



Pictures: (Front) School children in Sieykin Panama (Top) EWB-USA Greater Austin travelers in Sieykin, Panama (Bottom) EWB-USA Greater Austin travelers doing field work in Peru

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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER



With **YOUR** Help

Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USA) supports community-driven development programs worldwide by collaborating with local partners to design and implement sustainable engineering projects, while creating transformative experiences and responsible leaders. From Panama to Peru, the mission of our Chapter (EWB-USA Greater Austin) is to put the tools necessary to create change into the hands of those who are not otherwise able to. With local support and continued advocacy, we can continue to realize our vision of a world in which the communities we serve have the capacity to sustainably meet their own basic human needs.



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November 2011

The holiday season represents an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful. Sometimes we forget that having our basic needs met is a luxury that so many people all over the world go without. Things we might take for granted like safe, easily accessible drinking water and sustained food production is unattainable in much of the world, and we need your help to confront this unfortunate reality.

We are the Greater Austin Chapter of Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA) and as a group of student and professional engineers, our mission is to provide community driven development across the world through the design and implementation of sustainable engineering projects. By providing basic infrastructure such as clean water, improved irrigation, and health education, we hope to empower positive change in the communities we partner with.

The Greater Austin Panama team continues to work with the Naso people in Sieykin, Panama to reduce water-borne illnesses and improve health and hygiene. During the August 2011 implementation trip, the team built the pediments for two aerial crossings for the PVC pipe to cross the river and reach the houses in the second sector (Sieykin Arriba) of the community. The team conducted assessment activities which included locating and testing potential water sources for use in this sector. Since the water system has been installed in the first (Centro) sector, the number of waterborne illnesses reported to the Centro Health Post, dropped from an average of 50-60 per month to 5-6 per month in 2010. In 2011, incidents have decreased to two in January, three in February and none since then.



Panama Pictures L-R: (1) EWB members work together to build pediment (2) New Water tank at Centro Sector (3) Bonds grow through community education and outreach



Peru Pictures L-R: (1) Huasta Community (2) EWB and community members survey current WWTP in Huasta (3) EWB member checking effluent rates

The Greater Austin Peru team began their project in Ancash, Peru in 2010. Only 2% of Peru's water resources are stored in the country's Western Andes, where approximately 70% of the population resides. Glacial melt and a less reliable rainy season have caused 25 municipal districts to address their decreased water quality and availability by coming together to form the Tres Cuencas Commonwealth. The Greater Austin team is working with the Tres Cuencas Commonwealth and The Mountain Institute (a local NGO), to help address water insecurity in Huasta and Canrey Chico. This summer Greater Austin performed an initial assessment trip to survey the current wastewater treatment plant in Huasta. The next step will be upgrading the wastewater plant and installing a drip irrigation system using recycled wastewater to provide agricultural water security and increase conservation.

With both projects planning on assessment trips in January of 2012 and implementation trips in the Summer of 2012, this is an opportunity to make a huge impact on the future of both communities in Panama and Peru and to continue to build strong relationships that will cement a collaborative effort that is crucial to the success of both programs.

We invite you to support the Greater Austin Chapter of EWB-USA. Your tax-deductible donation may be made online at www.ewb-usa.org/2011giving/.

Warm Regards,

Charlotte Gilpin &
Christopher Lombardo
EWB – Greater Austin Co-Presidents

