seedlings to the entire region of Chaucha for the upcoming growing season. I planned the trip to Loja, Ecuador to purchase seeds, where I was able to taste the seed varieties before purchase with Maria to verify their quality potential. I helped Maria to then coordinate the sowing of these seeds as well as prepare the sand beds for the seeds. Using all the resources at my disposal, I have also written a plan for Maria to bring together the critical elements of the nursery project moving forward: preparing the seedlings, the organic compost to plant with them, and the watering systems and shade plants necessary to ensure the success of the seedlings once transplanted." We look forward to hearing more about AMC's successes as **Lisette Almanza**, recently received a 2018 Volunteer Service Award to continue the work as a volunteer with **The Chain Collaborative**. No pressure Lisette.

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