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Welcome, new/prospective Kenya Program volunteers!

Who Are We?

We are a passionate, diverse group of engineers (and non-engineers!) of widely-varying backgrounds and expertise, intent on making the world a better place through access and knowledge regarding clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene practices. Our goal is not only to improve the lives of many, but to do so in a manner that is sustainable and habit-changing for years to come!

Watoto Wa Ahadi

[Sodzo International](#) purchased abandoned farmland in the central Kenyan county of Meru and converted it into an orphan rescue center known as Watoto Wa Ahadi (translation: Children of Promise).

EWB-JSC has partnered with Sodzo International to develop the infrastructure to support the school and surrounding community, beginning with identifying and providing a sustainable source of clean water. Once a water source is established, we will work with Sodzo International, the teachers at the center, and the community to provide other infrastructure as needed and desired.

The school is currently using small-scale rainwater harvesting, collecting water from an open stream, or purchasing water that has been transported to the area. A borehole drilled in 2015 was no longer functioning in 2107. Upon further research, we have learned that 60% of the boreholes in northern Kenya fail. With the travel restrictions placed during Covid, we are using this time to better identify what makes boreholes in the area successful and what other options are there for us to provide water for the school, its crops, and its livestock.

Who Are the Team Leads?

Michelle Patrick-Krueger – Co-Lead
Roman Stromeyer – Co-Lead
Mark Whiddon – Co-Lead

When/Where We Meet?

The 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm via Google Meets. Contact us (president@ewb-jsc.org) for the link.

Group Meetings - What Do You Need to Know?

Bring a laptop/tablet – we will do most of our work on the internet/a shared Google Drive to collaborate on documents simultaneously! Please ask Michelle to provide user permissions to access the drive.

Typical meeting agenda:

- Attendee introductions
- Discussion of previous/new points and action items
- If necessary, break-out into sub-groups to tackle individual action items/challenges

Most Importantly, How Can You Help?

Briefly, by doing anything you want! You get out of this project the amount of work that you put into it. We invite you to partake in any aspect of the group that interests you or, better yet, if you see something lacking or think of some new ideas altogether, we invite you to share those ideas and contribute. As much as we are all here to help individuals in need, we want to ensure you have the chance to learn, challenge yourself, and grow your skillset too!

Additional General FAQs

Must I Be A Paying Member of EWB-USA in Order to Travel?

Volunteers no longer must be paying members of EWB-USA to travel.

The only requirement instead is that volunteers must create a profile in Volunteer Village (EWB-USA's online project management system), which will allow volunteers to access EWB-USA informational resources, conduct project-specific communications, and receive important EWB-USA updates. Access will be granted through a registration form on Volunteer Village. After receiving access, you will then be prompted to fill out a volunteer profile to complete the process. You may do so at this link (<https://www.ewb-usa.org/volunteer-registration/>).

Once you have registered with EWB-USA, you will also need to affiliate your user profile with the South Houston Professional Chapter, in addition to subscribing to the chapter's Chatter group, to receive important chapter updates and news.

How Long Does It Take to Complete a Project, Start-to-Finish?

The best answer is that: it depends. A typical timeline is two years from start to finish, but this timeline heavily depends on a number of factors: funding, team/human resources, scope/type of project, availability of EWB team members and the in-country community to aid in project implementation, appropriate EWB-USA documentation, EWB-USA approval, etc. Additionally, we agree to support the project for 5 years to ensure the community will be able to take over the maintenance and upkeep.

Is There Anything I Can Do with the Volunteer Hours I Provide for the Project?

Yes, absolutely! Because of how EWB-USA receives much of its funding (i.e., receiving funds through corporate donors, charities and other similar organizations), for reporting purposes it is important for EWB-USA to track the amount of time its volunteers are putting into work for projects. Volunteers are encouraged to track their hours at a frequency that is reasonable to them (e.g., weekly, monthly, etc.), as well as keeping these hours updated within Volunteer Village. If you want to document your hours, easy-to-follow instructions with illustrations are located at this link (<https://ewb-usa.force.com/VolunteerVillage/s/article/Logging-Volunteer-Hours>).

What is Involved in Completing a Project (i.e., Why can't we just go to a place immediately and start/complete a project?)?

A lot of passion and creativity, but also some hard work. When EWB goes to a community to implement a project, we make a (minimum) 5-year commitment to the community to follow-up on the project to ensure that it is being appropriately utilized and maintained over time. This requires some long-term planning.

We solicit funds from a number of sources to try and cover as many costs as possible during a trip, including local non-governmental organization (NGO)/liaison fees, build material costs, food, and lodging. Many sources of funding (e.g., grants, awards, corporations, organizations, etc.) may come with restrictions regarding how funding is used for an implementation trip; others do not, however, so it depends.

EWB-USA also requires a fair amount of documentation be completed before and after a project is implemented in order to ensure the sustainability of the project years after it has been completed, as well to ensure the safety of those involved in implementation. A number of the types of reports are the following:

- **Assessment Pre/ Post-Trip Reports** (submitted 8 weeks before and after Assessment trip, respectively)
- **Alternative Analysis Report** (submitted 20 weeks prior to Implementation trip)
- **Implementation Pre/ Post-Trip Reports** (*including Construction & Safety Plans*) (submitted 16 weeks before and 8 weeks after Implementation trip, respectively)
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Pre/ Post-Trip Reports** (submitted 8 weeks before and after M&E trip, respectively)

Any other questions? Please ask!

Thank you for coming! We wish you well and hope to see you again/soon!