



ENGINEERS  
WITHOUT  
BORDERS  
USA

## EWB-OC NEWSLETTER

*Welcome the new Executive  
EWB-OC Board for  
2010-2011*

### **EWB-OC Executive Board:**

**Puja Ruparel**  
President  
RLANRC

**Peter Do**  
President Ex-Oficio  
CTG Energetics

**Greg Hefter, PE**  
Vice President of  
Communication  
AECOM

**Darren Cormack**  
Vice President of  
Finance  
Flour

**Gary Gilbert, PE**  
Vice President of  
Student Chapters  
Diaz Yourman

*Thank you 2009-2010  
EWB-OC Board for another  
successful year!*

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  - Honduras
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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**Puja Ruparel**



*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead*

**E**WB-OC's dedicated group of volunteers, supporters, sponsors and friends have made 2009 a very productive year for our Chapter!

We have successfully completed our first project in El Salvador providing potable water to about 6,200 people! Congratulations to the El Salvador team for all their dedication and hard work! IT engineers and an education team is currently in Honduras implementing the integration of internet technology into the education system empowering over 600 students with modern learning tools. The Kenya Footbridge project is currently fundraising and preparing the final technical design for the construction of a bridge which will increase access to medical care for 4,200 people. We were also able to take on a water sanitation project in a Mexican special needs school in collaboration with the San Clemente Rotary.

Our efforts on the projects are only brought to fruition because of the generosity of our sponsors and donors! In addition to reaching out for fundraising, we have also expanded our membership to volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds, making our projects well-rounded.

In 2010, we hope to continue building strong partnerships, not only locally, but also with communities and organizations internationally. We also extend our well wishes to our fellow EWB Chapters who have undertaken projects in Haiti, which was hit by a devastating earthquake last month – the EWB philosophy of helping build basic infrastructure through engineering will help make a difference, now more than ever.

I am looking forward to this year - with so much positive energy and support around us, we hope to make a lasting impact locally and internationally in 2010.

With sincerest gratitude,  
**Puja Ruparel**

**Join our Mailing List by emailing Greg Hefter**  
(ghefter@ewb-oc.org)

Engineers and non-engineers  
of all backgrounds. Find out how you can get involved today.  
Check out our website at **www.ewb-oc.org**

## FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL MIXER TO FUNDRAISE

By Debra Kennard

The Community of Endana is located on the The Kenya Footbridge project hosted an engineering mixer and silent auction at Landmark Steakhouse in Corona del Mar on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. The mixer was a fundraiser for the implementation of the project, which involves designing and building a bridge across the Ewaso Ng'iro River near Endana, Kenya.

Among the attendees were engineers and professionals from Black & Veatch, Diaz Yorman, Edison International, Flatiron Corporation, and RBF Consultants.

The EWB-OC website shows a villager up to his neck in muddy water as he wades across the river. "The bridge is important as it allows one to access the Segura Medical Clinic and schools year round," said Project Lead, Clay Stevens,

CEG. "Twice a year the river is inaccessible due to flooding during the rainy season which makes it impossible to pass if you are elderly, a child, or cannot swim."

This project will be one of several during a 5-year commitment to help Endana with their community needs. Technical Lead, Sean Callan, PE, notes, "The bridge will be built in about 4 months starting this June. We will use local labor and materials to help boost the economy and living status of the Endana and nearby areas."

This mixer is one of several events to raise funds for the bridge. "Our budget for the bridge is \$37,000 but we have only raised \$13,000 so far," reports former project Fundraising lead, Puja Ruparel.



For more information, to donate, or to request a presentation, visit [www.ewb-oc.org/kenyafootbridge.html](http://www.ewb-oc.org/kenyafootbridge.html) or email [kenya@ewb-oc.org](mailto:kenya@ewb-oc.org).

### EWB-OC CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Mon. 3/22	Honduras Team Meeting	7:00pm	TBD
Tues. 3/23	EWB-OC Board Meeting	6:30pm	Lampost Pizza, 14450 Culver Drive, Irvine
Mon. 4/12	Honduras Team Meeting	6:00pm	TBD
Mon. 4/12	Kenya Team Meeting	6:30pm	RBF, 14725 Alton Parkway, Irvine
Mon. 4/12	El Salvador Team Meeting	6:30pm	Kleinfelder, Irvine
Mon. 4/26	Honduras Team Meeting	7:00pm	TBD
Tues. 4/27	EWB-OC Board Meeting	6:30pm	TBD
Mon. 5/10	Honduras Team Meeting	6:00pm	TBD
Mon. 5/10	Kenya Team Meeting	6:30pm	RBF, 14725 Alton Parkway, Irvine
Mon. 5/10	El Salvador Team Meeting	6:30pm	Kleinfelder, Irvine
Tues. 5/24	Honduras Team Meeting	7:00pm	TBD
Tues. 5/25	EWB-OC Board Meeting	6:30pm	TBD
Mon. 6/14	Honduras Team Meeting	6:00pm	TBD
Mon. 6/14	Kenya Team Meeting	6:30pm	RBF, 14725 Alton Parkway, Irvine
Mon. 6/14	El Salvador Team Meeting	6:30pm	Kleinfelder, Irvine

## KENYA – BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

By Puja Ruparel

### MICHAEL GONSIOR



**MICHAEL GONSIOR** HANGING OUT WITH THE KIDS IN A GIRLS HOME IN LIMURU, KENYA

To read more about Michael's experiences, please visit:

<http://michaelgonsioreastafrica.blogspot.com/>

**A**s the Kenya project team fundraises and prepares their final technical design to begin construction of a footbridge across the Ewaso Ng'iro River in Endana, Kenya, one of the team members, Michael Gonsior, PhD has moved to Kenya to begin an independent volunteer project to promote self-sufficiency through agriculture (in collaboration with East Africa Partnership: [www.eastafricapartnership.org](http://www.eastafricapartnership.org)).

Michael will be serving as a liaison for the EWB-OC Kenya Footbridge project, giving updates on the progress once construction begins in the region. Besides being an active member of EWB-OC since 2008, Michael also traveled to Kenya in June 2009 to perform health assessments for the community. While in Orange County, he helped establish the student chapter at the University of California, Irvine. His contributions toward the Chapter and the Kenya project are greatly appreciated! We wish Michael success on his new project!

Micael's blog:

"Nahashon and myself left on Sunday night to go to Nanyuki (Kenya). The following day we met with staff from the Segera Mission and dispensary to discuss the current situation. It almost felt like going home and this was the first time I have been back since we have been working there every day for two weeks in June last year. Even all local leaders did come to see me. It is so nice to see familiar faces and the hope they are carrying. I gave them all a brief update on our Engineers Without Borders Project and that we have at least 2/3 of the money needed raised. They were very happy to hear that. It looks like we will start to build the bridge in June!

Besides visiting Segera Mission, we also went to talk to the head teacher in Endana Secondary School and the involvement of the Engineers Without Borders Student chapter at UCI to improve the school. We only spent about 5 hours with the community but it was highly rewarding and fun. I can't wait to go back and get things finally started."

## IT AND EDUCATION

By Israel Lopez

The Honduras team is getting ready for their first implementation trip. It has been a long year in preparation for this trip; the team has had to find novel ways of fundraising, collaboration, and last minute design changes. We hope the efforts of the 12 traveling member team, plus the 10 or so non-traveling members will pay off for the project, and their partner NGO, Olancho Aid. This trip they hope to finally implement the Wireless Network, begin an educational assessment, and conduct research for future projects. However, before the team could even think about travelling they had to get necessary funding of ten-thousand dollars.

This year EWB-OC, the Honduras team, and corporate sponsors tried a variety of fundraising strategies. Those strategies included; direct friends & family solicitations, corporate solicitations, vendor equipment donations, and online/social-media fundraising. The strategy that surprised the team the most was the online/social-media fundraising campaign. SpringSoft, a electronics design firm, wanted to bring more awareness of the Honduras project and Labdoo (Jordi Ros's laptop distribution program), they prepared an online video-game,

program), they prepared an online video-game, and raffle. The video-game, showed a character (child) protecting donated laptops from monsters, after you protected the laptops long enough, you get a score and are invited to join a raffle. For each person that joined the raffle, three-dollars were donated to the EWB-OC Honduras project. With this, the Honduras team, flooded social networks asking people to fundraise by playing a game. It worked so well, that the team was able to fundraise \$2400. The team was so impressed with the support, that they are looking to use the strategy again for the next team's fundraising needs.

The team will be travelling March 13<sup>th</sup> and returning March 21<sup>st</sup>. While the team is there, they will be continuing the tradition of posting Video Updates & Pictures from the project site. They hope to bring more awareness to the project through their internet efforts.

Follow the team along on our Chapter's Twitter Page: <http://twitter.com/ewboc> Also the team is working on content for the OCRegister & Saddleback College Lariat. Please look forward to our pictures, video, and articles!

To follow the Honduras team while they are traveling visit: <http://ewbhonduras.tumblr.com/>



**SpringSoft**  
accelerating engineers

### Play SpringSoft's Engineering Superhero Snowball Challenge

Click on **Veronica Verifier** or **Dennis Designer**  
to see if you can successfully protect the laptops for EWB.

Just for playing:

- SpringSoft will donate US\$3 to EWB
- You can enter a drawing to win an iPod

SpringSoft wishes you a very happy holiday season and health and prosperity in the New Year!

SpringSoft has partnered with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to collect laptops that will be refurbished for use by those less fortunate around the world. Your mission is to protect the laptops from design and verification beasts.

**EVENT COMING UP**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**2010 ASCE YMF**  
Charity Golf Tournament  
Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Eagle Glen Golf Club**  
**in Corona**

All proceeds to benefit charity

For more information on sponsorship and/or registration  
please contact Puja Ruparel at [pruparel@ewb-oc.org](mailto:pruparel@ewb-oc.org)



# EVENT COMING UP

## SAVE THE DATE



**Who will be this year's Corporate Challenge Trophy Winner?**

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CORPORATE CHALLENGE

**When: September 2010**



#### **EWB-OC Board**

##### **Executive Board:**

Puja Ruparel  
President  
[pruparel@ewb-oc.org](mailto:pruparel@ewb-oc.org)

Peter Do  
President Ex-Officio  
[pdo@ewb-oc.org](mailto:pdo@ewb-oc.org)

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Greg Hefter  
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Darren Cormack  
Vice President of Finance  
[dcormack@ewb-oc.org](mailto:dcormack@ewb-oc.org)

##### **Committee Chairs:**

Pearl Abarca, PE  
Newsletter Editor  
[pabarca@ewb-oc.org](mailto:pabarca@ewb-oc.org)

Bill DeJong  
Local Community Volunteering  
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Karly Ho  
Membership Coordinator  
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Gayla Fecher  
Corp. Challenge Chair  
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Nancy Oh  
Marketing Coordinator  
[noh@hdr.com](mailto:noh@hdr.com)

Modesto Llanos  
Rotary Liaison  
[mllanos@ewb-oc.org](mailto:mllanos@ewb-oc.org)

##### **Project Leads:**

Clay Stevens  
Kenya Team  
[kenya@ewb-oc.org](mailto:kenya@ewb-oc.org)

Michelle Garde  
El Salvador Team  
[elsalvador@ewb-oc.org](mailto:elsalvador@ewb-oc.org)

James McBryan  
Honduras Team  
[jamesmcb@ewb-oc.org](mailto:jamesmcb@ewb-oc.org)

*Congratulations to the following OC-EWB Members in their new EWB-USA roles!!*

**Israel Lopez**  
IT West Coast Region  
[it@ewbwestcoast.org](mailto:it@ewbwestcoast.org)

**Pearl Abarca, PE**  
SoCal Region Representative  
[socal@ewbwestcoast.org](mailto:socal@ewbwestcoast.org)

Engineers without Borders  
Orange County Professional Partners  
Diaz Yourman & Associates  
Attn: EWB-OC  
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Santa Ana, CA 92705-8509



**STAY CONNECTED TO EWB-OC**  
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