

## **SEEE-Institute for Sustainable Economics, Education, and Engineering**

**In short, we are a nonprofit group working for the betterment of people's lives in Uganda by focusing in areas of economics, education, and engineering. For a complete history, please read the following:**

### **Current Projects:**

We are currently planning for two projects between now and Dec 2010. These projects will be coordinated with EWB-USU and our NGOs. Our international project will be a return trip to Uganda working at two sites: Byana Mary Hill orphanage school near Masaka, and Lukome Secondary School in the war torn Gulu area. We plan to field teams to present public health seminars to women and children, to introduce a new public health seminar for young men, to test eyes and deliver glasses, to develop a small Tilapia fish farm, to construct classroom infrastructure, to establish a library, to provide recreational facilities, to establish a revolving fund for micro loans, and to apply our professional skills to other projects that are important to the people there.

### **In the past, we have:**

- Presented health seminars and eye screenings for over 1,200 women and children and have distributed 700 pairs of reading glasses.
- Donated computers with educational software and provided training for teachers.
- Organized malaria seminars and the distribution of mosquito nets.
- Donated books, established school libraries, and taught classes.
- Assessed deforestation and the need for cooking fuels as alternatives to wood and evaluated solar fruit dehydrators.
- Fabricated and installed playgrounds and recreation equipment at orphanages.

### **We have also assisted EWB in the following projects:**

- Installed two roof rainwater catchment systems with 850 gallon water tanks.
- Installed solar power for lights, a water pump, and an educational computer laboratory.
- Assessed the needs for improved sanitary and clean water and collected design parameters
- Constructed a girls' dormitory.
- Renovated classrooms and a medical clinic.
- Installed a well, solar pump, and pipeline.

### **History of SEEEME:**

Dr. William Grenney, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University (USU), and six sophomore engineering students formed a chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USU) in the fall of 2004. In the spring of 2005 Dr. Grenney and four USU engineering students were invited by the Kunde Foundation Non Governmental Organization (NGO) to conduct an assessment of the water needs for rural nomad communities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). Several months after this successful assessment trip it became very difficult to obtain permits from China for short-term humanitarian projects in Tibet. Consequently our attention was shifted to Uganda.

Over the past three and a half years, Dr. Grenney (an initial Director of this SEEE Institute) has lead seven teams to Uganda to implement projects at orphanages. Team members have varied in age from 16 to 72 years old, and have represented a wide variety of education and experience backgrounds. Travel

teams have varied in size from 5 to 22 members. Teams have traveled under the auspices of EWB-USU and numerous Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Dr. Grenney and four engineering students conducted the first trip to Uganda in December 2005. Five orphanage schools were visited within a 150 mile radius of Kampala. Orphanage staff and students were interviewed, the sites were inspected, and water samples were collected and analyzed.

The BMH orphanage school near Masaka was selected as the location that needed the greatest help of the types that EWB-USU could provide. BMH was boarding and providing primary school for over 300 orphans. It was located far from the electrical grid and had no source of power. Children were walking over one-half mile round trip into a valley to carry water in jerry cans from a contaminated marsh. Intestinal ailments and malaria were endemic. Many of the children were HIV positive. Buildings were brick shells with dirt floors and openings served for doors and windows. Children were sleeping on the dirt floors. The orphanage school had no children's reading books. There were no recreational facilities. Most of the children had never seen a swing or a jump rope.

Trips have been conducted in Dec 2006, July 2007, Dec 2007, June 2008, Nov 2008, and June 2009 to implement projects. Trips have been coordinated with [Engineers Without Borders](#) (EWB-USU), the [Ssejinja Children's Foundation](#) (NGO), [Right to Play](#) (NGO), [Uganda Martyrs Orphans' Project](#) (NGO), St. Konrad College (NGO), [Blessings Of Joy School](#) (NGO), [Interethnic Health Alliance](#), and many local volunteers in Uganda. Projects have included presenting women's and children's health seminars to over 900 attendees, installing mosquito nets, testing eyes and distributing reading glasses, providing clean water (well, solar pump, pipeline, 800 gallon water storage tank, two roof rainwater catchment systems with 1,600 gallons storage, prototype ultraviolet disinfection), installing solar power and computers with educational software, teaching classes, constructing classrooms and dormitories, and introducing small business and micro loan programs.

Dr. Grenney retired from Utah State University in June 2007. He continued to lead student teams from EWB-USU for the design, preparation, and implementation of trips to Uganda as described above. The constituency of the teams has grown in number and diversity with a wider variety of non-USU students and professionals joining in. The Utah State University engineering administration would like to focus on hard engineering projects that are appropriate for senior design projects, and the USU engineering administration is in support of the establishment of the SEEE Institute as an independent non-profit organization to organize and conduct other aspects of our humanitarian efforts.

Dr. Grenney, Mr. David Williams, and Ms. Stacy Blauer who have traveled to Uganda on implementation trips have formed this SEEE Institute which will provide greater project implementation flexibility. None of the SEEE Institute's money will be used for wages or salaries. All of our work will be conducted by volunteers. Our efforts as the SEEE Institute will result in improved public health, improved education, and increased small business economic development resulting in communities becoming more self sufficient and having less reliance on donor aid.

All of the SEEE Institute's money will go directly towards implementation of projects by SEEE Institute volunteers working shoulder-to-shoulder with volunteers from the group being benefited. This will result in the effective use of funds and the generation of goodwill between people of diverse cultures.