



Fulfilling a legacy

Etta Projects was created in 2003 to honor the life and legacy of Etta Turner, a teenager who believed in the power of the individual to effect meaningful change. Though Etta Turner's young life ended tragically in November 2002 while she was in Bolivia as a Rotary International Exchange student, her inspiration lives within us.

Her charisma and energy continue to guide our projects, encouraging us to engage in open dialogue, harness community participation, and validate the ideas and opinions of all people. Etta stirred us to transcend poverty by creating true friendships and to find joy as we make a positive difference in our world.

Our Mission

Etta Projects engages and partners with Bolivian communities to identify, prioritize, and implement sustainable solutions to the health, education, and economic challenges of poverty.

Attainable. Sustainable. Results.



EttaProjects.org

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Etta Projects is a Washington-based, 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization propelled by the long term vision of a Bolivia free of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and inequality.

The design, writing and printing of this brochure was donated by concerned volunteers.



Generating Change

Making a sustainable difference in rural Bolivia

safe water

In non-urban areas throughout the Department of Santa Cruz, most people live without access to clean water or adequate sanitation.

Diarrhea causes 36% of deaths in Bolivian children under five.

Etta Projects has responded to this need by implementing several sustainable, highly effective programs, including a water filter project, gravity fed water projects, and an ecological composting latrine project.

Etta Projects recognizes that education ensures that communities where we work will never again have to live without safe

drinking water, clean toilets and the resulting lack of human dignity.

We work collaboratively with villagers to establish local water and sanitation committees, which provide local villages with the capacity to construct and sustain water and sanitation systems, and to offer ongoing hygiene education to families.

Studies show that provision of safe water coupled with proper sanitation facilities can reduce deaths from diarrhea and water-related illnesses by 65%, and improve overall childhood mortality by 55%.



Parasite levels remain at 0% in participating families using our filter system.

good nutrition

People living in poverty in rural villages can neither afford nor have access to adequate nutrition. In fact, 27% of Bolivian children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Etta Projects has responded with several sustainable food projects, including school gardens and productive animal projects. We focus on developing youth leaders to implement these projects. By connecting nutrition projects to larger school and community leadership programs, nutrition serves as an educational tool that not only improves health but also teaches villagers how to design and implement a project. Villagers practice working together to become stronger and more self-sufficient.

Gardens are a tool to enhance nutrition and education, and a resource to generate income.



Since 2003, we've implemented over 60 family, school and community gardens.

improved health

Bolivia has the second highest maternal, children and infant mortality rates in the southern hemisphere. With most deadly diseases and illnesses preventable, educating people to practice simple solutions like hand washing and food hygiene saves lives daily.

Etta Projects collaborates with the Bolivian Health Network, local municipalities, school districts and communities to improve health. We believe enhanced education and knowledge leads to better health, and therefore we provide village Health Promoters with the necessary training to motivate families to practice safe hygiene habits as well as to treat common illnesses. In addition, Etta Projects has created a sustainable means to make necessary medical supplies and hygiene materials available to villagers.

"My children and I have learned a lot from the workshops. My kids want to wash their hands now and keep our room clean. I never knew or thought about a lot of things I learned before. I was inviting illnesses into my home without knowing it. Now we know."

Delfy Moreno, Single Mother of 5 Water Project Participant



Etta Projects takes a comprehensive approach towards improving health: linking clean water, adequate sanitation, better nutrition, safe hygiene habits, access to medical supplies with increased capacity and knowledge.

Better hygiene has transformed over 25 schools into *Healthy Schools in Action*.

We listen, learn and teach

Education is at the heart of everything we do: community development, empowerment and building independence.

In Bolivia

Everyone has a voice

We don't tell people of rural Bolivia what they need—they know what they need. Our job is to fully understand the desired end result and then work to find solutions that are sensible, cost-effective and sustainable. We provide an inclusive forum that allows people to identify problems and set their own priorities. The problem isn't the lack of ideas in the communities we serve. The problem is poverty.

Informed action

By bringing the right players together—community leaders, local governments, partner NGOs, and key experts—with the right information, project goals can produce effective solutions. We recognize that for a project to be sustainable, ideas and contributions need to come from both local community and local government. Etta Projects' thoughtful approach seeks out the most creative, cost-efficient ways to empower communities to find their own solutions to overcoming the circumstances that create poverty. The fundamental and constant component in every project we undertake is building independence through education.

As of 2009, we've positively affected more than 7,500 people.

Knowledge transfer

By providing training to community leaders, village teachers, health promoters and youth leaders, knowledge is shared and maintained by the local community. Through workshops and interactive community activities, Etta Projects aims to motivate all village members to become the driving force behind their own change process. The goal is to create positive impact that will last and grow from generation to generation.

In the US

Increased involvement

People in the US of every age have a passionate desire to be of service. Etta Projects provides a forum for recognizing and understanding the fundamental consequences of poverty in Bolivia. That's why a major area of focus for Etta Projects

in the States is to raise awareness of what's possible when it comes to alleviating poverty in one of the poorest nations in our hemisphere. We believe—and we've seen—that education and information provide the solid platform to launch positive change.

Student participation Our school outreach programs and presentations on sanitation, water purification and nutrition actively engage hundreds of elementary, junior high, high school and college students. We involve them and their teachers in participatory exercises that parallel the way we work in planning, communication and problem-solving skills. Our work helps students see the problems of poverty as surmountable through personal and collective action. Our programs do more than provide essential funding—they inculcate a feeling of connection with the world and ability to improve lives beyond one's own borders.

Community contribution Etta Projects constantly shares our development approach with diverse organizations that also are interested in finding a practical, effective way to make a difference in the developing world. We educate these organizations on the complex web of issues faced by the impoverished and invite them to create tangible projects relevant to their local concerns.

Volunteer service The opportunity to serve alongside Etta Projects is a meaningful life experience for individuals who want to give their time in service in a developing country. They make incredible contributions in a variety of ways, from sanitation projects to healthcare.

"This experience was certainly life changing. Etta Projects fills a tremendous need in a very humane caring way."

Eugene Mumford, DDS, Dental/Vision Trip 2010

Join us, and improve lives

By becoming an active participant today you can change the future for people living in poverty in one of the world's most vulnerable places.

From the outset, we've relied on donors and volunteers whom we consider partners. Our experiences in Bolivia offer US partners a way to improve lives both through active involvement and financial gifts. Committed to deriving the most direct good from every dollar donated, Etta Projects needs and values your contribution.

Please take this exciting opportunity and join us in the journey to a better, healthier, more just Bolivia for this generation and those to follow.