



# AllPeopleBeHappy

foundation

Eric Tang died 12 years ago this month. In the early days after his death we asked people to make loans through Kiva, a microloan organization that Eric was interested in learning more about. While we went through the red tape required to create the Foundation, we decided to make a \$1000 in Kiva loans in the name of *AllPeopleBeHappy*. Now 12 years later by reinvesting the paid off loans, that money has grown to \$10,525 lent to 215 individuals in 46 countries. Since its creation in late 2007, the Foundation has also made a tremendous impact with its grants. To date we have awarded \$1.67 million dollars in grants to organizations supporting people and communities around the developing world. With your help, we hope to continue growing that support. <http://www.allpeoplebehappy.org/donate/>

## Nepal

The news coming out of Nepal this year has been all about the traffic jams on Mount Everest, exacerbated by the government in issuing too many climbing permits in the name of raising money for this poor country. The Foundation has also invested in Nepal, but our funds have actually helped individuals in Nepal improve their lives.

**Sunsar Maya** received its 1<sup>st</sup> *AllPeopleBeHappy* project grant in 2018 to finance its SuMa effort. The primary mission of Sunsar Maya is to provide afterschool support to children in the community. While the children are attending school, their facility wasn't being used so they started the SuMa Women's Literacy program in Kathmandu. The goal of this program is to provide women who were uneducated and trapped in extreme poverty with basic literacy and numeracy skills that would enable them to take the first steps toward building better lives for themselves.

Investment in these women, would not only impact their lives for the better, but the lives of their loved ones, and long-term, their communities. 98 women participated

those women, opened a shop in her community. She sells everything from clothing and shoes, to everyday necessities. Her story is an incredible testament to the impact this program can have on its participants.



## Coffee

advantage of this exclusive market?



In our Fall 2018 newsletter we featured the work of Hilary Rodriguez, one of our 2017 Volunteer Service Award grant recipients. She spent a year working for The Chain Collaborative with a women's cooperative in Ecuador. At the end of that article we challenged Lissette Almanza, a 2018 Volunteer Service Award recipient to continue Hilary's progress working with the same cooperative. We can report now that Lissette didn't disappoint.

"I chose to volunteer with the women's cooperative, Asociación de Pequeñas Productoras de Café (AMC), in Chaucha, Ecuador because I wanted to learn first-hand about the coffee value chain on the producer end as well as how, through coffee, we can improve the local economy and quality of life for rural communities.

Building relationships with local producers was an essential part of my job. During the time I spent in Chaucha, I conducted nine community visits ... to a) either introduce new local producers to the coffee project, b) maintain and build on the relationships with existing producers, or c) provide agricultural technical assistance.

Part of our efforts focused on encouraging new farmers to work with the women's group in order to build together a sustainable local economy based on specialty coffee. This outreach resulted in new and existing local producers signing up to buy all of the coffee seedlings from the AMC's nursery.

workshops, knowledge was shared with those who were unable to attend and technical advice was provided to producers regarding coffee care practices, designing coffee plantations, and field preparation for the coffee seedlings. Such interventions would guarantee that coffee production would be sustainable in Chaucha and profitable for producers, also ensuring the viability of the women's cooperative business in the long run. To improve business knowledge among members of the cooperative, I coordinated two business trainings: one on Ecuador's tax regulations and one on contract writing and negotiation.

During my time with the women's cooperative in Chaucha, group dynamics continued to be a major challenge that caused their coffee project to stall in certain aspects, and this was a challenge that I believe a previous volunteer mentioned as well. In order to help solve this challenge, I spent several meetings with the group putting effort toward mediating and resolving the issues that members were facing, ensuring that I was respecting the by-laws of their cooperative when doing so.

This volunteer experience was enriching in so many different ways. ... I experienced first-hand the challenges that vulnerable communities face in realizing their visions for change while restricting my urge to impose my methods on them for carrying out their vision."

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