



COMMUNITIES EMPOWERING STUDENTS  
STUDENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



ANNUAL

REPORT

2010

# THE “EMPOWERED”

are not concerned with borders and countries, but humanity.

Their impact is not measured in words and pictures, it radiates in the lives of whom they impact.

Their message is not self promoting, but spreads virally for the awareness of social change.

When they mobilize without creed or credit, great work is done.

- Unknown

I WAS  
ORIGINALLY  
DRAWN BY THE  
SUSTAINABLE  
AND HOLISTIC  
APPROACH.

THE IDEA that you can't just help people by being charitable in one aspect.

THE IDEA that it's the accumulation of small steps that fall into the larger picture.

THE IDEA that the only way to help people is to help them help themselves.

and to top it all off

THE IDEA that STUDENTS can make this happen is what drew me to this organization.

– sara mangosing  
Environmental Brigades President  
UC San Diego

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**STEVE**

**Steven Atamian**  
President (aka Chief Empowerment Officer)  
Global Brigades, Inc. (USA)

## Message from the Chief Empowerment Officer

In 2010, Global Brigades nearly doubled to 350 university chapters delivering health and development programs internationally. Their impact, with the support of the in-country teams and community members, continues to double accordingly. This report sheds a small light on the quantitative results of their collective work, albeit not forgotten the more intangible observations of compassion, self-awareness, and human dignity.

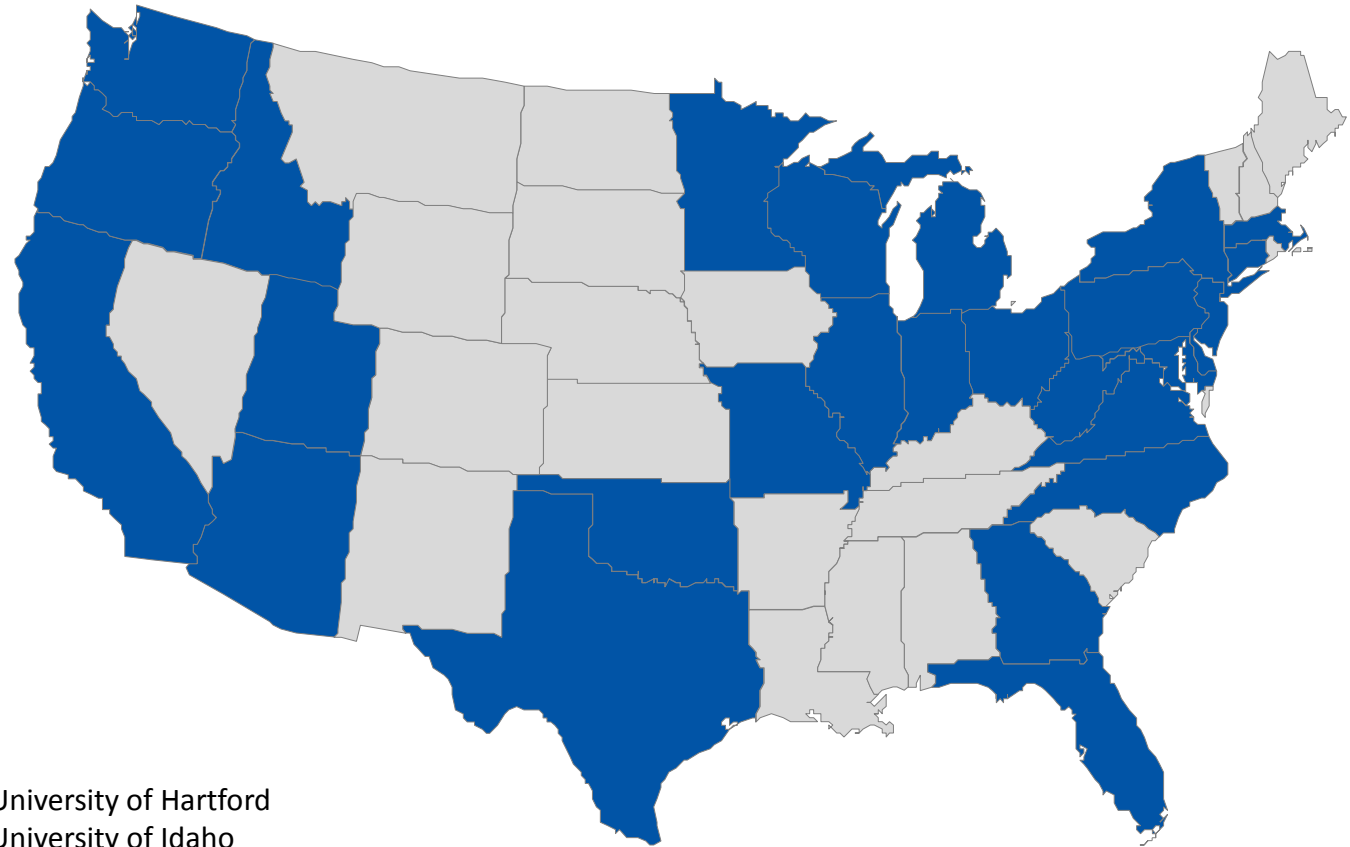
- 62,611 - total patients treated \*by licensed doctors
- 5,620 - tooth extractions \*by licensed dentists
- 474 - papsmears taken
- 309 - cement floors, h2o storage units, latrines and eco stoves constructed
- 205 - families with treated water routed to their home
- 71 - microloans facilitated through three new community banks
- 14 - community health workers practicing
- 7 - lives saved from a patient referral system



## 2010 U.S. University Campus Presence

Albion College  
 Arizona State University  
 Boston University  
 Cal State Fullerton  
 Calvin College  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Catholic University of America  
 Chapman University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 DePaul University  
 Duke University  
 Eastern Virginia Medical School  
 Elon University  
 Emory University  
 George Washington University  
 Hofstra University  
 Hunter College  
 Illinois Wesleyan University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Lower Columbia College  
 Loyola University  
 Marquette University  
 Marshall University  
 Mayo Medical School  
 Medical College of Wisconsin  
 New York University  
 Northwestern University

Oregon State University  
 Pacific Union College  
 Penn State University  
 Portland State University  
 Rutgers University  
 Saint Louis University  
 Samuel Merritt University  
 San Francisco State University  
 Santa Clara University  
 Seattle University  
 Soka University  
 Stony Brook University  
 Syracuse University  
 Texas A&M University  
 Tiffin University- Ohio  
 UC Berkeley  
 UC Davis  
 UC Irvine  
 UC Los Angeles  
 UC San Diego  
 UC Santa Barbara  
 UC Santa Cruz  
 UNC Chapel Hill  
 UNC Wilmington  
 University of Arizona  
 University of Central Florida  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware



University of Hartford  
 University of Idaho  
 University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign  
 University of La Verne  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Oklahoma  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Puget Sound  
 University of Southern California  
 University of Texas at Arlington  
 University of Texas at Austin

University of the Pacific  
 University of Utah  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Washington  
 Wake Forest University  
 Washington University at St. Louis  
 Western University



**Program Lead:** John Cunningham    **Advisor:** Tyler Macy

**Architecture Brigades** volunteers design and construct schools and health centers for communities. Once a University Chapter expresses their interest, they will be provided with a brief on an upcoming design contest. Chapters then have a limited time to submit their school/health center design into a contest against other university chapters. The community then selects the design(s) that best fit their needs. For the construction of the school, all participating chapters, along with any chapters that just want to construct and not design, come together to help build.

### **2010 Architecture Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras & Panama: 109

Number of brigades: 8

### **2010 Architecture Community Impact**

Families impacted: 20

Completed Structures: 4

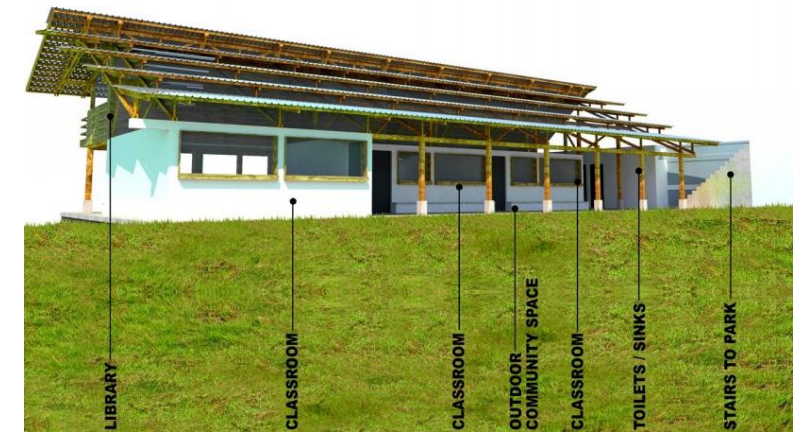
## Architecture Brigades Transitions to Honduras

Architecture Brigades made its transition to Honduras in response to a proposal put forth by DePaul University's Water Brigade, primarily to lead the design and construction of a 5,500 square foot secondary school in the community of Zurzular. With the hope of developing a new method of operation in Honduras, aided by larger operations and more developed community relationships, bringing Architecture Brigades to Honduras led to significant program benefits, including greatly simplifying logistical issues in the program by allowing for multiple brigades to work on the same project since construction would take a great deal longer, in addition to easing the access to the project for weekly site visits to verify construction progress as the community was located within three hours of the Global Brigades' office in Tegucigalpa.

### The Centro Básico Of Zurzular

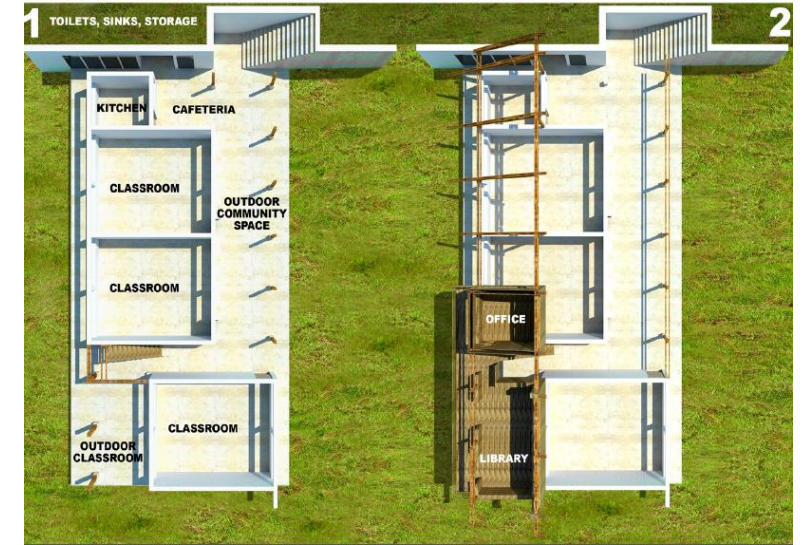
The pilot project for Architecture Brigades in Honduras is a "centro básico," (i.e. a secondary school offering seventh, eighth, and ninth grades), in the community of Zurzular that will immediately benefit 40 children from the community and several more from five surrounding communities. As there are currently 190 children at or below the sixth grade schooling level in Zurzular, a community of roughly 600 residents, the *centro básico* will see a significant increase in attendance over the next two to three years. Currently, families who send their children to continuing studying past sixth grade must ensure school fees, housing, and food for their children during the school week in Cantarranas, the closest town offering higher education, located about a 1-hour bus trip, because it is not possible to travel back and forth by bus every day due to conflicts between the bus schedule and school hours. The *centro básico* in Zurzular will consist of a library, office, kitchen, cafeteria, 3 classrooms, latrines, and a large amount of exterior meeting space.

In April 2010, the Architecture Brigades Team met with community leaders in Zurzular, along with government officials in San Juan de Flores, to design the project and plan its construction. Because all of the funds for the \$30,000 budget were to be provided by DePaul University and the government of San Juan de Flores, project completion was not dependent upon student participation, but rather only on the community's motivation to construct the project, which they began in September of 2010. By February of 2011, three Brigades will have participated in the project's construction: DePaul University, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois. Architecture Brigades expects to finish construction between April-July of 2011, depending upon the extensiveness of the Honduran coffee season.



CENTRO BASICO DE ZURZULAR  
ZURZULAR, SAN JUAN DE FLORES  
TRANSNACIONAL, MORAZON, HONDURAS  
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

### CENTRO BASICO DE ZURZULAR FLOOR PLANS



Opposite page photo: Depaul University constructing Project Z. Top Left Photo: Depaul University constructing Project Z. Bottom left photo: Project Z progress photo. Top right & bottom right photos: Concept drawings for Project Z.



## The Centro Básico Of Santa Rosa #2

University of Illinois, University of California Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, University of Southern California, and University of Virginia) in the first Architecture Brigades Design Competition, the project is programmatically identical to the *centro básico* of Zurzular, only larger in size, as it will serve thirteen communities in addition to Santa Rosa. From the six designs submitted in October 2010, the community picked components from five, and the participating universities spent the next month integrating each aspect into a unified design. Construction of the first of three classrooms will begin on January 9, 2011, and Architecture Brigades expects to complete construction of this \$36,000 structure by September 2011, after which construction will begin on a second building, a library with offices and latrines. By 2011, approximately 80 students will be of age to matriculate into the secondary school, and over 250 will be of age to use the facilities by 2013.

From a programmatic standpoint, the Santa Rosa #2 project has had several advantages, construction has been able to be overseen not only by Architecture Brigades staff, but also by skilled masons and community leaders, with extra oversight from the collaborating local government. Also, multiple universities will be able to execute their brigades at the same time in the same location for this project, a benefit for overlapping brigades. To ease student obligation, the design of this project was executed through an online competition. Because design components were removed from the actual in-country brigade and instead conducted pre-brigade, no knowledge in design or construction was necessary to participate, thus opening the program up to anyone interested in helping to bring education to rural communities in Honduras.




## Looking Forward To 2011

In 2011, Architecture Brigades aims to continue its design competition initiative, opening up two more design competitions in the next year. The program also expects to expand its volume of design clubs from 16 to 36 and begin recruiting clubs without design backgrounds that are dedicated to providing access to higher education in rural Honduran communities. Architecture Brigades in Honduras also anticipates completing the construction of the two *centro básico* projects in Zurzular and Santa Rosa #2, as well as beginning the planning and construction of a third project late in the year. Finally, the program also seeks to add an educational component to its operations, creating an opportunity for community members to learn new construction techniques, the justifications behind construction techniques, and the long-term care and maintenance of structures, in order to ensure the sustainability of Architecture Brigades' projects.

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Left photos: Concept drawings for Centro Básico Of Santa Rosa and progress photo. Top right photo: Architecture Brigaders constructing Centro Básico Of Santa Rosa.

A group of people, likely students or workers, are walking on a dirt path outdoors. They are wearing hard hats and carrying buckets, suggesting they are engaged in a field activity or construction project. The background shows a grassy area and a dirt path.

**“Even on an academic level, things like actually being a part of the ‘carbon footprint’ (actually going to the mountainside and bringing the rocks with which to build the Mampostria) is so much more effective than your professor dictating to you the effect of the carbon footprint. In short, this experience made me understand what it REALLY means to be sustainable. Sustainability is no longer a vague conceptual idea, but a reality for me.”**

**– Architecture Brigader**



**Program Lead:** Christopher Burillo

**Advisor:** Jordan Denitz

**Business Brigades** volunteers work with community bank loan officers to consult potential borrowers on improving financial sustainability. Volunteers provide rural communities with the educational, financial, and organizational resources necessary to sustainably drive their own economic development. The business brigade volunteers serve as a catalyst to loan borrowers, providing consulting methodologies, financial workshops and donating a “capital investment” to the community bank to back the loan. Between brigades our in-country team maintains relationships with the community bank and borrowers to provide follow-up and measure outcomes.

## **2010 Business Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Panama: 321

Number of brigades: 25

## **2010 Business Community Impact**

Microenterprises served: 25

Community Entrepreneurs Empowered: 311

Communities impacted: 24

## Business Brigades Successes

In 2010, Business Brigades continued to provide assistance to microenterprises throughout Panama, strengthening the economic stability of various communities. 26 Business Brigades mobilized to host 26 workshops to various microenterprises, providing tools and education on strengthening business aspects such as marketing, accounting, supply chain, and other operations. Through the donation of over \$34,600 in direct contributions, volunteers were able to provide equipment and materials to boost the businesses as well. In total, Business Brigades donated over 5,500 hours of pro-bono business consulting.

## 2011, Business Brigades Reinvented

Global Brigades is proud to announce that it will be launching a new model for Business Brigades in Panama. In 2011, the new Business Brigades program team will be conducting months of research and strategic planning to reinvent the way Business Brigades operates.

The new model will focus on bringing an entire community out of poverty through sustainable loans and business consulting for every interested community member. The model will also better engage Brigaders in hands-on experience through household visits, providing students the rare intercultural opportunity to consult one-on-one with a diverse group of Panamanian and Indigenous families. In the old model, Business Brigades would partner with an outside organization that helped the staff identify under-resourced businesses across Panama. A Brigade would provide business consulting to one single business in a community and each student would leave behind \$100 in a Community Investment Fund (CIF), to be used to purchase in-kind goods for the business.

While the old model allowed Brigaders the ability to focus in deeply on the needs of a business, the impact of the Brigade doesn't necessarily reach the entire community and follow-up was too dependent on the partner organization.

The new model of Business Brigades will be completely reworked to focus on elevating an entire community out of poverty. Through an extensive Research and Evaluation process, Global Brigades will be identifying one region to focus efforts in order to develop long-term relationships and implement a holistic approach by implementing all Brigade programs in the same communities. Instead of focusing on one business, the new model now allows Brigaders to conduct house-to-house visits in small groups with translators. This means that the program is able to meet with and provide consulting to every single community member who is interested in entrepreneurship opportunities or learning about personal financial planning. For every four-five volunteers, two additional families will be impacted, so larger groups will be needed.

By reaching out to the entire community, the new model will allow for more one-on-one time between students and community members (allowing students to see a range of businesses and ideas) and will increase the number of direct beneficiaries reached. With the new model, Brigaders will donate their Community Investment Fund of \$100/each into capitalizing the local credit and savings co-op in the form of backing loans and matching savings accounts of the families they are consulting. This will allow a student's CIF to grow with exponential benefits over time, versus a one-time donation of supplies.

### What Happens on a Business Brigade?

- Students hold a community-wide assessment meeting to introduce themselves to the community and learn about the community's needs/background and the cultural context in which they will be working.

- Over the course of the next 3 days, students break up into small groups to conduct house-to-house visits. During the initial house visit, Brigaders ask questions and collect information to find out about the family's values and goals, their financial/business education levels, and their interest in a particular business venture.
- Based off these assessments, students develop tailored educational materials, workshops, and recommendations to present to the family during follow-up visits.
- If a family has limited experience with business concepts, the group may develop workshops on personal financial planning; teaching the family to understand their income and expenses and how to save. For families with a more developed understanding of business concepts, students may develop workshops on supply chain management, marketing strategies, and accounting.
- At the end of the Brigade, students conduct a community-wide presentation focusing on community empowerment, and consult on where and how their CIF is distributed by the community bank.
- Throughout the week, the Brigade also participates in a variety of cross-cultural and outdoor activities (sports games, Indigenous language classes, hiking). The group also holds a community-wide celebration to recognize the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

The new model of Business Brigades truly embodies the motto "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime." By teaching community members business and financial principles that can be applied to a variety of entrepreneurial opportunities over time, Brigaders are helping to empower the entire community into taking their economic situation into their own hands.

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Opposite page photo: Brigader analyzing information for microenterprises



**Program Lead:** Dr. Fernando Estrada     **Advisors:** Liz Nerad & Kelly Wenzel

**Dental Brigades** volunteers have the opportunity to shadow licensed dentists in urgent and preventive dental services in communities with limited access to healthcare. Dental Brigades also focuses on prevention with dental hygiene workshops. Between brigades, the in-country team maintains relationships with the communities to provide follow-up to ensure any dental procedures were successful and to conduct community health worker trainings to empower local leaders to perpetuate a consistent level of dental care. In conjunction with the Medical Brigades program, over 80 groups of passionate volunteers systematically travel to Central America to establish mobile dental clinics in over 80 of our community partners. Each of our community partners receives a brigade every 3 to 4 months where hundreds of patients are treated with fillings, cleanings and extractions, and are given dental hygiene workshops.

### **2010 Dental Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras: 91

Number of brigades: 17

### **2010 Dental Community Impact**

Extractions: 5,620

Fluoride Treatments: 10,097

Fillings: 1,192

In 2010, Dental Brigades experienced huge successes as a pilot program. Most of the people treated during Medical Brigades, apart from lacking access to general health care, also do not have access to clean water, toothbrushes, toothpaste, or dentists. When a patient has a serious toothache, many are forced to deal with the pain or to pull out their own teeth without local anesthetics or the opportunity to repair the tooth. By providing these individuals with the necessary treatment, prevention, and education in dental care, Dental Brigades aims to alleviate their patients of pain and severe infections as well as prevent tooth decay among their patients in the future.

Over the past year, the program has operated mainly as an added station on a medical brigade, providing dental care to patients on almost all 88 medical brigades in 2010. In that time, 5620 extractions have been performed in order to remove extensively decayed teeth and decrease severe pain of respective patients, while 920 fillings were conducted to provide restorative care to patients in need. Additionally, 10,097 fluoride treatments were provided through Dental Brigades along with an interactive dental education program to teach proper dental hygiene and decay prevention.

The Dental Brigades program has also established five clubs that are exclusively Dental Brigades groups and have come to Honduras in the last year, from the following universities: University of North Carolina, University of California-San Diego, UC-Irvine, University of Health Sciences, and University of Washington. 78 students have participated on an exclusive Dental Brigade, while thousands more have been able to spend time volunteering with Dental Brigades while on a medical brigade.



Opposite page photo: Dental brigaders cleaning dental tools. Top Left photo: Patients lining up for a Medical & Dental brigade. Bottom left photo: dental tools. Top right photo: Dental brigader with child patient. Bottom right photo: Dental brigader teaching child how to floss teeth.



**Program Lead:** Tania Brathwaite

**Advisor:** Jordan Denitz

**Environmental Brigades** volunteers work with rural families and community leaders to improve environmental sustainability and livelihood. The main 3 projects that volunteers implement are reforestation, farm sustainability, and management of organic and inorganic wastes. The planting of native tree species restores the biodiversity and nutrient-cycling directly on the families' land. By creating and utilizing organic fertilizers and natural pesticides, as well as diversifying the number and placement of agricultural plants, soil nutrients are improved while erosion is minimized. Agricultural yields can be increased without dramatically altering the lifestyle of the rural farmers; while in the meantime, the cost of sustaining the farm can be lessened by breaking away from petrochemical fertilizers.

### **2010 Environmental Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Panama: 26

Number of brigades: 2

### **2010 Environmental Community Impact**

Pounds of waste collected: 279

Environmental Workshop participants: 60

Slow sand water filters built: 11

## Environmental Brigades Goals:

- Give dignity and social standing to Panamanian indigenous communities
- Positively impact the life of 300+ people
- Empower people to become environmental leaders in their communities
- Break disease cycles produced by air and water pollution
- Preserve Panama's natural resources by preventing deforestation
- Reduce the impact of household waste on the environment

## Sustainable Harvest Partnership

In September of 2010, Global Brigades and Sustainable Harvest International Panama (SHIP) created a partnership with the objective of developing projects that had positive impact on the environment as well as people's health and capacity building with environmental education. Sustainable Harvest International Panama (SHIP), identifies communities that are in risk of losing their natural resources and at the same time have other issues that affect the overall well being of the people, promoting projects such as organic vegetable gardens, wood-conserving stoves, biogas digesters, reforestation and a host of other projects, SHIP's local field trainers work together with families, individuals and communities to restore the environment while dramatically improving their quality of life.

The chosen community was the community of El Entradero, located in the west region of Panama, in the province of Coclé, a community in which SHIP had been working for three years.

## Eco-Stoves and Slow Sand Water Filters

On a single brigade, 23 Environmental Brigades students worked hand in hand with 16 households, building a total of 8 wood-conserving stoves, which helped reduce the amount of indoor air pollution produced by the smoke of the stoves these families used to have. These wood-conserving stoves also contribute to the preservation of the natural resources by decreasing the cutting of trees for fuel purposes.

Furthermore, the students built 11 slow-sand water filters providing these families with access to clean drinkable water. Through a cleanup activity in the community, they collected 270 pounds of waste in 3.5 hours and provided 6 hours of environmental workshops sessions to 25+ adults in topics such as Global Warming, Reforestation, 3R's (Reuse, Reduce and Recycle) and Benefits and Positive Impacts of Eco-Stoves and Slow Sand Water Filters, along with environmental education activities to 35+ community children.



## Composting Latrines

Environmental Brigades partnered with a not-for-profit institute, offering free education to adults and children that otherwise would never have a chance to receive an education due to the extreme poverty that they live in, to build composting latrines. The institute is located in Buenos Aires, a small village located in the Comarca Ngöbe Bugle, which is one of the four Comarcas (regions where indigenous groups live) in Panama. Close to the school, there is an indigenous community called Sahumerio, a small neighborhood made out of 11 households.

Environmental Brigades' objective was to provide these families with efficient and reliable sanitation conditions and stop the soil and groundwater pollution caused by the pit latrines. Their traditional latrines have a hole in the ground, where the waste falls directly, becoming a perfect breeding grounds for disease-carrying flies, parasites, and microorganism, causing the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis.

Student volunteers built 4 composting latrines, directly benefiting more than 21 people. The volunteers also taught 30+ adults participants in 6 hours of workshop sessions in topics such as Biodiversity, Water Cycle, and the Health Benefits of the Composting Latrines. During the workshops, the students also taught about the Environmental Benefits of the latrines, emphasizing specially on topics like the Recycling of Nutrients, Prevention of Pollution of Surface and Groundwater, the Increase of Soil Fertility, and the Importance of Reducing of Water Consumption.

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Opposite page photo: Child from Environmental Brigades beneficiary community shows drawing of latrine. Left photo: UC San Diego Environmental Brigades volunteers practice their workshop presentation.





**Program Lead:** Carlos Saldaña

**Advisor:** Jordan Denitz

**Law Brigades** volunteers work with Panamanian lawyers to provide pro-bono legal consulting to rural communities. Volunteers offer services through a free legal clinic, where volunteers shadow and assist lawyers as they provide legal consulting to community members. Volunteers also work to incorporate unregistered communities to empower them with rights and government benefits that they would not have received otherwise. Law Brigades primarily works with rural communities that are under resourced and largely unaware of their legal rights. Additionally, volunteers provide legal capacity building workshops on various legal concepts to empower communities through education. Between brigades, Global Brigades' in-country staff works to secure legal outcomes and provide follow-up to the community.

## **2010 Law Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Panama: 88

Number of brigades: 10

## **2010 Law Community Impact**

Communities impacted: 14

Workshop participants: 140

Number of Beneficiaries: 250+

## Broad Array Of Legal Projects

Throughout 2010, Law Brigades has worked with rural communities on various types of legal projects. Projects have included assisting farmers in Farm Association Status Registration, organizing and forming community Non-Profits (Personeria Juridicas), and establishing cooperatives. In this last year, Law Brigades has tripled its number of Brigades, providing more and more communities with access to legal capacity building workshops and enhancing knowledge of legal processes.

The importance of Law Brigades' projects lie in the motivation and empowerment of communities as well as the education and ability obtained by these communities about legal processes, such as where to go, what to do and how to do it. Workshops are prepared, not only to address the community's main needs, but also to explain the importance of different institutions and offices, such as the Public Registry of Panama, the only office where all organizations, corporations, transactions and acts of commerce need to be registered.

## Success of Law Brigades

Law Brigades volunteers were able to assist farm association in registering and obtaining their legal status. The immediate benefit of a legal status is the ability of these farm associations to apply for the transferring of the property they have been working in, for at least 10 years, or more into their names. After this, the farm associations will have the opportunity to access credit, get loans and continue working the land with the security of doing so on their own property. Law Brigades also got an interesting project proposal from our partner, Patronato de Nutrición, to give out workshops and help organize a group of farms from the Coclé province, to establish a Cooperative.

Law Brigades volunteers prepared workshops to explain to the group what a Cooperative (Coop) is, the principles of the Coop Movement, the rights and duties of a Coop Member, and provide an introduction to this entity. Volunteers also provided workshops on the Administration of the Coop, the importance of the General Assembly, Board functions and others. At the end, the group even chose a name for their Coop and the Committee that will be in charge of the registering, leading them to wide discussions about the future of the group as a Coop, how they were going to be benefited by it and how can they work together in order to make this project happen.

Opposite page photo: Hofstra University Law Brigaders with workshop participants. Bottom middle photo: Hofstra University Law Brigades community leader. Top right photo: Law Brigaders providing workshop. Bottom right photo: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Law Brigader presenting registration with community leader.





**Program Lead:** Dr. Jenny Najera     **Advisors:** Liz Nerad & Kelly Wenzel

**Medical Brigades** volunteers have the opportunity to shadow licensed doctors in medical consultations and assist in a pharmacy under the direction of licensed pharmacists. Each of our partner community receives a brigade every 3 to 4 months where hundreds of patients are treated and volunteers deliver public health workshops. Between brigades our in-country team maintains relationships with the communities to provide follow-up and to conduct Community Health Worker (CHW) trainings to empower local leaders to sustain a consistent level of healthcare. Electronic patient records are collected for future visitations and to monitor overall community health trends.

### **2010 Medical Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras: 2,480

Number of brigades: 103

### **2010 Medical Community Impact**

Patients Served: 62,611

Patients Treated for Parasites: 3,528

Patients Treated for Common Cold: 1,601

Papsmears Conducted: 474

## 2010 Medical Brigades Improvements

2010 marked for Medical Brigades a new beginning towards the vision of quality medical care. Several aspects of the Medical Brigades program contributed to this movement towards bringing higher quality medical care to rural Honduran communities, including the transition to a new Medical Brigades model, an expanded focus on gender-related health services, the advancement of the patient referral system, the scale-up of the data informatics system, and the expansion of the Community Health Workers program.

In 2010, a total of 2,382 student volunteers traveled to Honduras to participate on a Medical Brigade—almost a 40% increase from 2009. These volunteers participated on 88 brigades in 169 communities to support the provision of clinical consultations and medication distribution to 62,611 underserved rural Hondurans.

A new initiative that also began in 2010 was the sponsorship of a Health Promotion track at a local school called Reyes e Irene that provides technical courses for young domestic workers to continue their education. These young women are trained by local physicians, epidemiologists, and Global Brigades' Medical, Research, and Public Health staff in health education and promotion topics. In December of this year, several members of first graduating class in this health track are now serving as health promoters on Medical Brigades, preparing and delivering the health education section during Medical Brigades. This project is an example of how Global Brigades not only seeks to provide medical care to underserved rural communities, but also aims to train and equip local staff to work and serve the Honduran community.

## New Medical Brigades Model

In order to improve the quality of care and become more invested in the long-term health of the patients served by Global Brigades, Medical Brigades has remodeled its brigade structure. The previous model allocated for spending only one day in 3 or more communities during a brigade trip, whereas the new model allocates 3-4 days to be spent in one single community. The new model allows for more time for doctors to spend with patients, for brigades to provide a greater range of services, and for students to offer more focused health education. It also opens up opportunities for students to get to know the community members and their living conditions.

Medical Brigades piloted the new model with three universities during the summer of 2010, and 92% of students surveyed preferred it to the previous model. Following the series of pilots, more detailed strategies for community organization and patient flow were put into place to tweak the model and ensure consistent patient volume.

## Gender-Related Health Services Focus

Since the new Medical Brigades model allows for more time in the communities, it also permits brigades to offer more versatile services like pap smears and prostate exams in order to encourage women and men to seek out gender-related health care services. In 2010, 474 pap smears were provided, with 100 tests showing abnormal results. Global Brigades was the forefront on discovering these cases and referring them to the appropriate specialists for follow-up care. Four pap smear cases showed cellular atypia potentially leading to cancer; these patients were immediately referred to Tegucigalpa for colposcopy and biopsy. The other 96 abnormal cases were in reference to severe or moderate inflammation, Candidiasis, or Garderella, and all of these patients were also referred for follow-up treatment.

Within our male population, approximately 30 prostate exams have been provided with a least one abnormal case which was referred to a specialist through Global Brigades' referral program.

This addition of gender-related tests and services has enhanced the format of Medical Brigades' operation, recognizing the special needs for women and men's health and offering these health services not readily available in rural areas.

## Patient Referral System

In total, six patients have received some form of follow-up care as a result of the referral program. A few of these cases have included a shunt surgery for 3-year-old Eliser Nahun diagnosed with malnutrition and hydrocephalus; an emergency C-section; 3 wheelchair donations to patients with spina bifida (incomplete spinal canal formation) and hydrocephalus, neural damage from seizures and hemorrhages, and a broken hip, respectively; and finally a surgery for a total uterine prolapse which is further discussed in the case study on page

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Opposite page photo: Medical Brigaders documenting symptoms of patient.

## Data Informatics System

2010 was an exciting year for Data Informatics, as the DI system was scaled-up to about 20 schools from January to November 2010. One of the original difficulties with using the system originally was matching patient input in the Data Informatics System with the patient volume and time allotted during a brigade. As Medical Brigades has shifted its model, however, allowing for 3 brigade days in a single community, the patient volume is capped at around 200-300 patients per day, allowing for easier patient data entry. The full use of the Data Informatics System was launched with the new medical brigade model in December 2010. Throughout the scaling-up phase in 2010, 38 communities with an average of 200 patients were entered into the system. To date, approximately 9500 patients have their medical history on record for Global Brigades to keep track of common diseases and better prepare for brigades with needed medications specific to each community as well as to provide consistency of care and monitor patients' health over time.

Based on current records, the most common conditions reported are as follows:

Parasite infections - 3528 cases  
Common cold - 1601 cases  
Cough - 1442 cases  
Gastritis - 818 cases  
Acid reflux/GERD - 512 cases  
Fungal infections - 510 cases  
Hypertension - 414 cases  
Urinary tract infections - 348 cases  
Asthma - 216 cases  
Diarrhea - 215 cases  
Diabetes - 74 cases  
STIs - 6 cases

Future plans with the Data Informatics System are to continue expanding so that the system is implemented on all brigades in 2011. In addition, the DIS will allow for reporting of basic community health profiles based on the data collected during Medical Brigades. The program also envisions further collaborating with the Research and Evaluation team and the Patient Referral System in order to streamline the data collected on patients and communities.

## Community Health Workers

Global Brigades sponsors the Community Health Workers program known as "*Guardianes de Salud*." This program was created in 2009 to empower local community leaders to perpetuate a consistent level of healthcare and improve the access to medical services within rural communities. The program partners with communities in Honduras to provide intensive health worker training to selected volunteers. These Community Health Worker's ensure that patients receive adequate follow-up between medical brigades and prevent potential health complications.

The three key objectives of the program are:


1. Train members of the communities served by GB to become *Guardianes de Salud* and become health promoters with the necessary knowledge to bring basic healthcare to their community neighbors.
2. Support local health centers with trained people to care for patients within the communities they serve.
3. Establish a network between *Guardianes de Salud*, Global Brigades, Health Centers and Referral locations to improve the level of care within the community.

The community health workers receive an intensive three month course with a curriculum based on the well-known health promoter's training books "Where There is No Doctor" and "Helping Health Workers Learn," as well as

supplemental information from the Honduran Ministry of Health. The volunteers are trained in health topics including: basic medical skills like interpreting vital signs, basic life support (BLS), personal hygiene, health risk factors, infectious disease prevention, immunizations, nutrition and food safety, first aid and wound care, medication management, and reproductive health and family planning.

Global Brigades' Community Health Workers also learn how to track the health status of community members and teach fellow community members about preventive health measures. Their training includes the necessary tools and knowledge on how to give basic treatment for acute diseases, monitor children for proper nutrition and development, manage medication for chronic ill patients, and refer complicated cases to the next level of care. Overall, this program provides a very important, sustainable tool for Medical Brigades, by placing local volunteers within Medical Brigades' communities to ensure follow-up care with chronic patients, monitor maternal and child health, and prevent the spread of new diseases.

In 2010, the Community Health Worker's program finished its pilot in the community of Yamaguare and scaled-up to five other surrounding communities. To date, the program has trained 14 Community Health Worker's serving patients in six different communities, and is in the process of training 15 new volunteers. These new volunteers will expand the program to encompass 11 of our Global Brigades' communities. With the expansion, over 2,500 people in the district of San Juan de Flores in Honduras will have improved access to healthcare.

A blurred background image showing three people, two women and one man, looking at a globe. The woman on the left is wearing a green top, the woman in the middle is wearing a grey top, and the man on the right is wearing a blue shirt. They appear to be in a classroom or meeting setting.

**“I was a part of the Stony Brook Medical Brigade last week, and I just wanted to let you know that it was probably the single most influential week of my life. I’ve always held an interest in charity work and have wanted to participate in a program like this for quite some time, and I don’t think I could have picked a better organization to start with. You guys provided just the right amount of guidance while still allowing us the freedom to figure things out on our own, and I really got the sense that we made a difference in those 7 days, not just for the Hondurans we helped, but also for ourselves. I’ll be returning to Honduras next year with the Brigade, and hope to be able to continue with organizations such as this for the rest of my life.”**

**– Ginny, Medical Brigades, Stony Brook University**



**Program Lead:** Danny DeValdenebro    **Advisor:** Greg Clark

**Microfinance Brigades** volunteers work with community bank loan officers to consult potential borrowers on improving financial sustainability. Volunteers help the under resourced in remote villages build their own businesses, ensure against emergencies, and fund community projects. By partnering with other international organizations in microfinance, Microfinance Brigades provides the financial backing and technical support to create and strengthen independent community banks. As mechanisms for social and economic change, these banks are then empowered to perpetuate other community projects facilitated by Global Brigades.

### **2010 Microfinance Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras: 82

Number of brigades: 8

### **2010 Microfinance Community Impact**

Amount of Loans Distributed: \$8,200

Loans Distributed: 74

Savings Accounts Opened: 147

Community Banks Formed: 2

## Community Bank Model Implemented

Over the course of 2010, Microfinance Brigades has experienced significant growth in student volunteers as well as program development. During the program's initial period of due diligence in 2009, program leads searched for the best match for a microfinance partner organization in Honduras and decided upon FUNDER with their *caja rural* (community bank) model that was the most effective and the most sustainable model, as community member themselves own and operate the bank. As primary shareholders, the Caja performs administrative duties and loan decision making while adhering to our technical assistance to improve results. Microfinance Brigades then collaborated with FUNDER for the trainings of 3 *caja rural* (community bank) projects in the communities of Pajarillos, El Junco/Joyas, and El Encinal.

In 2010, Microfinance Brigades continued the trainings and oversight of the 3 communities, while simultaneously expanding its community bank training to 2 other communities, Zurzular and Toncontín. This growth brought the programs' communities of influence to a total of five, with the prospective of reaching out to over 350 families. As of current, there are 92 total shareholders that are actively participating in the five *cajas rurales*.

Benefits seen through the implementation of Microfinance Brigades and the *cajas rurales* have been striking. Many have used the *caja rural* to liberate themselves from a debt cycle. Normally farmers might have been forced to take an advance on their crops from bodegas (group loaners) in the capital, farmers now have the ability to sell their harvest at market prices instead. Using a loan from the *caja rural* in the place of a cash advance, the farmers now can cover the costs necessary simply to work the land. Farmers have also seen the yield increase substantially by now being able to afford the proper amounts of fertilizer, pesticides, and tools for their crops to maximize their production.

The *cajas rurales* are also reaching out to new homes and minds through program cross-pollination, specifically with Global Brigades' Public Health program. As a pilot in 2010, the roles of the *caja rural* in relation to the Public Health Brigades program were strengthened by a system that now ties the two programs together right from the beginning, with defined responsibilities for the *caja rural* in the collection and accountability of funds and loans for Public Health Brigade projects.

## Microfinance Brigades Volunteer Success

In 2010, 8 Microfinance Brigades with a total of 82 student volunteers came to Honduras to learn and experience microfinance in action at the grassroots level in Global Brigades' communities. Participants were from the following universities: DePaul University, London School of Economics, University of Southern California, Chapman University, Soka University of America, University of California-Santa Cruz, New York University, and Wake Forest University.

A major achievement for Microfinance Brigades has been the student fundraising, as they raised over US \$7,892 (L 149,091) for the Community Investment Funds (CIFs) for the five community banks. These financial investments have contributed to individual and group loans that serve to develop local microenterprises and/or community projects. To date, a total of 74 loans (non-Public Health Brigades-related loans) were approved and distributed by the Cajas, with a single loan averaging about US \$97 (L 1837).

These loans have served to improve agricultural businesses as well as encourage economic diversification. This year, Microfinance Brigades has begun to see loans used for the expansion of never sold before items in local *pulperías* (market stores), for a bicycle shop, a chicken coop, for teacher training, for denim clothing, and for importing diverse items from the capital to sell. In addition the financial

investments by student volunteers as well as contributions from local community members have provided for social projects like a protective fence for a school, supplying school and clinic supplies, and emergency loans for sick community members.

Another important component that Microfinance Brigades has begun to cultivate this year is the value and practice of savings in order to create new ideas and plan for the future, as well as to create security in an unsecure economy and environment vulnerable to unexpected changes. In 2010, there were 147 savings accounts opened, demonstrating a significant impact in the way communities perceive and plan financially.

Opposite page photo: Wake Forest Microfinance Brigade meeting with household. Bottom Right photo: Worker at microenterprise.





## Program Development to Improve Student and Community Experience

As program implementation at the community-level developed and changed in 2010, so did the format of Microfinance Brigades for student volunteers. While the program started out with a solid brigade experience, improvements were designed with three main goals in mind: A) To connect students with a more emotional and tangible investment into the community; B) to enhance the effectiveness of the students' CIF in promoting development; and C) to provide ongoing, not week-long experience, for the benefit of both parties. With this in mind some changes made in 2010 include:

- Community time has been maximized with added days;
- Addition of "Get your hands dirty" activities that promote side-by-side community participation;
- Students now deliver customized, focused workshops in addition to community meetings;
- The number of house visits has decreased and the time of each house visit increased, while better structuring the house visit questionnaire for more quality visits;
- Revamped the nightly discussion format;
- CIF options are now first reduced and then consolidated into a general recommendation for fund distribution to the *caja rural*;
- Each community meeting during the week and workshops now have standardized outlines to allow students more time for brainstorming.

## Plans for 2011

As Microfinance Brigades moves forward to 2011, growth is certainly anticipated for the program. 16 groups are signed up for a Microfinance Brigade in the first half of 2011 alone. In March, nine groups are already planning on coming to Honduras to participate in the program. Some key changes are also in store in 2011, including the streamlining of Microfinance Brigades and Business Brigades in order to incorporate both financial planning and business training as an enhanced education component for families in the communities. Also, in order to keep up with the demand and growth of the program, Microfinance Brigades seeks to offer *caja rural* training to at least one more community, bringing the program to a total of six community banks as well as to expand its staffing by adding a microfinance technician and an intern to the team.

As Global Brigades extend its model to address both health and economic problems worldwide, Microfinance Brigades brings a key element to holistically addressing these global issues in Honduras. By empowering students and communities to create and implement realistic solutions to economic disparity, Global Brigades through its Microfinance Brigades program aims to contribute to the progress of this global initiative.

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Top right photo: Microfinance Brigader teaching student about personal savings. Bottom Right photo: Wake Forest Microfinance Brigade helping to make adobe bricks for a new community bank.





**“I feel that I used nearly every skill that I have learned in business school, including accounting, marketing, feasibility, organizational management, and basic leadership. I was forced to continually think outside of the box and apply so much of my knowledge and real-life experience. It was amazing.”**

**- Business Brigader, University of Central Florida**



**Program Lead:** Lauryn Linsell

**Advisor:** Liz Nerad & Kelly Wenzel

**Public Health Brigades** volunteers empower under resourced communities in the developing world to decrease life threatening diseases by improving home infrastructure and providing public health education. Working side-by-side with community members, volunteers improve the overall infrastructure within the home through the construction of four projects: eco-stoves, latrines, water storage units and concrete floors. The four projects were chosen based on observations of medical brigade patient records, which illustrated high levels of respiratory, chagas and other preventable diseases caused by poor in-home health infrastructure. Between brigades the in-country team provides follow-up to ensure the maintenance of the structures and work to find funding that will complement the health goals of the community to perpetuate future construction.

### **2010 Public Health Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras: 82

Number of brigades: 8

### **2010 Public Health Community Impact**

Amount of Loans Distributed: \$8,200

Loans Distributed: 74

Savings Accounts Opened: 147

Community Banks Formed: 2

## Focusing On One Community At A Time

Public Health Brigades made a significant impact in the lives of community members and students as they focused resources and programming in the community of Joyas del Carballo in 2010. Based on community assessments by the Research and Evaluation team, Joyas del Carballo was determined as a top priority community of need for future Global Brigades programming. Public Health Brigades responded to these needs by implementing the program with 4 key goals in mind: construct health infrastructure projects in the homes; train and develop the Basic Sanitation Committee; enhance school health education for children in the community; establish collaborative working relationship with the community bank for future sustainability of program projects.

Over the course of the year, Public Health Brigades reached these goals with the crucial support of their student volunteers. In total, 414 brigaders from 29 different universities dedicated their time, financial resources, physical labor, and emotional investment to Public Health Brigades' projects. These investments provided for the implementation of Public Health Brigades' projects and the achievement of program goals in 2010.

In Joyas del Carballo, a sum of 45 pilas, 53 latrines, 148 concrete floors, and 60 eco-stoves were built within 67 homes of the community. Also, two Basic Sanitation Committees were formed according to the ESCASAL (Escuelas y Casas Saludables) program guidelines established by SANAA and the Ministry of Health. For this area of focus of Public Health Brigades, the community of Joyas del Carballo was divided into two sectors, El Junco (including Joyas) and El Encinal to best organize and realize projects in the community. A Basic Sanitation Committee comprised of 9 volunteers was established in the sector of El Junco as well as a second committee established in the sector of El Encinal,

comprised of 10 volunteers. The members of these committees completed the 3-day ESCASAL training the initial home visits to all homes within the community. Both committees became very interactive with the Global Brigades employees as well as the visiting student groups. Members presented themselves and explained the community's health situation to every university that worked in Joyas del Carballo.

## Education & Supplementary Projects

In addition to the financial support and cultural exchange that students brought to the community, each university prepared educational material based on certain health topics deemed necessary by the school teachers in the community. Through interactive, dynamic activities and visual aids, brigaders involved the local children in creative ways in order to convey the determined message. Topics included hair care, water treatment, trash collection, forest conservation, feelings and anger management techniques, dengue, skin care, and nutrition, among many others.

Additional community projects were also able to be carried out with the assistance of school teachers, Global Brigades staff, and student volunteers with extra funding raised by university groups. These projects included a reforestation project when students from Mount Allison University alongside teachers and school children planted 800 saplings; community-wide trash clean-ups; the placement of 14 public trash bins with designated community caretakers; the installation of shelving units for the better storage of books and school materials in the school of El Encinal; the creation of signs with public health messages like "place trash where it belongs" and "water is the source of life;" the start of a fund towards building a wire fence around the school of El Junco initiated by an 8000 Lempira donation from Indiana University (total cost estimated at about 35-40,000 Lempira (US\$ 1850-2150)); and lastly, the celebration of the

Environmental Fair in June 2010 when local schoolchildren and student volunteers from Chapman University, CSU-Fullerton, and Michigan University performed presentations on topics such as water conservation, preservation of forests and animals, and trash disposal.

## Working Closely With Microfinance Brigades

Another goal achieved by the Public Health Brigades program this year was establishing a very close relationship with the Global Brigades' Microfinance program. This collaboration allowed for the program to elaborate a payment schedule for the health projects and utilize the community banks' (cajas rurales) access to savings accounts as a method to 1) increase community involvement in the continuation of the construction of infrastructure projects; 2) allow the community to develop a sense of ownership over the projects, and 3) develop legitimacy and community awareness of the community bank. Based on a calculation of the cost of each project, families were required to pay a small percentage of the material costs, the rest being covered by Public Health Brigades. Families signed contracts under the supervision of a member of the community bank and a staff member of the Public Health Brigades team outlining the total amount to be paid, and a payment schedule. At the end of 10 months of the collection of payments from families, the community bank of El Encinal collected over 41,000 Lempira (US\$2170) from its constituents in a separate account designated solely for Public Health projects. The community bank of El Junco collected 19,000 Lempira (US\$1006). At the end of September, these funds were invested back into the coverage of material costs for the continuation of construction of public health projects, ensuring sustainability of these projects within the community.

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Opposite page photo: Northwestern Public Health Brigade making bricks

Between the months of December 2009 and September 2010, Public Health Brigades invested a total of 619,825.61 Lempiras (US \$32,575.42) in the community of Joyas del Carballo, with the gracious funding raised by student volunteers. Other partnerships were formed to support Public Health Brigades' presence in this community, including the Municipality of Cantarranas, San Juan de Flores which contributed close to 160 trips of sand at the cost of 1800 Lempira (US \$92) each, which totaled 288,000 Lempira (US \$14,769). Compania Azucarera Tres Valles (CATV) supported Global Brigades' efforts in the community by donating 15 barrels (31.5 gallons) towards the trash bin project. The CATV also donated 1300 saplings for a reforestation project in Joyas del Carballo. In addition, Ms. Isabel Valerio, a Health Promoter with UGSA under the Ministry of Health, held a community workshop on the legitimacy of the CSB, the value of maintaining a hygienic home, and the importance of the projects carried out by Global Brigades, in order to reinforce health practices taught by the CSB to community members.

### Public Health Brigades Effectiveness Compared

In June of 2010, two student volunteers from the University of Virginia, Claire Hennigan and Amy Rogers, collaborated with the Research and Evaluation team in order to realize a comparison study on the eco-stoves built by Public Health Brigades in Joyas del Carballo. Their study found that the Global Brigades' Public Health eco-stoves prolong wood consumption by 23.00 min (per 2 kilos) when compared to traditional stoves, meaning that less wood is consumed overall during cooking. Homes with GB eco-stoves collect on average 11.91 kilos less of wood per week than non-GB stove homes, which when extrapolated over a year, means one home with a GB eco-stove would be saving 619.32 kilos of wood per year, totaling to 47,068.32 kilos (207,100.61 lbs) of wood being preserved each year in a community like Joyas del Carballo. In terms of quality of the projects, 100% of homes with GB eco-stoves were satisfied or highly satisfied

with their stove, whereas only 79% of homes with traditional were satisfied with their current stove. Additionally, only 6% of GB eco-stoves needed repairs while 68% of traditional stoves needed repairs, most of which required significant fixes.

Maintenance and monitoring of the projects in Joyas del Carballo in the year to come will be done by the Public Health project technician who will visit the community every two months, selecting several houses to track the progress and care of the infrastructural improvements. The technician will also monitor the activities of the Basic Sanitation Committee, reviewing their bi-monthly home visits and continued presence in the community in addition to acting as an intermediary between the community and organizations that may provide further trainings

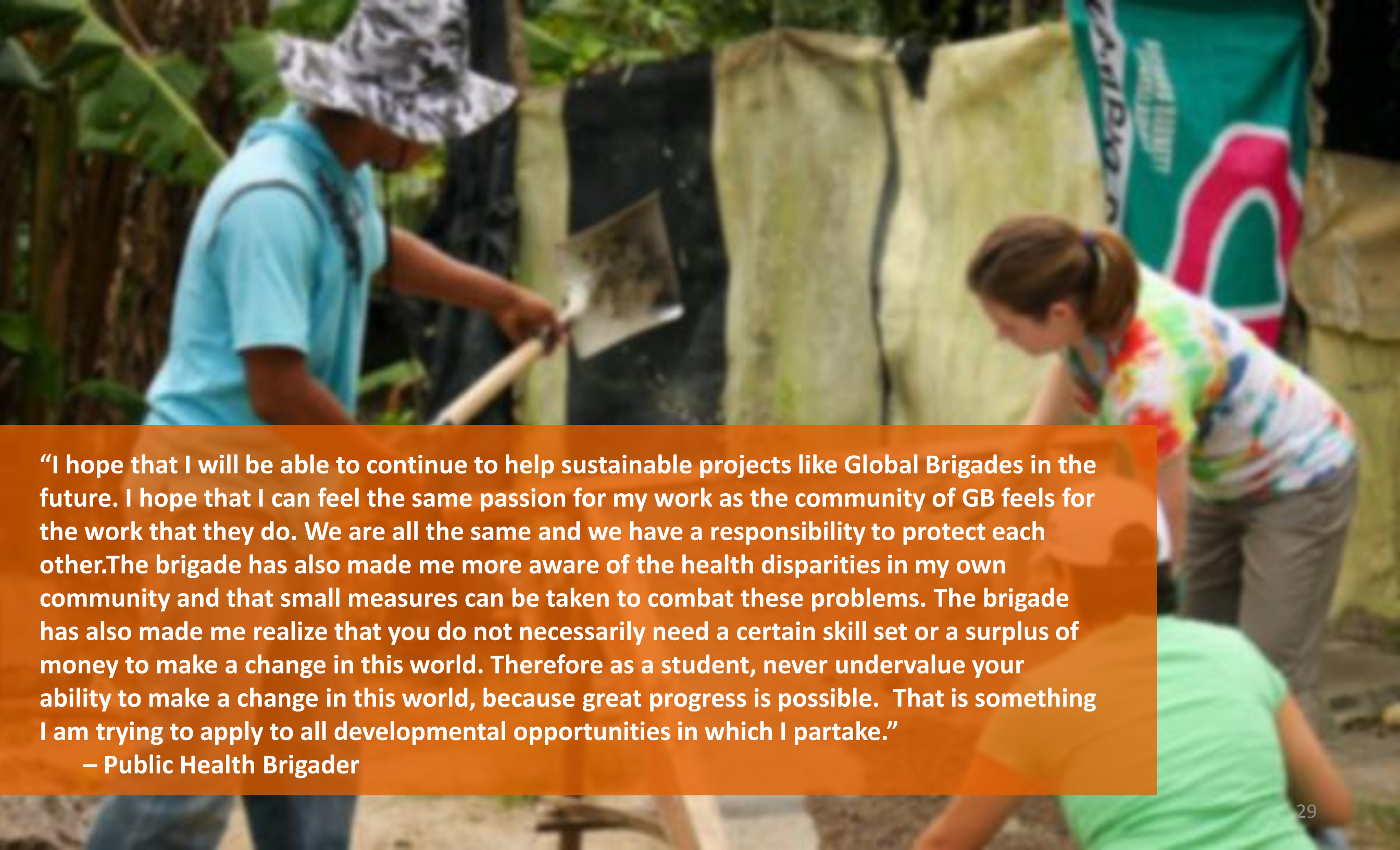
### Outlook for 2011

The outlook for Public Health Brigades in 2011 includes increasing in brigade volume as the program continues to grow rapidly. In terms of community involvement, Public Health Brigades will be entering into Zurzular, previously worked in by Water Brigades. Zurzular was determined and selected as one of Global Brigades' high-need priority communities by the Research and Evaluation team in 2010. Also, in July, Water Brigades carried out a follow-up studying looking for bacteria in the water system at the source as well as 11 homes' faucets and storage containers, one home for each branch of the water project. They found that none of the homes tested positive for bacteria at the faucets, ensuring that the water system is bringing clean water to the homes. However, four homes tested positive for bacteria in their storage containers, meaning that public health education is highly needed in order to teach proper water storage and promote positive hygiene and sanitation practices at the household level through Public Health Brigades. As the program moves into the community of

Zurzular, students, staff, and community members will have the challenge of carrying out program activities in a community double the size of Joyas del Carballo. Continuing the same partnerships with the municipality and other local partners in the region of San Juan de Flores in addition to having gained notable community collaboration, Public Health Brigades expects to have a streamlined, high-impact process of developing projects in Zurzular in the year to come.

Bottom photo: Northwestern Public Health Brigade building eco-stove





**“I hope that I will be able to continue to help sustainable projects like Global Brigades in the future. I hope that I can feel the same passion for my work as the community of GB feels for the work that they do. We are all the same and we have a responsibility to protect each other. The brigade has also made me more aware of the health disparities in my own community and that small measures can be taken to combat these problems. The brigade has also made me realize that you do not necessarily need a certain skill set or a surplus of money to make a change in this world. Therefore as a student, never undervalue your ability to make a change in this world, because great progress is possible. That is something I am trying to apply to all developmental opportunities in which I partake.”**

**– Public Health Brigader**



**Program Lead:** Ben Erker     **Advisor:** Greg Clark

**Water Brigades** volunteers assist in designing and implementing water systems to prevent water related illnesses in communities with limited access to clean water. With a sufficient quantity of properly treated water community members can cut off the connection between water and illness and ultimately live healthier more productive lives. In-country team members work with community leaders to design large scale water systems for the entire community. Once planning and design is complete, volunteers work side-by-side with community members to construct the water system. Additionally Water Brigades and its volunteers provide education and training so that the community can properly administer, operate, and maintain their water system.

**2010 Water Volunteers**

Total volunteers to Honduras: 349  
Number of brigades: 31

**2010 Water Community Impact**

Large Scale Water Systems Completed: 3  
Persons Provided Clean Drinking Water: 1,250

## First Full-scale Water System

2010 began and ended in celebration for Water Brigades. In January, the recently completed Zurzular water system was inaugurated, marking Global Brigades' first project inauguration. Monitoring and follow-up in Zurzular proved that Water Brigades' first completed full-scale water system was in fact improving water quality, water quantity, and overall health in the community. Water from new faucets were tested for harmful bacteria in July and none of the samples tested positive, meaning that the Water Brigades' system is continuing to bring clean water to homes in the community. In addition, the Zurzular health center, which had reported 17 cases of diarrhea in children under five years of age in the six months leading up to the initiation of the new water project, reported zero cases in the first six months after the system was completed.

2010 marked the first full year for Water Brigades with a full-time, three person staff. As a result, Water Brigades greatly improved in many areas. As the program solidified, larger scale and higher quality projects were able to be completed and community organization, training, and education became a bigger focus. Additionally, as a result of strengthened community relationships and experience, Water Brigades made huge leaps in working with local government support. In previous years, Global Brigades made large investments in transportation and locally available materials, whereas in 2010, transportation costs were reduced to almost nothing and large amounts of local materials were contributed by community members and local municipal governments.

In 2010, Water Brigades also expanded in its ability to complete more technical projects. In previous years, projects were focused on the reconstruction of water systems, which included installing piping, valves, and house connections. In addition to these activities, Water Brigades

constructed two dams, two 5,000 gallon storage tanks, and various pressure break tanks for the first time in 2010. The increased experience and expertise of the Water Brigades team allowed for these types of technological advances.

Water Brigades completed three large-scale water systems in 2010 that provide water to four communities. The 359 student volunteers who contributed their time, passion, and sweat to these communities have ensured that over 1,250 people now have access to a sufficient amount of properly treated water that they did not have before.

## Pajarillos & Plan Fresco

Water Brigades' largest project to date, as well as the first project completed in 2010, was built to serve the communities of Pajarillos and Plan Fresco. Pajarillos and Plan Fresco have long been served by Medical Brigades, which were repeatedly finding water problems. The Water team performed an assessment on the communities' existing water system and found that many homes only received water every 4 to 5 days. Based on the 3 gallons/min of water entering their storage tank, people were only receiving about 2.5 gal/person/day of water. This is only 10% of the amount necessary to drink, clean, and perform proper sanitation and hygiene. A new system was constructed for the two communities in order to adequately address their dire water needs. A new water source was identified with ample flow allowing for community growth without damaging the surrounding eco-system. A new dam was built and over 12 km of piping were installed. With the new water source and piping, a flow rate of up to 60 gal/min entering the storage tank was achieved. At the end of the project, a total of 120 homes were receiving high quantity and quality water from the new water system, 20 of which had never had water before and 15 of which had non-functioning or deteriorating faucets. Approximately 750 people now receive a sufficient clean water in Pajarillos and Plan Fresco.

## El Encinal & El Junco

To wrap up 2010, Water Brigades completed new water systems in the communities of El Encinal and El Junco. Located very close together geographically, El Encinal and El Junco, two separate sectors of Joyas del Carballo, were previously connected to the same 25-year-old water system. After significant analysis, it was clear that an insufficient water source, poorly designed and dilapidated infrastructure, and improper administration and maintenance had led to the essential failure of the existing water system. The communities had not treated their water in years and they often went days at a time without water in their houses. Water Brigades worked with student volunteers and community members to identify the best solution to the water problem in both communities. It was determined that each community should have its own water system, allowing increased water volume for all homes and improved system administration and maintenance. Two new systems were built which included the construction of a new dam and the repair of another, the construction of two new 5,000 gallon storage tanks, and the installation of over 11 kilometers of piping. A total of 85 homes now received adequate potable water through the new water system at the culmination of the project, 30 of which had never had water before but were now connected to the new system. As a result of the new projects, over 500 community members now receive sufficient, clean water, an achievement which was celebrated with an inauguration in October.

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Opposite page photo: Columbia University Water Brigade laying piping



## Stepping into 2011

Water Brigades has many goals for 2011, taking on three or more water projects this year. The program will start off the year in the community of Guaricayan, where homes are estimated to receive water from the current system 1-2 times per week only for a period of a few hours. Most community members make several trips per day to retrieve water from a local creek in order to have enough water for daily usage. In the next year, Water Brigades seeks to bring ample quantity and quality water to this community as well as several others, with the potential of taking on the program's first well-system water project to provide one community without a gravity-based water source the opportunity to have sufficient and clean water.

Top left photo: Water Brigades Technician, Joel Cruz, filling jar of water during Joyas Water Inauguration. Top right photo: Columbia University Water Brigade laying pipe. Bottom left photo: Poster made by school for Joyas Water Inauguration. Bottom Right photo: Boston University Water Brigade digging trenches for piping.





**“Starting a Water Brigades chapter at Northwestern University has been an incredible experience. The initial stages of thinking critically about how the organization fit on the campus and how the Water Brigades model would empower students in a totally new capacity were really invigorating. After talking to leaders of other campus groups and looking at groups that do development work, I truly believe that the strong partnerships Water Brigades has formed in Honduras and the framework in which it operates make up the ideal model for empowering students to have hands-on experiences in international development work. They are redefining and amplifying the impact that students can make towards sustainable change.”**

**- Nicholas, Water Brigades, Northwestern University**



**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

## 2010 Financial Statements

The following summary was extracted from Global Brigades' audited financial statements.

Statement of Activities		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Public Support	Individual Contributions	\$ 5,435,368
	Interest Income	1,059
Other Revenue	Other & Misc Revenue	40,515
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 5,476,942</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	Program Grants	\$ 2,715,253
	Volunteer Travel Grants	1,989,059
	Leadership Coordination	237,998
Supporting Services	Salaries & Related	265,906
	General Administration	124,172
	Fundraising & Credit Card Fees	132,469
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,464,857</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$12,085</b>

Statement of Financial Position		
<b>Assets</b>		
	Cash	\$ 572,679
	Pledges Receivable	1,336,514
	Prepaid Expenses	1,353,280
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$ 3,262,473</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
	Short Term Loans	\$ 244,927
	Deferred Contributions	3,140,861
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$ 3,385,788</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
	Unrestricted Net Assets	12,085
	Net Income	(135,400)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$ (123,315)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		<b>\$ 3,262,473</b>

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**Global Brigades United Kingdom**

**Global Brigades ASG (Austria/Swiss/Germany)**

**Global Brigades Ireland**

## About Global Brigades

"Global Brigades" refers to one or more of the following affiliates of "Global Brigades Association," a Washington-based not-for-profit organization, each of which is a separate and independent legal entity: "Global Brigades USA," "Global Brigades Switzerland," "Global Brigades Germany," "Global Brigades Ireland," "Global Brigades UK," "Asociacion Global Brigades de Honduras," "Fundacion Brigades Globales de Panama," and "Global Brigades Ghana."

[www.globalbrigades.org](http://www.globalbrigades.org)

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