

Etta Projects Moves Toward the Future

Changing Lives Through Sustainable Projects

By Penny Nixon, Director of Operations and Finance

As many of you know from our annual report, one of our primary goals for 2014 has been to increase our staff capacity. As Etta Projects grows, we also have to grow our own staff and invest in the organization. We have reorganized to enhance what we do well and to plan for the future.



Above, Amanda Martin is our Program Director on the ground in Bolivia.



Right, Debbie Ranniger, Etta Projects' new executive director as of September 1.

Our first step in January was to hire a Program Director in Bolivia with the ability to build better projects, direct an evaluation and monitoring program that will give you, our donors, more detailed data about program progress and results, and engage our boards (in the

U.S. and Bolivia) and all our staff in defining Etta Projects for the coming years. We are so pleased to announce that we found the perfect person. Amanda Martin is INCREDIBLE! Amanda brings to Etta Projects two decades of international development experience. She offers an extensive background in program development, management, supervision, and evaluation at a director level. Amanda has worked to benefit agriculture, micro-finance, education and health

projects in countries such as Bolivia, Columbia, Guatemala, Thailand and the U.S. Amanda has two master's degrees (in public health and social work) as a Peace Corps Fellow at the University of South Carolina. She also earned a third master's degree as a Rotary Peace Fellow from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies. We feel like we won the lottery!

We decided to try something a little different here in the U.S. We felt that, with the right person, we could create a shared leadership situation to guide Etta Projects. It took us a while but when we met her, we knew she was "it." Debbie Ranniger joined us as of September 1, after a lot of schmoozing and many conversations. Debbie brings more than 20 years of leadership experience including vice president for advancement at Clover Park Technical College, executive director of two college non-profit foundations and president of the Kent City Council. Her master's and Ph.D. are in the field of speech communications with emphasis on small group process and decision-making, group and organizational leadership and strategic planning. Her first day on the job was in Bolivia getting to know our staff and our projects. Several of the articles in this newsletter are from her.

Now, you may think to yourself, what does Penny

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And the Legacy Lives On...

Etta Projects is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, created to honor the life and legacy of Etta Turner. Although Etta Turner's young life ended tragically in November 2002, her legacy of loving and caring continues to inspire Etta Projects' humanitarian work with some of the poorest people on Earth.

Every day we ask ourselves, "What would Etta do?" She would most assuredly harness resources and collaborative partners to engage vulnerable and remote village residents to find sustainable solutions to their health, education and economic challenges.

To continue this important work we need project specific and operating funds. Please join us in our journey to create sustainable solutions to poverty in communities in Bolivia.

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mean by shared leadership?

Well, here is how it is designed for Etta Projects. Debbie has taken on the role of Executive Director ! Given her experience and expertise, this just made sense to us. She will lead our board, guide a new strategic five-year plan and build our funding base. I will take on the new job of Director of Operations and Finance. I will lead the charge in our projects as we grow and manage all the finances in the U.S. and in Bolivia.

Katie Chandler is still with us as a contractor. We just wouldn't be Etta Projects without her.

What a TEAM! Debbie, Amanda, Katie and I are excited to join forces, and ever-present in our thoughts and plans is the knowledge that our work



Katie Chandler, shown with her daughter Koah, continues her work with us as an independent contractor.

is only possible with your loyalty and help. We hope you get as excited as we are about Etta Projects' future and we would love to hear from any and all of you. OK, maybe not all at the same time.

Synergy, heart and soul across two continents

By Debbie Ranniger, Executive Director

Our staff in Bolivia talks with passion about the importance of collaboration, capacity building and community driven sustainable communities. So does the U.S. board of directors. Amazing synergy exists across two continents when both groups talk about Etta Projects. The importance of public health and the expertise of Etta Projects to promote, install, train and teach communities to sustain critical infrastructure emerges as key strengths of the organization. Etta Projects has heart and soul. We build lasting relationships that transcend geography and time. This is our strength. As the new ED, I am thrilled and honored to guide Etta Projects into the future, building upon the success of the past eleven years. Together with Pennye, staff and board, we are building a vision of the future.



'I am thrilled and honored to guide Etta Projects into the future.'

Young Man Guiding his Community to better Hygiene and Sanitation

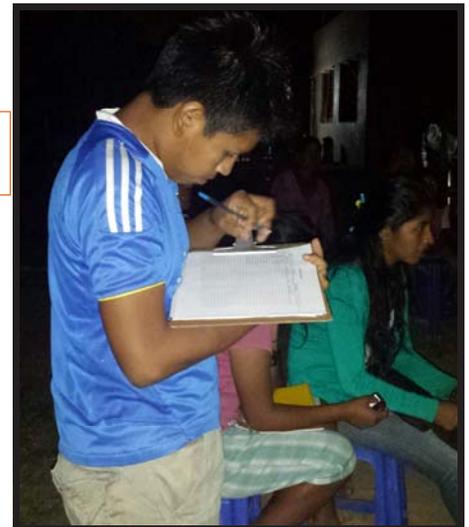
By Debbie Ranniger, ED

It's nighttime. Crickets chirped loudly, I swatted mosquitos and it was probably 80 degrees outside. The men of the village had worked all day in the sugarcane fields. We were assembled at the local schoolhouse wondering if anyone will show up for the sanitation and baño training. A few women drifted in. Then clusters of women showed up. Men arrived. We'd set out 20 chairs but people kept coming. Men, women, and children take their seats and we scramble to set up more chairs. With standing room only and more than 50 participants, the training began.

What struck me about the evening training, which focused on how to use the dry compostable latrine, was the total community engagement, from elementary aged children to village elders, volunteering to sit on the toilets and "demonstrate," albeit

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Collecting Data



'What struck me...was the total community engagement...'

One Woman Leading the Way in Her Village

By Pennye Nixon, Director of Operations and Finance

In September, Ana Maria anxiously agreed to be the demonstrator for emptying the compost from her latrine. All the community was gathered to see if the compost of a Dry Eco Latrine really is clean and does not smell. Ana Maria shared later that she was so nervous because this is her families waste and if it smelled she would be so embarrassed. When the door opened and the first shovel of clean dry dirt came out with no smell and just beautiful dirt she smiled from ear to ear and was so very proud to be the example of a clean sanitation system. Her neighbors were thrilled to know that this system that Etta Projects had promised really did keep their community free of contamination and gave them a private, safe, secure place to do their necessities.

Ana Maria was voted in as a sanitation promoter in her village of Las Naranjos in 2013 where Etta Projects was working to help build Ecological Composting Latrines. Ana Maria, like all sanitation promoters was assigned 10 families in her community to educate and accompany throughout the process of building, maintaining and using all aspects of their latrines. She will continue to monitor the latrines in her village for years to come. The sanitation promoters like Ana Maria serve as educators and models of hygiene and sanitation change in their village.



Left, clean, odorless compost is uncovered from Ana Maria's composting latrine.

Right, Ana Maria demonstrates emptying the compost from her family's latrine as villagers watch.



...if it smelled she would be so embarrassed.

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amidst the fun and laughter, how to use the toilet. What could have been an awkward and difficult topic became light-hearted and fun as people learned about the sustainable, eco-friendly approach to improving sanitation in their village.



But what really created a lasting impression was this moment where I observed young people from the village, recently trained as a sanitation promoter, collecting data. This is where transformation happens. By collecting information on their village, these

young people are learning critical thinking skills. They were learning how to analyze what is working, what is not, and can then help address issues and fix them. Their information can be used not only by their village to improve their own health system, but by Etta Projects to improve how we support villages and impact public health.

Learning their new roles.



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Pennye Nixon
Founder & Director of Ops

- We have just two weekends for Etta's Christmas Tree Lot this year, Dec. 6-7 and 13-14. Beautiful trees, loads of fun and gorgeous Bolivian products, too!
- Do you order items from Amazon? If you just switch to Smile-Amazon.com and place an order, Etta Projects receives 0.5% of your total order! Yep, Amazon gives us money monthly if you make us your charity of choice. So order all you want and do do some good with us, too!
- Donate that clunker and help Etta Projects. Running or not, we can pick up in all 50 states! Our vehicle donation program is made possible through our partnership with Donate For Charity. When you are ready to donate your vehicle, you can call Donate For Charity toll-free at (866) 392-4483 or donate online at their website: www.donateforcharity.com..Tell them to give the dough-re-mi to Etta Projects!



ETTA PROJECTS partners with Bolivian communities to implement sustainable solutions to the challenges of poverty, while educating and inspiring North Americans to act for positive change.