At the tail end of 2007, when the AllPeopleBeHappy foundation officially came into existence, we were still reeling from Eric’s sudden death and were struggling to find a way to create his legacy and honor his desire to work toward ending extreme poverty, even if that meant helping one person at a time. During the nearly 8 years since, with the help and support of our friends and family, Eric’s friends, and people we have met along the way, the Foundation has become an impactful organization. More importantly, there are people and communities around the developing world who are actively working their way out of poverty. This month the Foundation passed a milestone; we passed the $1,000,000 mark in grants awarded! You will be hearing more about that over the coming months. We believe it is important to celebrate this milestone, to thank everyone who has helped the Foundation get there, but to also remind everyone that, with your continued support, there is so much more that we can accomplish in the coming years.

Barbara and Sunny Tang
Returning Volunteers

Like Eric, many of our Volunteer Service Award grant recipients derive satisfaction from being able to help one person, one family, one community at a time:

Kristen Midura with Green Empowerment volunteering for 6 months in Nicaragua

“Last week, I co-led a group of 14 engineers in a week of service learning here in Nicaragua. Thanks to the group’s technical expertise, interest in the subject matter, and overall enthusiasm for the trip, we were able to complete an impressive amount of work in a very short time. Throughout the week, we installed four solar residential systems, four grey-water patio gardens, and two solar irrigation systems. We also repaired a potable water system, wired two schools to a local micro-grid, and offered technical expertise regarding a remote micro-hydro system.

Beyond being a successful trip, overall, this was one of the most rewarding weeks I’ve ever had on a personal level… The most rewarding part of the trip, was installing solar electricity in the home of my dedicated host family. Each time I go into the communities, I stay with one family. They go out of their way to take care me, giving me their bed while they sleep in the living room, making sure to include a salad in every meal because they know I like fresh vegetables, taking me around the community to make sure I can find all the families I need to work with. But until last week, they never had electricity in their home. In Nicaragua, the sun goes down around 6pm every night. Alba, my host mother, cooked for us every night in near-complete darkness, carrying around only a small kerosene lamp for light. Luckily, Alba was one of the recipients of a solar-powered electrical system. I was able to spend an entire day installing the panel, working with Alba to figure out where lights should be placed, explaining to her family how to care for their battery, and seeing their faces as they were given light for the first time in, literally, generations. That night, we ate a late (7pm) dinner in her fully-lit living room, laughing and talking about anything and everything. After dinner, we went down to a small reception with the recipients and host families, where we all sat around talking, coloring with the kids,
and watching dance-offs take place in the middle of another recipient’s living room. To watch these amazing people, who had provided for us and cared for us so well, finally able to stay up past 6pm and enjoy their evenings together was the most rewarding feeling anyone could ever ask for. Thank you so much for your support in this project, it is impossible to convey what a difference you are making in all our lives through your grants.”

**Greg Klazura** spent his summer break from medical school with **Global Emergency Care Collaborative** in Uganda

“As Fatuma’s mother gently handed her to me... I placed my ear next to her tiny chest. I could hear her arrhythmia without even using a stethoscope.

Children with congenital heart defects in the United States typically have surgery within the first year of life. While I was at Nyakibale hospital collecting patient data for the Global Emergency Care Collaborative (GECC) Fatuma came through the Emergency Room. She was admitted to the pediatric ward. Her family was told that there was nothing Nyakibale could do for her...

Fatuma isn’t the only story while I was at Nyakibale. There were other tragedies and some triumphs too. I wanted to learn while I was in Uganda. I wanted to do no harm. I think I accomplished those goals. I was also hopeful that I would be able to make an impact in some way. I think I did with the data I collected for an organization that is doing good work.

My time in Uganda was both powerful and informative... I was able to contribute to important ongoing research that the GECC does in order to improve their work and receive additional funding. I stumbled upon Fatuma though. She wasn’t part of my expectations yet she remains part of my experience...

She is a microcosm of the resources available to me and not to her. If I was born with Truncus Arteriosus I would likely have a tiny scar on my chest and a healthy heart... (Without) surgery she will die. It is often easy to look at numbers and be startled by the differences between the developed and developing world. Holding a beautiful baby with a broken heart makes those differences all the more real. "