



19th Issue – 16 January 2013

Building a world where all people can be happy

2012, the 5th year of the Foundation was fantastic on many fronts. As we reported last summer, we exceeded a half million dollars in grants awarded. We look forward to reaching the million dollar mark in the coming years. One exciting factor which may help us reach that goal faster is the matching grants that many of you have applied for on behalf of the Foundation. Last year we received matching grants from 9 companies, totaling over \$69,000!

We are also excited to see how several of our Volunteer Service Award grants were used to enhance the impact of our Project Grants. For instance, Kauleen Menard, working as an unpaid intern for **Village Health Works**, was influential in developing the plan for the education initiative which the Foundation funded with a \$10,000 grant last Spring. Kauleen was awarded a 2012 Volunteer Service Award and spent the summer in Burundi observing the teacher's training and interviewing participating teachers and staff. After returning to New York, she has continued working with Village Health Works analyzing data, reviewing literature, and providing guidance for assessing the impact and improving the program. This work will also be the basis for her master's thesis in International Education Development from the Teacher's College of Columbia University.



Michael Austin went to Ethiopia to help facilitate one of the **Kossoye Development Program's** Great Gardener Workshops and worked with students at the University of Gondar to encourage



participation in the project on a local level. The Foundation has supported this sustainable agriculture program through project grants since 2009. Michael also works with an Ethiopian run social service agency in Columbus, OH as a youth program coordinator, and has leveraged his experience with Kossoye to create a program for his students that revolved around gardening and nutrition. In addition, he taught a local middle school about service learning and healthy living. Obviously service doesn't stop when our volunteers return from their overseas assignments.

AllPeopleBeHappy foundation can be reached at info@allpeoplebehappy.org or by mail at 1302 Waugh Drive, #257, Houston, TX 77019-3908

2012 Volunteer Service Award Recipients Currently in the Field

We recently heard from one of the organizations reaping the benefits of volunteers who have received Volunteer Service Award grants. Read what Erika Vohman, founder of **The Maya Nut Institute**, had to say:

"Maya Nut Institute has been the lucky beneficiary of two full time field volunteers financed by



the *AllPeoplebeHappy* Volunteer Service Award in 2012! Alexa Skillicorn, an undergraduate student at the University of Texas and Monika Blodgett, from Crested Butte, Colorado are both doing volunteer work with us in Maya Nut producing communities in Chichigalpa and Chinandega, Nicaragua. We are extremely impressed with the quality and competence of both of these women. They are developing a collaborative project; a report on the socioeconomic impact of

Maya Nut production on family income and on women's status in the family. They are doing this via interviews with producers and husbands of producers. They are preparing a full report of their findings for APBH, the communities and the Maya Nut Institute. This report will be invaluable for Maya Nut Institute fundraising, to demonstrate to donors the impact of Maya Nut harvest and sale on women's incomes. Their surveys have shown that up to 29.5% of producing families' annual income now comes from Maya Nut, which is very impressive and would be impossible to prove without the diligent work of these two wonderful and hardworking volunteers.

We are very grateful to *AllPeoplebeHappy* for the opportunity they have provided with these volunteers, both for the young women volunteers and for us as an organization. I hope we can get more volunteers in the future. Keep up the good work!"



2013 Volunteer Service Award Application Guidelines

We are once again using the occasion of our co-founder Eric Tang's birthday to release the guidelines for the 2013 Volunteer Service Award application process. We hope to fund at least 16 to 20 awards in 2013. There will be 2 application deadlines this year, one for Spring/Summer volunteers and one for Fall/Winter volunteers. If you know of volunteers or potential volunteers who would be interested in applying for this grant, the application instructions can be found at the Volunteer Award section of the *AllPeopleBeHappy.org* website.



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