

INTRODUCING THE RWANDAN ORPHANS PROJECT

EWB—CU'S NEW PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



Working with Children's Village Kigarama the last six years has shown the EWB-CU Rwanda team firsthand how their work directly benefitted the lives of orphans. While the team was in Rwanda over winter break, it was apparent they wanted to find a new project that would once again greatly impact children. Beginning this year, the EWB-CU chapter is entering a new program to foster community development outside Kigali, Rwanda in conjunction with the Rwanda Orphans Project (ROP). The ROP began as a local NGO in Kigali, taking in boys off the city streets, providing them with a home and psychological counseling. As the operation quickly grew to serve approximately 100 street children, ROP purchased a new plot of land three miles from the city, envisioning a project to construct new dormitories, a catch-up school for youth in the surrounding community, and greenhouses to supply income to pay rent. The goal

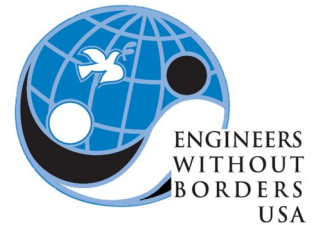
of the ROP is to use their facilities not only as an orphanage, but as a community center where locals can hold functions and take technical classes. The first project with the ROP is to construct a catch-up school on their newly purchased land, complete with 6 classrooms, a nursery, office, library, lavatories and storage facilities. This catch-up school will serve to meet the needs of the children in the orphanage and the surrounding community who have had not access to consistent education. The curriculum is meant to fill the learning gaps for students who have not been unable to attend school regularly. Once completed, our EWB-CU team will also work to construct new dormitories. By working alongside the ROP during these projects, the EWB-CU Rwanda team hopes to teach the community about sustainable building practices and facilitate the establishment of a community center that will provide essential education to the area's children.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Meetings—
Mondays at 7 PM
Room: ECCR 155
CU Engineering Center

Visit Our Website:
ewbrwanda.org

Questions or Comments?
Email us at:
EWBRwanda@gmail.com



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TEAM UPDATES

After a successful assessment trip to Rwanda over winter break, the team has been working at a furious pace to prepare to send two teams with mentors over the summer. There is still work left to do at Children's Village Kigarama (CVK) in Mugonero, where the team has worked for the past six years, while simultaneously tackling a school design for the ROP.

Before EWB-CU Rwanda can officially close out its presence at CVK, a team must be sent back to the orphanage this summer to deliver education materials and repair work. CVK has requested that the team compile a water education curriculum to teach the children about proper usage and hygiene. The winter monitoring trip also shed light on the need for minor repairs on the

cook stoves at CVK, and the need for an operations and maintenance plan to educate the staff on how to use them efficiently. Within the Rwanda team there are two groups of students working to address these education needs before the travel team returns to Rwanda this summer.

In conjunction with these efforts, three separate teams of students within the Rwanda team are each designing their own school from the ground up. Because school construction is such an ambitious project, working as three separate teams will allow ideas to flourish independently of each other, ensuring that our team is able to glean as much information as possible to make this project successful. While the students design



Sunset on Lake Kivu near CVK



EWB team members Sonya and Ankit surveying at CVK with help from the kids.

the school here in Boulder throughout the semester, the ROP is focusing on constructing greenhouses on their own to grow tomatoes for profit, as a means of paying for their new, undeveloped land.

The team plans to have three deliverable school designs completed by May to bring to the ROP during a Summer 2012 assessment trip. The goal for this summer's trip is to assess the new plot of land the ROP has purchased, and present three school designs to ROP. By the end of the summer, EWB-CU Rwanda hopes to have worked with ROP to choose the final design for the catch-up school and begin planning for implementation in Winter 2012, laying the foundation over winter break. These two trips are imperative for giving students hands-on experience constructing, testing, and troubleshooting on an active construction site. School construction is a project entirely new to EWB-CU Rwanda. Students are very enthusiastic about the project and energized by the design possibilities they have discovered thus far.

A LETTER FROM THE PROJECT LEAD

Dear Reader,

Thank you for being a part of Team Rwanda at the University of Colorado – Boulder Engineers Without Borders student chapter. Your support and enthusiasm mean so much to the work we have accomplished. We have come so far and made an expansive impact – both in Rwanda and in Boulder – because of you.

As Project Lead for Team Rwanda, my job has been to oversee the progress, learning, and outcomes of our projects over the past year. I have witnessed the amazing effects our group has had in Rwandan communities where we work, while the committed students on our team experience professional, cultural, and character development. I have also seen our group's numbers expand from single digits to more than 30 members. Our team is composed of undergraduate students, graduate students, and professional mentors, who all work together to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Our team embodies the collective power of individuals working together to make this world a happier and safer place for all.

With our project at the Children's Village Kigarama in Mugonero coming to a close, and our new project at the Rwandan Orphans Project in Kigali beginning, we are at a crossroads in our team's short history. Three individual teams are working on independent designs for a school, as well as others working on edu-



Andrew gets some help surveying from CVK orphans



Andrew playing with orphans at CVK

cation, monitoring, and fundraising. We have collected a highly qualified and enthusiastic group of mentors to oversee the successful implementation of our projects. Lastly, we have solidified our partnerships with individuals, groups, and communities in Rwanda to effectively and sustainably work together to create positive change. These developments will ultimately facilitate our ability as a student group to continually improve the well-being and education of more than 300 orphans and children in Rwanda.

You are bearing witness to an amazing group of students working to make a difference in the world. Your support is the very reason we are able to make these impacts and positively affect the lives of others. We are undeniably humbled, honored, and grateful that you have chosen to be a part of this incredible story. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hemphill

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO —RWANDA STUDENT CHAPTER

MARCH 2012



GIVING:

BY MAIL:

Mail a Check Payable to "EWB USA" with "EWB—CU Rwanda" in the memo line to:

EWB-CU Rwanda

Attn: Andrew Hemphill

428 UCB

Boulder, CO 80309-0428

GLOBAL GIVING:

www.globalgiving.org/projects/ewbcurwanda

ONLINE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE:

ewbrwanda.org



OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS,
WITHOUT WHOM OUR PROJECTS
WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE:



Photos: children at Twa Village (top left), professional mentor Steve Vance at current ROP facilities (top right), Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills (middle left), child at Twa Village (bottom left)