



**ENGINEERS
WITHOUT
BORDERS**

**LOS ANGELES
PROFESSIONAL
CHAPTER**

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www.ewb-la.org

Building a Better World, One Community at a Time...

Mali Site Assessment Trip

EWB-LA is working with NomadHope to improve six village schools in northern Mali. These schools have been successful at enrolling boys and girls, staffing teachers, building permanent structures, and adding classrooms. However, these schools now need electricity to improve conditions. Two of the schools are in bad shape, while the others are fairly new.

In November, Engineers Without Borders volunteers and NomadHope staff completed an assessment trip to design the solar and water/sanitation solutions for each school. The team saw how each community would like to use solar to improve their children's education and how the teachers will use it to improve curriculum. Before installing solar electricity, the project will address each schools' access to clean water and sanitation facilities for the students.

Samples were collected from each water point, and solar photos and measurements were taken for each school room and building. The EWB volunteers performed a water quality analysis and surveyed the existing latrines.

At each of the sites a community meeting was held. The meetings were great and the leaders and parents are very interested in having lighting in their schools, as well as better access to clean water and sanitation programs for the students. Each community will come up with a "sustainability program" that enables them to generate new income for the school that will pay for the solar and water guardian, maintenance, and

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14: Community Outreach Activity w/ Habitat for Humanity in Monrovia

February 24 7pm: UCLA/LAPP Mixer @ UCLA

March 31 7pm: Chapter Elections @ Casey's Bar & Grill Downtown, LA

replacement parts that they will need year after year. The communities are committed to this plan, and began generating ideas for sustainability programs.

The next steps now are to get the bids & designs for each of the solutions, and complete the fund raising for our Pilot project, which we hope will be 2-3 schools. For more information, please visit www.ewb-la.org and www.NomadHope.org. To make a donation to EWB-LA for the Mali project, please see "Donate to EWB-LA" box below.



DONATE TO EWB-LA

Make checks payable to EWB-USA with "for EWB-LA" in the memo line or "LA Chapter-Malawi Project/Mali Project" to donate directly to a project

Engineers Without Borders - USA
4665 Nautilus Court, Suite 300
Boulder, CO, 80301

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India Project Update

Nolan Sambrano traveled to India in October to continue work on the water stations that are being built by the LA, Houston and San Francisco Professional chapters. When Nolan arrived, the columns and roof on two new water stations had recently been poured. While the concrete cured, the EWB-installed water pumps in other nearby villages were inspected and repaired. A borehole was installed just outside of each station (intended for use with an electric pump), and another was placed on the inside of each station to be used with hand pumps. Treatment pits for the wastewater discharge were constructed near each station drain. Before leaving, Nolan reviewed the method and specifics for installing the first-flush rainwater catchment system on the roof with the contractor.

Tom Hennessey also traveled to India in the early part of December to build and install rainwater catchment systems on the rooftops. All of the EWB-built wash stations were in good working order. Between Nolan's and Tom's trips, the local contractor had taken initiative and constructed the rainwater catchment systems based on the plans left behind by EWB. The contractor still had to permanently mount the fixtures, but wanted an EWB member to check his work and verify the proposed construction. Once verified, the systems were permanently mounted and have survived two recent monsoons. Based on the successful finalization of these two stations a new station is being contemplated in a nearby region.



EWB-LA Outreach Activity Habitat for Humanity

Join members of EWB-LA for a day of volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Come for the whole day or just a few hours.

Email Jeff Baumgardner at outreachcoordinator@ewb-la.org to volunteer or for more information.

When: Saturday February 14
8am-2:30pm

Where: Sherman Ave Monrovia

A Note from the President

It's the beginning of a new and exciting year for EWB-LA. Before we tackle the next set of challenges, it is important to take a moment to reflect upon the progress we've made as a group in the last year. Some highlights:

- The LA professional chapter has enjoyed a fully seated steering committee for the first time.
- EWB-LA took on two new projects: Malamulo hospital campus improvement project in Malawi, Africa and a multiple community school improvement project in the Essakane area of Mali, Africa. Both had highly successful assessment trips and will be active in 2009.
- As a continuation of the India Tsunami Reconstruction Project, EWB-LA has had an integral role in the construction of three water stations in rural villages in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Chapter paid membership rose 70% in 2008.
- The first annual Fall Fundraising Gala was a huge success and raised funds for chapter activities and projects.
- EWB-LA now provides 5-6 professional mentors to area EWB chapters at LMU (new chapter!), USC, and UCLA.

I look forward to our continued growth as a chapter and successful projects in 2009 and similarly wish each of you the very best for 2009 in your personal and professional lives. As full-time professionals, it is easy to let the demands of our professional and personal lives absorb the time we might otherwise have for our EWB volunteer work. So to all those who have volunteered their time and resources in 2008: Thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Contact Liz Jordan (newsletter@ewb-la.org) to submit an article
next newsletter will be published May 1, 2009