

# **YEAR END REPORT 2019**



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER



### **OUR MISSION**

EWB USA-NEU aids communities in developing countries by using engineering solutions to address basic human needs, such as the need for potable water - all the while supplying our student members with educational, transformative experiences.

### **OUR VISION**

EWB-USA's vision is a world in which every community has the capacity to sustainably meet their basic human needs.

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Uganda Professor Amy Mueller

Guatemala Professor Annalisa Onnis-Hayden

### a letter from the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2019, our chapter exceeded expectations and achieved national recognition, all the while providing our students with transformative and challenging engineering experiences. Our Uganda program completed two trips, overseeing the drilling of our first water well in the community of Nakyenyi. Students in the Panama program worked diligently on designs for their implementation trip planned for February and March 2020, and made arrangements to begin assessment for a new partner community in the nearby town of La Pedregosa, Panama. In our Guatemala Program, students worked with mentors and professionals to design a new school building and its relevant infrastructure for 50 school aged children in Chuixil.

In addition to project success and progress, EWB-USA NEU has attained national recognition for its achievements. In November, eight students traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to present and attend the EWB-USA National Conference. At this conference EWB-USA NEU was awarded Premier Student Chapter of EWB-USA, an award given to one chapter per year who exemplifies EWB-USA's mission through efficient organization, effective fundraising, and an engaged student body.

In the coming year, our goal is to utilize this recognition to accelerate our fundraising to scale our impact in partner communities. Due to EWB-USA's transition to the Cost Share model this year, we lost a significant portion of our grant funding. However, we are confident that through effective planning and new funding sources, our projects will continue to succeed in 2020. Next year we expect to receive roughly 20% of project costs from EWB-USA through the Cost Share program, as well as up to 30% of our operating budget directly through Northeastern budget allowances and grants. Even still, with three projects all in the construction phase, our donors are more important than ever.

Project success and national awards are only achievable when students and donors work together to produce the best solutions for our partner communities; this year, we exceeded that goal. To the students who work tirelessly on exceptional designs, to our mentors who provide countless hours of professional and personal guidance, to the communities and their members who work with us weekly to mobilize and plan for the most effective projects, and to our donors, whose support has provided critical infrastructure to over 3,000 underserved community members across the globe since 2005, I thank you. I look forward to seeing this organization's continuing success in the coming decade.



Peter Bottalo

Peter Botticello President 2019-2020

## UGANDA

The year 2019 was filled with successes for the Uganda Program. We made critical design decisions, built community relationships, and grew our technical knowledge for the project. Building off momentum from the August 2018 assessment trip, the program began design work for a water distribution system in Nakyenyi. The program traveled twice in 2019 for further assessment and to begin project implementation. In March of 2019, four students and Professional Mentor Kelsey Dunn returned to Nakyenyi for the second assessment trip. Since the August 2018 trip, the NGO, Buddu Social Development Association (BUSO-DA), reached out to community members to create a Water Board to oversee the project. During the trip, the travel team met with the Water Board for the first time to explain the program's role in the project. The Water Board expressed where water should be supplied in the community, as well as their concerns regarding community mobilization. By the end of the trip, the travel team, the Water Board, and BUSODA signed a community partnership agreement that outlined each members' roles and allowed for transition into the implementation phase.

During this trip, the travel team also met with a prospective drilling contractor to discuss the results of the hydrogeologic survey. The goal of the survey was to determine the location of an aquifer that could serve as a water source for the community. However, the survey did not provide a source with a sufficient yield. In May of 2019, the program contracted a second hydrogeologic survey in different areas of the



Will Kovarik takes a break from surveying to give fist bumps to children. (March 2019)



Emily Moore, Britta Johnston, and Helena Hollauer pose with the drill rig. (December 2019)

community. The second survey found two potential locations for drilling a bedrock well.

Following the March trip, the program completed an Alternatives Analysis report for a water source. The program considered both manual and machine drilled wells, a rainwater catchment system, and a valley dam. The program ultimately decided on a machine drilled well. With two potential drilling locations from the second hydrogeologic survey, the program was ready to begin implementation!

In the fall of 2019, five students and Professional Mentors Bill Clunie and Helena Hollauer (a geologist from the Portland, Maine professional chapter) prepared to travel to Nakyenyi for implementation over winter break. The goals of the trip were to drill a borehole, construct an apron slab, and install a hand pump. Given the tight window for travel, this implementation trip tested the program's ability to improvise while making thoughtful decisions. Two weeks before departing for Uganda, the program learned that their drilling contractor would no longer drill during the trip. With the support of the EWB-USA in-country office, the program quickly found a new drilling contractor for the project.

The travel team arrived in Uganda in December of 2019, optimistic and excited for implementation.



The March 2019 travel team with the Nakyenyi Water Board. (March 2019)

However, mother nature put up a fight. On its way to the site, the drilling rig became stuck in the mud due to heavy rains. Helena Hollauer consulted withher colleagues in New England and concluded that the contractors could drill at the location where the rig was stuck. The travel team guickly negotiated new land-access agreements, and drilling commenced. The contractor drilled a 103 meter borehole with a vield of 2,500 l/day. Working with a new contractor on a short timeline proved challenging. The contractor did not provide bentonite (a clay that expands in contact with water) to seal the borehole. The team requested that bentonite be used, stressing its necessity to prevent contaminants from entering the borehole. While the bentonite made its long journey from Kenya to Nakyenyi, the travel team had to return to Boston before construction was completed. Fortunately, Lydia Kyokaali, our project engineer based out of the EWB-USA in-country office, supervised the apron slab and borehole construction. Thanks to her help, Nakyenyi has a hand pump and access to clean water while the distribution system design and the first phase of implementation is being completed.





active members

The program is currently planning to travel again in Spring 2021 to install a submersible pump and power source, and construct a transmission main and a storage tank for the distribution system. In the meantime, they are busy working on a detailed design report. The report will outline the entire system design including: sizing the submersible pump, determining transmission and distribution mains location and diameters. sizing the storage tank and design its structure, and designing two tap stands that will be located at the two main community centers. Design groups in the program are using additional elevation, geospatial, and water quality data gathered from the 2019 trips to further the design. The program is hard at work, and are confident that when they finish this report, they will be ready for another successful implementation trip!

Article by Kimberly Kuhn



## **GUATEMALA**

The Guatemala Program had an exciting year in 2019! The past twelve months have been filled with design work, report writing, and trip planning. Over the past year, more than 20 new students joined the project, and the program has established relationships with two new professional mentors. Included in the students who joined were structural engineering students at Northeastern who have helped safely design the school structure and formalize construction and layout plans.

In January of 2019, the program submitted the posttrip report for the December 2018 Assessment Trip. This trip consisted of four students and professional mentor, Ronald Burns. They established the partnership with the community, collected survey and soil data to better evaluate the prospect of building a school on the proposed land, and examined the construction of other schools in the area to better inform upcoming design decisions.

After the submission of the post-trip report to EWB-USA, the program focused on detailing an Alternative Analysis report to examine multiple choices for school construction and wastewater system design. This report involved the collaboration of the entire program and is an excellent example of all members working together to create the best possible solution for the community. The Alternatives Analysis determined how to minimize land development to ensure a stable foundation and confirmed consensus to use



The travel team signing their Community Partnership Ageement. (January 2019)

a wastewater management system that includes a plastic septic tank and a leach field. The report also identified that the school will have three classrooms. a kitchen, and a storage area in addition to a second bathroom structure with three stalls which will be located in a separate building away from the school. These decisions were imperative in organizing the thoughts for the next phase of design as the program began to prepare for design and construction.

After the successful submission and approval of the Alternative Analysis report by EWB-USA in June 2019, the program focused their energy on the complete design of the school structure for the Pre-Implementation Report. With the hard work of everyone



Rishi Shah surveys the plot for the school in Chuixil. (January 2019)



Lauren Grove speaking to the community members of Chuixil. (January 2019)

involved and the excellent patience and cooperation of the program's project engineer from the Guatemala EWB-USA in-country office, Tatiana Maldonaldo, they determined the travel for the first phase of implementation should be Spring 2020 to allow enough time to properly design the school. From this point forward, they focused on finding structural engineering students and mentors to help better understand the body of work associated with properly designing the school. With the hard efforts of everyone involved, the program was able to submit the first draft of the pre-implementation report in December 2019. They have since received feedback twice and are working diligently to address all comments from reviewers and begin construction in-country.

It was a very successful year for the program. All of the members were able to step up and become more involved in design work gaining new skills such as completeing structural calculations, designing a leach field for better waste management, and creating detailed





residents served

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CAD drawings and construction plans. The program is still working very hard to finalize the plans and hand them off to the in-country construction supervisor so the community can begin construction of the school structure! With how positive and productive the year of 2019 was for the program, they are looking forward to even more growth and excitement in 2020!

Article by Madeline Rogers



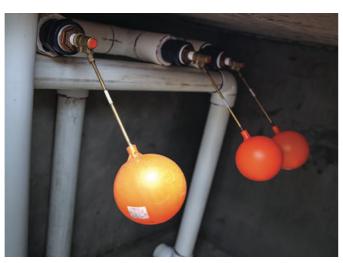


### PANAMA

The Panama Program started off 2019 with the excitement of having commissioned a new water distribution system in Las Delicias. With this new system in place they took off working on designs to bring more water to the community. This included designing a source capture, a filter box, a new transmission main, a stream crossing, and new connections into the existing storage tank. The added water brought to Las Delicias by this transmission main will ensure the community has the adequate water capacity for the next 50 years.

During Summer 2019, the program received a message from Las Delicias stating two float valves in their break tanks were malfunctioning. This concerned the program, and they immediately began working on calculations to determine how the malfunction occurred and designs for how to fix the malfunction using community resources. A week later they received another message from the community saying that they were able to fix the float valves. This was great news to hear, not only because their float valves were

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The float valves in a break tank. (December 2018)

working again, but also because they were able to demonstrate the sustainability of the project by using their knowledge and understanding of the system to troubleshoot and maintain it without help from the program.

Having accomplished a large milestone in Las Delicias, the program also began searching for a new



Lisa Sherman and Mike Sanders discuss surveying with the beautiful mountains of Panama as a backdrop. (December 2018)



Lisa Sherman, Alyssa Dubois, and Lisa Sangree review notes with a community member in Las Delicias. (December 2018)

project. They reached out to their NGO, Sustainable Harvest International (SHI), who connected them to La Pedregosa, a community in Panama located 15 kilometers from Las Delicias. A phone call with the NGO and the Peace Corp volunteers in the area confirmed that there is a need for potable water in La Pedregosa, and the community members are excited to form a partnership with EWB-USA NEU. La Pedregosa's community members filled out an application to EWB-USA, and by August 2019 the partnership was official.

While completeing the partnership application, members of the La Pedregosa community went to Las Delicias to speak to them about what it is like being in an



A Las Delicias community member looks at the profile of the water system design. (December 2018)





EWB-USA partnership. The members of Las Delicias were able to explain how their system worked and showed the community members of La Pedregosa our maps and designs.

Fall 2019 was spent finalizing all designs for the new transmission main, and also analyzing the information the program had about La Pedregosa's resources. They connected with the previous Peace Corp volunteer who worked there, as well as another organization, Water Engineers for the Americas, which helped design and construct their current water system. The program performed hydraulic calculations to determine where the system has weak points, and they made maps of both Las Delicias and La Pedregosa. They also selected and prepared a travel team to implement a new source and transmission main in Las Delicias and assess the project in La Pedregosa. This travel application had the most applicants seen in the program and allowed them to assemble a great team to perform in-country work in the Spring of 2020.

As December 2019 came to a close, the Panama Program prepared to complete the Las Delicias design package, and they ventured onto the task of planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (PMEL) for both Las Delicias and La Pedregosa. They also began preparing for the upcoming trip by determining locations for water quality testing, preparing a detailed work breakdown structure, and training the travel team members. This work is all in preparation for a full and productive trip planned for March 2020. The program is very excited to commence the new partnership in La Pedregosa and continue to help communities gain reliable access to clean drinking water.

Article by Cassia Lockwod and Alyssa DuBois



### Kelsey Dunn ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

EWB-USA NEU has impacted hundreds of students, bringing the knowledge and values of our projects into their lives after graduation. This is the case for Northeastern alumna Kelsey Dunn (CivE '13). Kelsey knew EWB-USA NEU was right for her when visiting campus for Welcome Day the spring before her freshman year. She was intrigued by the opportunity to use engineering to travel internationally to help people in developing communities gain access to the infrastructure they need. This led her to join the newly formed Uganda Program the first week of her freshman year as one of the original members.

As a part of the Uganda Program, Kelsey traveled on the very first assessment trip to Bbanda, Uganda in the spring of 2009. This trip would lay the foundation for a water project that would go on to serve over 1,100 community members via a 12 tap stand distribution system from a 50,000 L water tank alongside a hand pump borehole and several rainwater catchment systems for local schools. She describes this opportunity as completely different from anything she had ever experienced before. "It opened my eyes to another part of the world and a different life I wouldn't have seen otherwise. When you go there everyone is so welcoming," Kelsey says about her time in Bbanda.

Kelsey's involvement in EWB-USA NEU led her to travel again on the third trip to Bbanda on EWB-USA NEU's very first drilling project to drill a source well for the water system, and eventually to take on the role of Program Director for the project. She helped with coordinating reports, communicating with the community and guiding the development of the Bbanda Dis-



Kelsey with children in Bbanda, Uganda during her first trip as a student. (Spring, 2009)



Kelsey in Nakyenyi as the traveling professional mentor. (March 2019)

tribution System from its conception. Kelsey says the things she learned as Program Director have helped her be successful in her professional life, specifically with learning how to work with people from diverse backgrounds with different ideas. She describes how it taught her to unite people towards a common goal while managing expectations which has helped her with client relationships as a consulting engineer.

Kelsey describes her favorite part of being in EWB-USA NEU was the people. She says, "It brings together people who wouldn't meet each other otherwise. Everyone is really passionate about helping people; [EWB-USA NEU] attracts motivated people. It's a good group of students."

In 2019, EWB-USA NEU had the honor of welcoming Kelsey back as a professional mentor for the Uganda Program as the Uganda Program began their new project in Nakyenyi, Uganda. Kelsey used her knowledge from the Bbanda project while traveling with EWB-USA NEU on their second assessment trip, and has remained a prominent resource for the program as an internal reviewer for reports and as a mentor during meetings.

In her time since graduating from Northeastern, Kelsey has gone on to work as a consultant on building enclosures at Simpson Gumpertz and Heger (SGH) after connecting to them through the past Uganda Program mentor, Tim McGrath. Kelsey holds a PE in civil engineering and says she continues to travel, a passion EWB cultivated in her, and is happy she has been able to continue to support our chapter.

### Article by Nicole Marco

### Zachary Pierce SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Each year EWB-USA NEU recognizes one senior and their story with EWB-USA NEU. Zachary Pierce (EnvE '20) has been one of the many outstanding members who will be moving on to greater things upon graduating this year.

Zach joined EWB-USA NEU in the fall of his freshman year in 2015 in the Panama Program before moving to the Honduras Program. He wanted to combine his passions for volunteerism and engineering problem solving in a meaningful way and to see a project not just simply be completed, but also to have a significant impact in the process. EWB-USA NEU specifically intrigued him due to the high demand of infrastructure projects in developing countries.

After being involved for a couple semesters, Zach decided to take his commitment to the next level by becoming the Program Director for the Honduras program. Taking on this role made Zach even more invested in the project and Chapter. He says, "Being Program Director made EWB more than an extra-currcular. I became closer to everyone involved...Everyone cared about it so much."

EWB-USA NEU brought Zach fulfillment, but also taught him how to persevere. Shortly after becoming Program Director, the Honduras program was put on hold due to travel restrictions, and the chapter adopted the project in Guatemala, for which Zach transitioned to Program Director. Zach describes the experience as difficult due to the chapter having never completed a structural engineering project. The program had to start from scratch, learn what data is necessary to collect, how to properly perform structural calculations, and how to best design a functional and safe structure. However, he also found the process extremely rewarding; he was able to lay the groundwork for the project and try out things the chapter had never done before.

Throughout his time with EWB-USA NEU, Zach says his favorite aspect has been getting to collaborate with other students. Some of his most memorable moments were working with his co-leads doing project planning. The ability to work with other dedicated and motivated students is positive and rewarding. This collaboration has taught him so much about be-



ing a leader as well and he says, "I am happy I get to provide that opportunity to younger students and teach them to do more than what they are just doing in class." He's grateful that he has been able to learn to use engineering skills, both for technical aspects and for decision making, that are beyond even what is used in classes or on co-op. Zach says his time in EWB has made him feel more qualified as an engineer.

Zach will be graduating this spring with a Bachelors and Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering, and is excited to use his knowledge from classes, coop, and EWB in his professional job working on engineering design and remediation systems in Portland, Maine. Zach plans to continue working with EWB with the Portland, Maine Professional Chapter to continue making a positive impact worldwide.

Article by Nicole Marco

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

From November 8th to November 10th, 2019, a group of eight EWB-USA NEU members attended the 2019 Engineers Without Borders National Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. This conference is held on a yearly basis and is a way for chapters to collaborate with industry leaders, attend educational lectures to learn best practices, and network with global companies and one another.

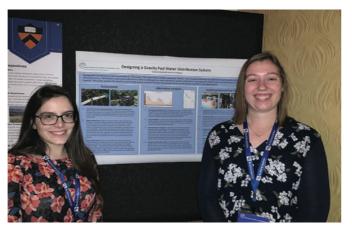
The first day of the conference began with a welcome ceremony and a keynote speaker from Boeing, as well as the CEO of Engineers Without Borders USA, Catherine Leslie. They both praised the efforts that student and professional chapters of EWB are making in the world, noting how crucial these services are to the improvement of the communities that we are working with. Following this keynote address, attendees broke out into separate sessions including presentations and panels on topics such as implementing effective solid waste systems, water infrastructure case studies, and how to increase student engagement within a chapter.

During the lunch break of the first day of the conference, EWB-USA NEU was presented with the 2019 Premier Student Chapter Award. This award recognizes chapters that go above and beyond the mission of EWB-USA and exemplify their values. The chapter is extremely honored to be selected for this national recognition.

The second day of the conference included a keynote speaker who emphasized the importance of water,



EWB-USA NEU students with EWB-USA CEO and Past Board President, Jody Debs. (November 2019)



Cassia Lockwood and Lisa Sangree with the Panama poster displayed at the conference. (November 2019)

sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and how it is applicable in EWB-USA projects. This presentation focused on how WASH values and practices can be incorporated into projects to improve health and prevent diseases worldwide.

Later in the second day of the conference, Chapter President, Peter Botticello, and Vice President of Administration, Nicole Marco, held a successful presentation on exploring the best practices for solving communication misunderstandings throughout an EWB project. They provided effective methods for utilizing resources to their full potential to those in attendance and received great feedback.

Lisa Sangree and Cassia Lockwood, the Program Director and Design Lead, respectively for EWB-USA NEU's Panama Program, created a visual poster that was displayed at the conference as well. The rest of this day included additional breakout sessions that discussed topics such as how to better brand a chapter, increase funding efforts, and navigating community politics as an engineer.

As a whole, the conference was a success and attending members aguired knowledge to improve the chapter in a multitude of ways. We are excited to share this knowledge with the rest of the chapter to accelerate the great work that has been conducted over the past vear.

Article by Thomas Cahill

# **EWB-USA UPDATE**

Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA), our parent organization, has also had an exciting year in 2019. Here are some of the things they've been up to.

At the beginning of 2018, EWB-USA unveiled a new 10 year plan called EWB-USA 2.0. This plan is the next iteration of EWB-USA that places a focus on certain regions of the world by opening in-country offices to better facilitate communication between chapters and their partner communities. As of now, there are operational in-country offices in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Uganda, with a plan to be operational in two more countries by the end of 2020. These in-country offices have already been invaluable to the Guatemala and Uganda Programs. These offices are anticipated to help communities with implementation, such as overseeing community construction when EWB-USA chapter members cannot be on site. Project engineers from these offices are also EWB-USA reviewers on all trip and technical reports to ensure cultural continuity

### BOOTCAMP

Bootcamp is a yearly EWB-USA NEU workshop styled training event. Established in 2012, Bootcamp's goal is to teach new members all about EWB projects and the skills necessary to be a successful contributor. During the day-long event, members are introduced to the stages of EWB projects through the lens of our three projects. Through presentations and group activities, members learn basic engineering skills, technical writing, and problem solving. On October 5th, 2019, 70 chapter members came together, gathering in small groups led by veteran members to share knowledge and ask questions.

Throughout the day, nine student chapter members from all programs introduced the chapter to the three main stages of EWB projects: assessment, design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Along the way students gained skills such as how to conduct Go/No-Go analyses, how to design and implement gravity-fed water distribution systems, the basics of structural design, and the importance of tracking our impact through the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) program.



and awareness for all projects. EWB-USA 2.0 is also focusing on providing more educational and online resources for chapters to increase productivity.

EWB-USA also announced Cost Share in early 2019 as a mechanism to financially support EWB projects. Due to this, EWB-USA grant cycles were ended, the last having occured in the Fall of 2018. Cost Share's aim is for the EWB-USA to take a leading role in the fundraising process so that chapters, both student and professional, can focus resources on design and implementation. The goal is for EWB-USA to provide 40-60% of project costs, when possible, and is to be fully implemented in 2020. This is a fundamental change in the way EWB-USA and its affiliated chapters fundraise and will be foundational to the success of the growing number of EWB-USA projects worldwide.

Article by Spencer Evert

Attendees also enjoyed a technical writing presentation from the mentor of the Bbanda, Uganda water project. Tim McGrath. As an alumnus of Northeastern with nearly four decades of professional engineering experience, Tim discussed the importance of writing clear and concise engineering reports.

By the end of the day, our members were equipped to rejoin their respective programs with a new sense of purpose and confidence to help further our projects into the future. Thank you to everyone who made Bootcamp a success!

Article by Nicole Marco



Students enjoying Bootcamp. (October 2019)

### thank you to our **PARTNERS**

Each of our EWB-USA NEU Programs works in partnership with an in-country office or NGO to facilitate communication with our partner communities and provide assistance and support during our trips. Without the work of these organizations our projects would not be successful, and we thank them for all they do!

### BUDDU SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

### Buddu Social Development Association (BUSODA):

BUSODA's mission is to help communities in the Masaka region of Uganda strive for their survival, growth, and development.

**BUSODA supports our Uganda Program** 



Guatemala Field Office of EWB-USA:

The Guatemala Field Office of EWB-USA currently works with communities on more than 60 projects in Guatemala, with a combined estimated reach of 125,000 beneficiaries.

> The Guatemala Field Office supports our Guatemala Program

### Sustainable Harvest International (SHI):

SHI's mission is to preserve the environment by partnering with families to improve well-being through sustainable farming.

SHI supports our Panama Program



### Expenses:

Honduras:	\$4,500.00
Uganda:	\$32,523.82
Guatemala:	\$3,943.05
Panama:	\$6,077.76
Student Betterment:	\$7,061.20
Administrative:	\$2,806.66
Total:	\$56,912.49



### **Revenues:**

Corporate Donations: Personal Donations: Grants: Student Contributions: Other: **Total:**  \$5,607.00 \$21,268.00 \$8,694.00 \$4,544.00 \$600.00 **\$40,713** 

# **FINANCES**

### thank you to our $\ensuremath{\text{DONORS}}$

### **GOLD** (\$5,000+)

The McGrath Family



### **BRONZE** (\$1,000+)

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(\$2,500+) **SILVER** 

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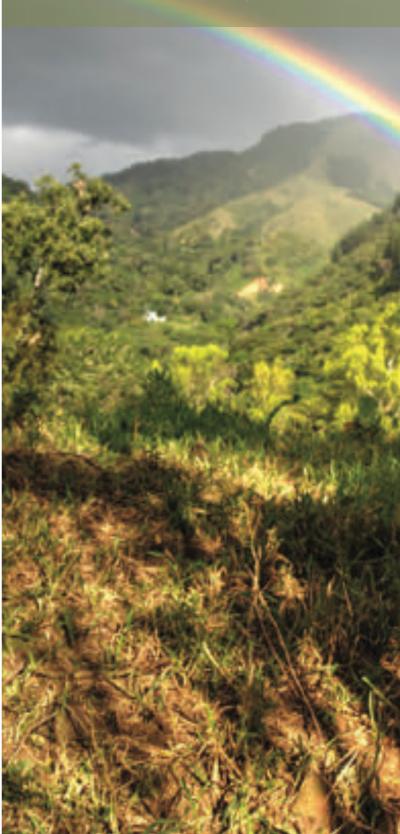
Jennifer Tomczak



### **BECOME A DONOR**

We could not do all that we do without the support of our donors. Donations are always encouraged and welcome in any amount. Thank you to everyone who donated this year!

> **Donor Levels** Platinum - \$10,000+ Gold - \$5,000+ Silver - \$2,500+ Bronze - \$1,000+



To Donate www.ewb.neu.edu/donate













### thank you to our **MEMBERS**

Thank you to all of our student members this year who volunteered their time to help our partner communities worldwide. Our impact would be impossible without all of your hardwork!

Uganda Pearl Abaidoo Uri Baron Peter Botticello Andre Caetano Emma Cayen Anthony Cherubino Gabi Danitz Bella D'Ascoli **Thomas Davies** Rosa Delgado Harrison DuBois Spencer Evert Remy Fung Mikaela Gordon Carmen Hansen Samantha Hemphill Ella Holl Jacob Jenson Britta Johnston Sai Kamsani William Kovarik Christina Long Nicole Marco Amanda McKenney Bella Mediate Emily Moore Allison Murray David Myers Isabella Oliva Alex Oswald **Beatrice Pforr** Victor Polizu Henry Psaltos

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### **Design: Nicole Marco**

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