

Engineers Without Borders



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Regional Conference

The Rose-Hulman chapter of Engineers Without Borders recently sent three members to the Regional Conference hosted in Milwaukee. A main focus of the conference was on safety, and what steps and measurements traveling groups need to make when preparing for both assessment and implementation trips.

Ghana Update

Clifford, selected by EWB-RHIT to run the Brooder House in Obodan, Ghana, has just completed special training in Accra and will now begin implementing the new techniques learned in Obodan.

New Project in the Dominican Republic

All good things must come to an end, and the time for RHIT-EWB to be working in Ghana is at its close. The group recently voted to adopt a new project in Batey Cinco Casas, Dominican Republic.

Batey Cinco Casas is a small village located in the province of Monte Plata. Many community areas, called bateys, were developed for all of the local sugarcane workers to live in. During the past few decades, the sugarcane industry has collapsed, and there are no longer any jobs involving the sugarcane. This left the communities without work and eventually in highly impoverished conditions. The Batey Relief Alliance (BRA), a group operating in the Dominican Republic to help improve the quality of life of such villages, applied to EWB on behalf of Batey Cojobal, a community located in the area. The BRA first presented EWB with a project involving the construction of a medical clinic for Batey Cojobal, but after discussions both within

EWB and with the BRA, the group came to the decision that working on renovating and adding to a medical clinic in Batey Cinco Casas would have the greatest impact.

The medical clinic is a small, but well kept facility located outside the province capital city, also called Monte Plata. People travel from all over the province to come to this medical clinic for various services, which include general practice, psychiatry, gynecology, dentistry, and a few other services. There may be challenges looking forward, but EWB-RHIT is excited to be working on these projects for the Batey Relief Alliance.

Meet the Officers of EWB-RHIT

President **Adam Kirchner**

Junior Civil Engineer from
Plymouth, WI.

Vice President **Daniel Giranda**

Junior Electrical Engineer from
Gurnee, IL.

Treasurer **Abigail Grommet**

Junior Chemical Engineer from
Chester, IL.

Secretary **Eric Hollenkamp**

Senior Civil Engineer from
Salem, IL.

Project Coordinator **Noah Gaebler**

Junior Mechanical Engineer from
Fort Collins, CO.

Events Coordinator **Jasmine Browne**

Junior Mechanical Engineer from
Tampa, FL.

Webmaster **Albert Johnson**

Junior Software Engineer from
Sugarland, TX

Assessment Trip to Cinco Casas

Medical Clinic Renovation and Extension for the Batey Relief Alliance

During the week of November 21st—28th, a team from EWB-RHIT travelled to the Dominican Republic for the first assessment trip of this project. Three Rose-Hulman students (Daniel Giranda, Abigail Grommet, and Eric Hollenkamp), one Rose-Hulman professor (Dr. John Gardner), and a Rose-Hulman alumnus (Levi Barclay, BSChemE '96) were all members of the travel team. They stayed in the town of Monte Plata, which is about an hour away from the capital, Santo Domingo, and about 30 minutes away from the medical clinic in Batey Cinco Casas. While down in the Dominican Republic, the team took measurements of the building that needs to



be renovated as well as the land surrounding the building. The team members also spent some time during the trip just visiting with local residents to get their opinions on the medical clinic (how often they use it, what they thought of the quality of service, etc.), what they felt are the most critical issues regarding water availability and quality, and just questions about the country and their daily lives. A large portion of the time was spent communicating with the clinic's doctors and administrative staff to give the team all the details they could about the existing clinic and what all they wanted for the renovated building and extension. The

team also met with a local engineer that gave valuable information about construction practices in the Dominican Republic, as well as the location and availability of materials.

The team also discussed the possibility of implementing a water project of some sorts to go along with the medical clinic. The Batey Relief Alliance told the team that they were looking to start working on a water project, but they had not started anything with that yet. The team did water quality tests of the water at the clinic, and while most of the tests done resulted in negative results, the test for E. coli showed that there was a substantial amount of the bacteria in the water supply. EWB-RHIT will have to decide as a group whether or not implementing a water project would be the best course of action. Overall, the trip answered a lot of questions the group had. However, with the completion of this trip, a whole new set of questions and challenges arises as the group moves forward.





The Project Process

The planning and implementation of a large international project is a difficult process for even a large corporation, but more so for a small group of students, to undertake.

First, the community in need of aid completes a detailed application requesting the assistance of EWB. This application and other relevant information is then sent out to the various EWB chapters or is posted on the EWB website. If a chapter believes it can meet the need of the community, the chapter will accept the project and begin work.

The planning for a project begins with the writing of a report submitted to EWB Nationals, which reviews the partnership and gives approval for international travel.

The first face-to-face contact with the village then comes with a small group of students being sent to the community for an assessment trip. On this trip, such things such as prices of local building materials, important local contacts, and whether or not the project that the community requested is truly what the community needs are determined.

After the students return from the assessment trip, much more in-depth work on the project begins. Engineering design and calculations are done while the community prepares for our arrival. Fundraising to pay for the project is an important part of the process from its inception. When the time comes, a team of students and a faculty advisor travels to the community to implement the project. Community participation is always necessary, and gives the locals a better sense of control over the project. The community is finally left with the completed project and hope for a better life.

Local Project

The Rose-Hulman chapter of Engineers Without Borders always looks to do a local project in the Terre Haute region. Currently, we do not have a local project, but we are always looking for worthwhile opportunities to arise.

Fundraising

We are currently receiving donations from alumni and local area businesses who want to help out with our cause. A recent Applebee's fundraiser saw the chapter bring in over \$200. We also received funds recently at Rose's Homecoming, where we gave out ice cream in return for donations.

Student Spotlight



Q: What do you like most about working with EWB?

A: I like being able to apply the engineering material that we learn in the classroom to real world situations. We also get to make international connections with others and of course get to help those less fortunate than us.

fortunate than us.

Abby Grommet

Donation Information

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Looking Forward

The assessment trip was very helpful in that it gave the group a good idea of what direction the group should go in from this point forward. The renovation and extension of the medical clinic will be a very difficult task, and one that will require a lot of preparation and work. The actual design and construction are tasks that are especially difficult for a group of students, many of whom do not have a background in structural engineering. However, there are many dedicated members who will contribute everything they have to make sure that this project is a successful one.

Besides the engineering aspect of the project, fundraising will also be a very critical component. The five year project proposed by the Batey Relief Alliance will cost roughly \$200,000, a price that is far higher than any amount the EWB-RHIT chapter has ever raised. Many members' efforts will be spent on finding ways to raise funds for the project.

Though there will be difficulties, the EWB-RHIT chapter is a group of bright students that work hard to help improve the lives of others. The group looks forward to continuing work on the project and will do whatever it can to improve life in the Dominican Republic.

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