

Meet Juana - Changing Generations

By Penny Nixon, Founder, Director of Operations

We met Juana in 2009 when village leaders asked if EP could help them with a water system. We had just begun working in rural areas. This was one of our first villages. Shy and quiet but determined, Juana showed up at all work-shops, eager to learn. At that time she had one child, a little five-year-old named Rosilde. The community, like so many we work in, was in the middle of a



Rosi & Juana -dynamic duo

sugar cane field cut off from main roads.

People lived with a dysfunctional water system, no sanitation and the only access to healthcare was a five kilometer hike. One never knew if there would be trained health providers upon arrival.

Once the water system was installed, this community sought a solution to the open defecation and pit latrines that served as their sanitation. Juana was elected to be a sanitation promoter and this is when Juana began to bloom, her smile more ready and a small confidence boost was apparent. She helped build latrines and teach others how to use theirs. She saw the improvements that could come to her village. She helped the little school in the village put in a garden. By now she was pregnant with her 2nd child and talked of how she wanted her children to grow up differently. She had suffered years of sexual abuse as a child and now she had two girls and did not want the same for them, a big challenge in a culture where men dominate and women have little say.

In 2014, village leaders and Juana requested we return to train community

members to become Health Promoters. Juana was the first to be elected to in her village. Sadly though she had just been diagnosed with cervical cancer. Rosilde, now 13, asked if she could attend the course with her mom and help her if she was not feeling well. We agreed and the two became a dynamic duo. When the Rights Promoter Program was funded in this area, Juana & Rosi were there. Keli, the baby, is now five and of course always tags along to every training.

Juana's community now has clean water, sanitation, health care and even some of the first trained Rights Promoters in the district. They can identify, report and help victims of domestic violence. It is a start in this country that has the highest rate of domestic violence in South America. Juana, Rosi and even Keli are leading the way. The girls lives are different than Juana's and hold more hope. Rosilde wants to be a veterinarian and Keli has two strong role models, her mother and her sister. Juana helps us on projects close to her community and we hope to hire her for some work this year. If you want to see these girls go to <http://tinyurl.com/EttaProjects2016> and check out the video's of Keli and Rosilde. Juana's advances have created possibility for these two young girls. EP, with your help, was just the door that created the



opportunity. Juana walked through the door and changed generations.

Keli, Juana's youngest child, watching and learning at the health promoter training sessions.

Once the water system was installed, Juana was elected to be a sanitation promoter, and this is when Juana began to bloom.



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.

Etta Projects Is on the Move ...

to Buena Vista, Bolivia and creating a Community Transformation Center

By Debbie Ranniger, Executive Director

Yes, after 13 years with Montero, Bolivia as our base, we are branching out and heading down the road 45 minutes to the small town, pop. 14,000, of Buena Vista. Overlooking the edge of the Amboro National Forest (hence the name) Buena Vista, is situated near the buffer zone of the forest where 28 rural communities need our services and support. Community representatives spoke with Etta Projects asking for health, sanitation and water projects. These communities are dedicated to agricultural production including coffee and cacao. EP met with the president, vice-president, and treasurer of ASPAGRO, the local Federation of Coffee Growers. They want to implement EP's ecological dry composting latrines. The coffee farmers need improved sanitation in order to meet the strict requirements of the organic, fair trade, shade grown coffee certification process that guarantees them an increased price for their coffee beans. They also are interested in improving the health conditions for their communities. We will maintain an office in Montero over the next few years, winding down our projects while we grow into this new service area.



EP expands support, services – launching a Community Transformation Center

The move to Buena Vista broadens our service area and provides the opportunity for Etta Projects to increase project sustainability. EP realizes that continuing education, the opportunity to network, exchange ideas and benefit from best practices are essential components to success. Etta's Community Transformation Center (CTC) will offer just that for past and present projects.

The CTC will be a creative and dynamic space for exchanging ideas and practices to transform leaders into agents of positive change in their families, communities, and as part of a global community. Healthy communities evolve from empowered leaders with innovative ideas, tools, and strategies to improve existing conditions. The CTC will provide meeting space, demonstration models, resources, training, and inspiration in key thematic areas: Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and Health. Community leaders can connect across diverse backgrounds to share and learn together, to address common challenges and seek



Photos by Lisa Bontje

sustainable solutions. Amanda Martin, former Etta Projects Program Director, is heading up the CTC as our Director.

EP will make the CTC available to groups of 10-15 university students for 7-14 day trips to interact with local villagers, volunteer with project components (installation, construction, education, implementation), create an exchange of ideas and best practices for improved health, water systems, and sanitation. Additionally, Bolivian and International NGOs will be invited to use the CTC for retreats, conferences, and meetings. The NGOs will receive a presentation on EP's mission, CTC goals and resources, and EP program overview.

Introducing Camille Medema



Camille joined Etta Projects as Program Director in October 2015. She learned about Etta Projects while working in Santa Cruz, Bolivia with another organization that supports Comedor de Niño's Etta Turner (the first initiative undertaken by Etta Projects). Inspired by the work, she was eager to return to Bolivia, this time to join the Etta Projects team. Camille brings a wide range of experiences to Etta Projects, from clinical nursing practice to program planning and evaluation. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing, and a master's

degree in public health. As a nurse she worked in intensive care in a hospital, and later in community health settings including triage, peri-natal case management with immigrants and refugees, and community-based programs in mental health and drug addiction case management. Her clinical knowledge is complemented by experience in program planning, monitoring, and evaluation. In Honduras Camille worked in programming for children affected by HIV/AIDS, and in Bolivia monitoring and reporting for projects in early childhood education, women's empowerment, water and sanitation, and sustainable agriculture.

The CTC will be a creative and dynamic space for exchanging ideas and practices.

Join Us in Our Celebration!

Auction

Etta Projects' 12th annual auction is just around the corner, April 30, at the McGavick Student Center, Bldg. 23, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd., Lakewood, WA. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Buy your tickets now: www.ettaprojects.org.

We love our sponsors!!!

In this edition we are featuring sponsors who graciously gave \$1,000 or higher.

This year we are excited to have Executive Chef Bill Ranniger of Duke's Chowder House as a sponsor and catering our event!!!



Building the Future Sponsor

The **Thompson family** owned Mountain View Funeral home for many years and created this foundation managed by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to make a lasting impact. We are so grateful for their commitment to Etta Projects as a 2015 sponsor and the match donor for 2016!

Inspiring Change Sponsors

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe whose membership is composed of the descendants of the Duwamish and Upper Puyallup people. The Tribe's name is derived from the native name for the prairie on which the Muckleshoot Reservation was established. They have a passion for making a difference in our community, our region, as well peoples of indigenous descent. Learn more at www.muckleshootnsn.us.



Rotary Club of Gig Harbor Middy is a long-standing supporter of Etta Projects, bestowing upon Pennye Nixon honorary membership in the club. Most recently they were instrumental in being the lead and helping fund a \$78,000 Global Rotary Grant to provide complete sanitation systems including eco-composting latrine, shower, laundry sink and water recycling systems in the peri-urban area outside of Montero. They have collaborated with EP on many projects since the beginning. Golferitaville, the club's premier golf tournament, held annually at McCormick Woods was started in 2004 to provide funds for Etta Projects. Rotary Club of Gig Harbor Middy meets at noon every Tuesday at Anthony's Restaurant in Gig Harbor. Guests are welcome.



Sue and Rick Little show their love and enthusiasm for EP at last year's auction! Sue is a long-time board member and Bolivia traveler. Rick championed our annual fundraiser as auctioneer for many years!

Developing Sustainability Sponsors

Graham and Graham Eldercare Consultants are passionate about helping families find the right care and support for their elder members during life's difficult transitions. They make the process as smooth and stress-free as possible during a very tough time. To learn more, call 1-888-217-1655 or check out their website:



www.grahamandgrahamec.com/. They understand our passion for helping families too, so much so that they are back in 2016 as sponsors for a second year! Look for their name at the Etta-tini Table on April 30th!!

Republic Services — When it comes to sanitation, waste removal and the importance of the environment, Republic Services is in there pitching! They understand our passion for clean water, sanitation and hygiene, so much so that they are back in 2016 as sponsors for a 2nd year! Like us, they are passionate about serving community. Look for their signs at one of our silent auction



REPUBLIC SERVICES

tables on April 30th! You can learn more about their good works at: www.republicservices.com/communities





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Etta Projects

Debbie Ranniger
Executive Director

Penny Nixon
Founder, D.O.

- Gifts made at the auction will be matched up to \$25,000! If you cannot come to the auction still participate in the match. Sponsor an eco-latrine for \$500, a family water distribution system for \$250 or \$125 for a community health kit. Donate at www.ettaprojects.org.
- Gifts of any size help us reach our goals. \$10.00 a month for a year is the average cost of a village medical kit. Buy two! You can gift through your own online banking system using Bill Pay or we have a form you can fill out and charge your credit card each month; an easy way to earn those miles or rewards. This is a tax deductible donation. Contact: pennye@ettaprojects.org to get set up.
- Donate that clunker and help Etta Projects. Running or not, we can pick up in all 50 states! Our vehicle donation program is 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 moola to Etta Projects!



Mission

Etta Projects collaborates with communities, creating sustainable solutions to improve health, sanitation and clean water.