Meet Our New President, Angela Whiteside

"I am very excited to join the leadership team

Give

All donations made to EWB-USA OC are tax-deductible, and can be made out to a specific Program or the EWB-USA Orange County Chapter. Donations to the Chapter can be used for any Program, while donations made out to a specific Program will only be used for that Program. Please see http://ewb-oc.org/donate/ to make a donation.

Join

There are many ways to become involved with EWB-USA OC depending on your interest, skill set and time commitment. We accept and encourage all disciplines to participate. Please email our Membership Coordinator, Scott Toma at Scott.K.Toma@gmail.com.
Honduras Project Update  
by Steve Tedesco

The first Phase of the project, the 20,000 gallon elevated concrete tank reached a major milestone in May. Concrete was poured and completed on the final beam that will support the 20,000 gallon storage tank. Local laborers and residents assisted in mixing, carrying, pouring and finishing the concrete beams. With continued good weather conditions in Honduras the tank is projected to be completed by the end of July 2014. Honduras Team members will be traveling to the project site in early July to review the construction progress and prepare for the second phase of the project. Final design of Phase 2 of the project is nearly completed. This phase includes design of a new well, electrical driven pump, pump house, pipelines and valves to connect the 135 homes in Barrio and Colonia Lempira to the elevated water storage tank. Materials being supplied by local government agencies are being delivered to the project site for storage including the well pump and motor, pipe, valves and fittings.

The Honduras Team’s goal is to have the water distribution system completed and operational by the end of September 2014 so that the 330 members of the community will have clean water running to each of their homes for the very first time.

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A Warm Goodbye from Kenya Project Lead, Bailey Richert:

It has truly been an honor to serve for the past year and a half as the Kenya Project lead. I feel that my life has been enriched in equal amounts to those we are trying to help overseas.

There are so many accomplishments of which this team should be proud: installing a well, innovating new rainwater designs. But myself, what I'm proud of most, is how my team has risen, each and every single time, to all the challenges we've faced in this project. Building infrastructure is hard enough, let alone the roadblocks we face trying to implement our work from several time zones away. Between massive funding needs, land disputes, and weather challenges, the Kenya team hasn't had an easy road. Yet, that has not deterred our membership from finding solutions and working even harder to make this project a success. In fact, we've substantially grown in membership over the last year despite hardships. That is the essence of our Kenya program, and that is why I'm proud to have been its leader.

Given what I've just written above then, it was not an easy decision to depart, but opportunities such as attending graduate school at MIT do not come often. I just had to seize it while I could. The program I'll be attending is called the “Technology and Policy” program, a 5 year joint MS/PhD. I'll be studying how the proper (or improper) policy creation and implementation surrounding new technologies in the environmental and energy industries can have serious effects on their overall success. It is my aim to take my education to Washington, D.C. after graduation."

-Bailey Richert
Corporate Challenge 2014
by Anand Helekar

The 2014 Corporate Challenge is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th at the UC Irvine Athletic Center. This annual event brings together professionals from various firms throughout Orange County to participate in several fun and competitive athletic and academic events. Activities in the past have included dodgeball, relay races, trivial pursuit, a Marshmellow Challenge, and everyone’s favorite, the Odyssey Ropes Obstacle Course. All proceeds from this event go towards the Engineers Without Borders projects in Kenya, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Each team is made up of 8 to 12 members. Events require teamwork, physical strength, athletic ability, and mental awareness and aptitude. These events are designed to bring teams together in a competitive but fun environment. The winner of the event will win the Engineers Without Borders Corporate Challenge Trophy with their name engraved on the trophy. There was a 3-way tie in last year’s event where Applied Medical’s team won the tiebreaker. We are looking forward to another exciting day this year and can’t wait to see everyone out there!

Kenya Project Update
by Servando Diaz

At EWB-OC I joined EWB-USA Orange County we are sad to see Bailey Richert leave us for Boston. However, we are excited to welcome Servando Diaz as the new project lead. “I joined EWB-OC in April 2013 jumping right into the Kenya Program as the designated grants writer. Initially I did not expect to travel but was open to any upcoming opportunities. In the fall of 2013, I applied for the EWB-USA national grant, catering the application toward our trip #4 expenses, and unaware that I would actually be a traveler on that trip. Fortunately, we were awarded $8000 from the Boeing Company. After returning from Kenya I realized that this was a program we needed to keep at EWB-OC. Seeing as our existing project lead was leaving for her PhD in Boston, I took on the role as lead to continue our progress with the program. As project lead, my goal is complete our initial project directive of supplying the Sukutan Community with a sustainable water supply. Our final task in doing this involves sending a fifth team to Kenya to install a hand pump and complete construction of a livestock water trough.

We had a very successful and productive trip to Kenya. While in country, we repaired any damages to the two rainwater capture systems installed on earlier trips 1 and 3. We also constructed two additional rainwater collection systems leaving the community with four reliable and functioning installations. On this trip we had great participation from the Community, as a result, they now have the skill in replicating these rainwater capture systems at other homes throughout the community.”