

2019-2020 AllPeopleBeHappy Fellows

Gonal Fransua Charle has been selected as a 2019-2020 *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellow, working with **Education Across Borders** (EAB), a non-profit organization that serves extremely marginalized communities in the Dominican Republic, while providing service-learning



opportunities for US youths. Gonal will be working as an Academic Mentor and Project Coordinator. His main responsibilities involve providing logistical support to approximately 100 students who receive EAB's support for their studies, from primary level through university. Gonal is charged with planning, convening, and directing monthly meetings of EAB's scholarship students, as well as individual meetings with students in the interims. With the university students, he will work closely with them to aid in their timely registration and advantageous course selection, as well as helping them achieve greater independence with college level

study skills and work completion. He will track and submit reports of grades/progress for college students on a monthly basis, and for other students on a semesterly basis.

Maria Elisa Espinoza Gaitan has been selected as a 2019-2020 *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellow,



working with **Green Empowerment** (GE) in Nicaragua. Since 1997, GE has worked with local partners around the world to strengthen communities by delivering renewable energy, safe water, complementary health and environmental projects, and training. Nicaragua is Green Empowerment's oldest program country with partnerships with three local NGOs, AsoFenix, ATDER-BL, and El Gorrión. 2018 was an extraordinarily difficult year for Nicaragua due to civil unrest that erupted in April. The stress and delays caused the U.S. Embassy and other international NGOs to close their doors, and Green Empowerment to suspend its service-learning program. Program Assistant and Nicaragua native, Maria Elisa Espinoza Gaitan was critical to maintaining GE's efforts on the ground. The task for Maria Elisa Espinoza in 2019-2020 is to re-establish and expand the in-country program by

1) support local partner ATDER-BL by developing cross organizational budget, 2) formalize and implement Solar Revolving Loan Fund Program for at least 40 families, 3) establish 2 new

partnerships, 4) standardize GE's administrative training materials in English and Spanish, and 5) apply for new grants.

Julio Louis, a 2017-2018 *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellow, has again been selected as an *AllPeopleBeHappy* Fellow, working with **Yspaniola**. Julio grew up in Batey Libertad, a small rural community of Dominicans, Haitians, and Dominican-Haitians in the Cibao region of the



Dominican Republic. As the 2017-2018 *AllpeopleBeHappy* Fellow, Julio stepped into a leadership role in the Yspaniola organization as Director of Operations of Yspaniola's Batey Libertad Learning Center. He is involved in overseeing all Yspaniola programs; in particular, the experiential learning program, the university scholarship program, and directing Yspaniola's participation in other community projects in Batey

Libertad. For 6 months in 2018, Julio, under a different fellowship, was in the US (New Orleans) to build relationships and to learn more about the US culture. Upon returning to Batey Libertad, Julio's task in 2019-2020 is to 1) register children into PNRE (National Plan for the Regularization of Foreigners), 2) administer the University Scholarship Program for high school students, and 3) administer the Experiential Service-Learning Trip program.