With the New Year we thought we would try something new, hence a new delivery format for our newsletter. Lucky for us, we qualify for a free subscription from MailChimp. So here goes...

As the Foundation begins its 8th year, we look forward to continuing to support many of our long time partners as well as finding new communities and organizations to support. We are thrilled to learn about the successes of the volunteers and fellows who have received grants from the Foundation. Most of all we are grateful to the many donors who have entrusted us with their philanthropic investments.

An Update about a Grant Awarded in 2012

In September 2012, AllPeopleBeHappy awarded Spark MicroGrants $8,725.00 to facilitate a locally led community development project in Gahunga Village in Northern Rwanda. Community members designed a goat-rearing project that would allow them to save money to be put towards a village water tap. The project had the dual aim of reducing food insecurity and bringing clean water to the community.
Earlier this year we received the following update from Sasha Fisher, the founder of Spark Microgrants:

"I just visited Gahunga community in Rwanda that AllPeopleBeHappy sponsored. They are doing extremely well. Thought I'd pass along some pictures! They purchased 185 animals for their project two years ago. Today they have 450 and a water tap! They have also started a community charity project of fixing people's homes when they start falling apart.” It is sometimes hard to measure success in a meaningful way, but the on-going benefits of this grant are certainly impressive.

For the second consecutive year, Mercado Global was awarded a $10,000 grant for their Community Health and Business Development Program for artisan women in rural Guatemala. This 2-tiered training consists of lessons on financial management, business management, and taxes & laws that concern cooperatives and rural businesses. The health component includes: sanitation and hygiene, water sanitation, activities for musculoskeletal pain, repetitive wrist motion and dysfunction, and support sessions for post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues.

"The biggest takeaway from this program has been the relative power of curriculum that is delivered by local women in their own languages and to their own peers. This program has harnessed the experience and expertise of an international team of leading doctors and community health specialists, and has built the content they develop into a curriculum that can be delivered by indigenous Guatemalan women.”

The Foundation has just awarded Little Sisters Fund a grant of $7,500 for their teacher training initiative in Nepal. The schools in Nepal emphasize rote memorization which is not
the most effective way to learn. Critical thinking is rarely encouraged, such that even when children learn the facts they are asked to regurgitate, they have trouble analyzing patterns of facts, synthesizing ideas, and drawing their own conclusions. The poor quality of schools and lack of socio-emotional support for learners is one reason for the high rate of drop-out in Nepal. The AllPeopleBeHappy grant will support a teacher training initiative which will bring child-centered teaching methodology into the classroom. This should improve the relationships between administration, teachers, and students, and encourage a more child-friendly environment within schools. We look forward to hearing about the results of what should be an effective investment in education.