



Where We Work

604 projects funded in 13 countries and counting...



www.worldconnect-us.org

Who We Are

World Connect is a 501(c)(3) non-profit working in close partnership with the Peace Corps to identify and support innovative development projects around the world and to introduce young Americans to the developing world. World Connect demonstrates how well-placed resources alter the course of poor health, poverty, and lack of opportunity while engaging young people in learning about their global community and how to make our world a better place through philanthropy. To learn more about World Connect visit www.worldconnect-us.org or contact Pamela Nathenson, MPH, Executive Director, at pnathenson@worldconnect-us.org. Join us!

Notes from the Field

George Biddle, Chairman

I have spent many years working in the international relief and development field and one thing remains clear — extraordinary people always have extraordinary ideas about ways to improve their communities, but too often lack the resources to act on them. World Connect makes innovative ideas and approaches to community development possible. Our grants have improved lives, increased opportunity, enhanced health care and nutrition, protected the environment, and spurred creativity and entrepreneurship in many countries across the globe. We work with community leaders to support the most promising projects that will lead to positive and lasting change. The ability of the individual to participate and contribute to meaningful social and economic progress has never been stronger. In our rapidly changing world, we all have the power to do more. World Connect is entering a new stage of growth where we hope to find more opportunities to encourage and strengthen community-led development through expanded grassroots grant giving and by stirring young Americans to learn more about the world around them and support innovative projects in the developing world. The generosity of spirit we have seen in our donors and partners, many of them young people, is an inspiring example of a true global community.

Pamela Nathenson, MPH, Executive Director

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, I had the privilege of visiting a number of World Connect projects, some that were launched years ago and have become self-sustaining and others that are just getting off the ground with new World Connect grant funding. I was particularly impressed by a project in Coquital, near the border of Nicaragua, where a small group of enterprising women turned a former trash dump into a tilapia farm and restaurant with a World Connect grant. In another community, San Jose de Upala, I visited a high school where students built the first recycling center in a community that previously only burned or buried its trash. The new knowledge and enthusiasm the students demonstrated about recycling was so impressive. Working with Peace Corps Volunteers around the world, World Connect identifies promising projects and invests in people, leaders and social change. The projects we support are locally-led initiatives that make communities better and build lasting connections between donors and grantees. Just imagine what our world would look like with more projects, more leaders, more connections. Join us!

Founder's Story

World Connect started in 2005 as Infante Sano to improve the health of mothers and children in the Dominican Republic. We expanded our scope in 2009 to harness the power of small grants to spark big change in the lives of women and children around the world. This expansion stemmed from our youth leadership — kids who newly understood the challenges of the developing world and how philanthropy can make a difference were mobilized to bring about change. In seven years World Connect has grown significantly — over two million U.S. dollars have been awarded to more than 600 projects in 13 countries, and our work is far from done. With more than 40% of the world's population living on less than \$2 a day and one maternal death per minute, we can do more. World Connect was created to make the world a better place and we have found a winning approach that combines donor generosity, developing world leadership and the commitment of a small staff at World Connect. This simple formula has been the heart and soul of World Connect's philosophy and actions ever since. We have only just begun. I hope you will join us. — Bill Haney

Project: Promoting Healthy Families

Location: Ancash, Peru



Issue: This highly impoverished community lacks electricity and clean water and young children are suffering from high rates of parasites, intestinal illnesses, and malnutrition.

Grant: Community Health Promoters are educating residents of this small farming village on good health and hygiene practices such as hand washing, water treatment, gardening, trash management, and latrine maintenance. Educational programs target families with young children and complement an upcoming latrine construction project in the families' homes.

Project: Eating an Environmental Threat

Location: Veron, Dominican Republic

Issue: Years of overfishing and a growing population of lionfish, an invasive species that feeds on native fish populations, have caused alarming degradation of a once vibrant coral reef ecosystem.

Grant: A group of young women are working in partnership with their local Peace Corps Volunteer to pioneer an innovative solution to this problem by experimenting with lionfish recipes to turn this environmental threat into a local delicacy. This project is not only preventing further degradation of the coral reef ecosystem and giving participants new culinary skills, but is also increasing market demand for lionfish and thus supporting local fisherman.

Project: Journalism Club

Location: Ouarzazate, Morocco

Issue: A Peace Corps Volunteer with more than 20 years of experience as an international journalist identified a group of youth interested in journalism but without reporting, writing, interviewing and photography skills.

Grant: These young journalists are receiving multi-media training, building an Arabic/English website to promote their stories, and launching their own online news service. "The workshop makes me feel like I'm a real journalist," said 21-year-old Mouad. "When I see something in my community, I want to run and cover it."

Project: Cholera Prevention Program

Location: Lafond, Haiti



Issue: The 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti killed over 200,000 Haitians, destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, and brought cholera to the country for the first time, killing thousands.

Grant: A public health nurse in Haiti is repeating World Connect's successful cholera prevention work in Lafond and expanding this work to surrounding communities. This project is improving infrastructure and awareness to eradicate cholera and contributing to a multi-national effort aimed at helping Haiti rebuild after the earthquake.

Project: School-based Oral Health Program

Location: Kivu Sector, Rwanda

Issue: This mountainous region is difficult to access and as a result there is limited access to preventive dental care and fluoride use is non-existent. A dental therapist rotates through the region infrequently and mainly provides tooth extractions.

Grant: Students in the local primary school are receiving fluoride treatment and oral health education. If successful, the program will be promoted to the Ministry of Health, the National University of Rwanda, and international NGOs working in Rwanda to build support for the program to make it sustainable and replicable throughout Rwanda.



To learn more about our projects visit our website: www.worldconnect-us.org.