

## EWB Portland

### 5/21/13 Meeting Minutes

#### Community Outreach

Nadia reviewed various chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing, including:

- Dorgobom Water Project – April 2013 trip (4<sup>th</sup> official trip) : The travel team returned from a successful assessment and pilot study for the moringa seed filter. They also installed a pumping station at the pond, completed a health assessment and evaluated storm water options. Trip results to be presented at a meeting in the near future.
- The Community Project: Ethiopia – EWB Portland Professionals is in the process of submitting a 502 application to be the lead chapter for a project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia that includes construction of a 24-room schoolhouse, community center and community garden. We will team up with the Portland (OR) Professionals chapter and the Univ. of Portland student chapter. The project needs project leaders, both stateside and in-country. An assessment trip is planned for August 2013. Habitat for Humanity actively works in the community building homes with local materials, which will be part of the EWB assessment. Fundraising is underway – each EWB chapter is responsible for its expenses associated with the project/trip.
- Trinity College EWB Chapter mentoring: The chapter's first assessment trip to Tanzania left May 21, 2013. The group will be building latrines for a preschool in a small village in the foothills of Kilimanjaro. Phil Muller is the traveling mentor. If anyone is interested in future trips with this chapter, contact Nadia Gluckberg.
- University of Maine Orono EWB Chapter mentoring: Please see below. Anyone interested in helping this chapter with selecting a new project(s) should contact Sara Wright.
- Yard Sale fundraiser – July 2013: The May 11 & 12, 2013 sale was essentially rained out. Alternate plans include a proposed BBQ/work party in July at Jake Jacobson's house prior to the Sat./Sun. sale. Date to be finalized.
- Wine/Beer Tasting fundraiser – September 2013: The fundraising team is moving ahead with plans for the September 26, 2013 event at Ocean Gateway. Silent Auction items are needed. Fundraising meetings are happening every 2 weeks and additional hands are needed. If interested, contact Kathy Kern.
- Portland Adult Ed Center: We've received several resumes from emigres looking for help with their job search. This includes helping to revise resumes, drafting cover letters to fit typical expectations in the US and one-on-one meetings to discuss local/US expectations. If interested in working with emigres, contact Sara Wright.
- School Outreach: Nadia thanked those who volunteered to support the science fairs. We will resume these activities with the new school year.

### University of Maine Orono EWB Chapter

Emily Kelsey, president of the UMO EWB chapter, spoke to the group about their need for local projects to work on to increase their presence and credibility. She noted the chapter had implemented a sanitation system in Honduras, but was unable to follow up given the security situation in the country.

Emily noted the chapter is working on membership (new & retention), ideas for fundraising projects and they are looking for more professional mentors.

### Peace Corps Project Ghana

Guest speaker was Sam Franklin, who served in the Peace Corps in Ghana from 2008 - 2012. Sam's main focus was to address agricultural issues. He described Ghana as a relatively stable, but rapidly changing society. It continues to be primarily an agrarian society where cash crops are the main drivers of the economy. He noted there is very little processing of food crops in the country. He described his work on a cashew initiative, as the world market for cashews changed and Ghana had an opportunity to help meet the world demand for the product.

Sam also detailed his work on a microfinance pilot called the "One Acre Fund" that was intended to help maize farmers. While the concept was good, the pilot didn't work out after a trial of three years. Sam noted that one of the issues for Ghanaians is access to capital because the interest rate is about 30%, which impedes capitalizing efforts and creating growth.

### New Business

None was brought forward.

### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, June 25, 2013 – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brewing Co.** located at 125 Western Avenue in South Portland. Please visit the Chapter Meetings page FMI at [www.ewbportlandmaine.org](http://www.ewbportlandmaine.org).