

Bridging International Communities

2015 Year End Report



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We worked with Motorola and their partner Televis in El Salvador to have five portable radios donated to the community of Haciendita Uno (HU). The radios were donated so that the night watch volunteers could communicate with each other during nighttime volunteer patrols.



The women's coop in Haciendita Uno (HU) met in January and repaid their loans. Several new loans were then made from the accumulated interest. The loan program is now in its third year of operation and the original funds are still the basis of the operations.



We received a positive report from Committee for the Reconstruction of the Community (CRC) in El Salvador about the Vitamin Program in Haciendita Uno, Zacamil Uno and Zacamil Dos. We recommend we continue this project. We requested and received a grant from the Ronald J Woods Foundation to supplement the 2015 program budget of \$8,550 USD.



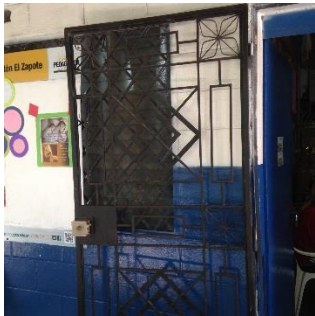
We are collaborating with the University of Michigan (UM) student team to execute the second phase of the DOW Dap grant for (\$20,000 USD). The second phase of the project added 31 aquaponic systems and presa developments in HU. The program is now complete and we are helping the students analyze the results and prepare a report for publication.

We met with the owners of Red House Imports to hear about their unique coffee import operational plan with a village in Costa Rica. We were able to later match

them with sales at the New Hope Center in Macomb county. We also facilitated introductions that might result in a link to the Empowerment Plan and Mittens for Detroit organizations locally. Sadly, Red House had to terminate its operation in, November 2015 due to timing and service issues with the US Customs Office.

We are interested in developing a standardized process of project evaluation for us to use on our projects. We are talking with a new non-profit that focuses on developing such processes for project evaluations to support fundraising purposes.

We met with the Executive Director of the New Hope center in Macomb County. They are looking at developing an aquaponics system in the 10,000 square feet storage area. Representatives of the United Nations are also reviewing their plan to determine if it can be exported to other countries. We have been asked to be part of their development team.



We received a request for a \$5,000 USD grant to help build a biology/chemistry lab at the Los Almendros High School in El Salvador. We are seeking to make this a reality for the students in El Salvador. You can see a short YouTube video on this project at: <https://youtu.be/50dfHrBs1Es>



We gathered information from the girls in Uganda and to updated our website with some small snippets of their stories. You can view them at <http://www.bridge-communities.org/uganda.html>



The House of Jjajja Don was purchased by the Diakonos Don Foundation with the help of our donors. We are excited to be a part of the process of taking these young women out of the slums and commercial sex work. All of the Phase I girls have now graduated from the House of Jjajja Don and a recruitment process

has begun for new girls to live in the house and learn employment skills. By the end of December 2015, there have been 24 girls in the program. Some girls have been recruited and are attending school so as to complete their Primary and Secondary educations while others are learning vocational skills at the House.



Michelle Leach obtained a \$1,000 grant from the Pollination Project to plant cocoa trees in HU with a focus on economic development for the youth of the community.



With the assistance of our board members, a Fishery Cooperative has been developed in HU to help manage future operations of the presa fish farm. There are currently 5000 Tilapia being raised in the presa. Sale of fish began recently and we are encouraging the cooperative members to develop marketing channels that will facilitate the sale of a large number of fish.

We have been registered as a non-profit with smile.amazon.com and are eligible for a 0.5% share of all purchase made on that site by people who have selected us as their charity of choice.

We signed an Memorandum of Understanding with GreaterGood.Org and now need to focus on what grants and programs we can use their assistance for fundraising.

We completed the Grant Application Process resolution and put it in place this year. This will help us to more uniformly evaluate grant requests from the communities we serve.

The Board of Directors adopted a resolution to make the Donor's Bill of Rights a standard for our organization.



We had the opportunity to host Jackie Smith in Michigan after she attended the Biomimicry Conference in Austin, Texas. Ms. Smith is from El Salvador and was one of the first college students we supported. She is an agriculture engineer and is working with us on the aquaponics systems in El Salvador.

Board members Ed Walton and Don Leach were able to attend the Great Lakes Regional Conference of Engineers Without Borders in Toledo, Ohio, where they established many new professional contacts.

We are seeking to improve our presence in social media and crowdfunding. We have taken the following steps:

Registered with the following companies that can assist in fundraising:

- a. Google for Non-Profits—applications
- b. GreaterGood Network-grants and marketing
- c. HipGIVE-grants and marketing
- d. CrowdRise-funding and marketing
- e. GoFundMe—funding and marketing

Registered with the fund processing plans:

- a. Network for Good-direct deposit
- b. WePay-direct deposit
- c. AmazonSmile-direct deposit
- d. PayPal-fund transfer to direct deposit.

We created our first electronic Newsletter August 2015 Vol.1 No. 1 We can now create and send them through the Mail Chimp service.

We have a Twitter account under BridgeInternational. We also have a page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeInternationalCommunities/> and a website at www.bridge-communities.org