

Engineers Without Borders helping overseas



EWB Day 2006 display at Covent Garden Market, London.

Half of the world's population lives in poverty. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) volunteers work in developing countries to help eliminate this global injustice.

At the turn of the millennium the people of world, through the United Nations, formulated the Millennium Development Goals aimed at halving world poverty by 2015.

Engineers Without Borders promotes human development through access to technology. Human development is about people: their desire and struggle to expand their freedoms and lead lives that they value. In this quest, access to appropriate technology plays a key role — every day, people work to improve their technology, laws, institutions and governance in the complex circumstances that poverty, alienation and voicelessness create.

Formed in 2000, EWB is Canada's fastest growing development organization. To date EWB Canada has sent more than 200 volunteers overseas who have helped thousands of people improve their own lives. The five countries that EWB now focuses its efforts on are Mali, Malawi, Zambia, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Engineers Without Borders runs two overseas sending programs: the

Junior Fellowship in International Development, and the Long-term Overseas Volunteer Program.

The Junior Fellowship in International Development (JFID) is an 18-month long program for Canadian university students. Junior Fellows are selected at their university chapter in the fall and spend four months, May to August, working on a development project overseas. Upon returning to Canada, Junior Fellows are encouraged to share their experience and take on a leadership role within their university chapter.

The Long-term Overseas Volunteer Program is for non-students. Selection and project coordination are done by the EWB National Office in Toronto. Long-term placements range from eight to 36 months.

EWB focuses its efforts overseas in four work sectors:

- water and sanitation
- agriculture and food production
- agro-processing and rural energy
- information and communication technologies.

Volunteers work in partnership with local organizations in their host country to build their skills, gain access

to resources and improve their capacity to engage in practical problem solving in their own communities. EWB recognizes that local knowledge and expertise is essential in developing appropriate solutions and that development should be driven by the local people.

Check out the blogs of Western's past and current volunteers by visiting the sites below:

Currently overseas

Jason Teixeira in Malawi

www.jasoninmalawi.blogspot.com/

Jason graduated with a MESC last year. He is currently overseas with his wife Erin.

Luke Brown in Ghana

www.luke-brown.blogspot.com

Luke graduated with a BESC in 2005.

Two students who returned in September 2006

Sarah Takai (was in Ghana with Luke Brown)

www.sarah-in-ghana.blogspot.com/

Sarah is now completing her Masters with Dr. Cynthia Dunning (Biomedical Engineering).

Ricky Patel (was in Zambia)

www.rickyinzambia.blogspot.com/

Ricky is back as an undergrad student.

EWB Western homepage

www.uwo.ewb.ca/

Charity on the Rocks Concert 2007

The Undergraduate Engineering Society (UES) presented Charity On The Rocks at the Wave on February 17. According to Federico Berruti, UES Charity Commissioner 2006-2007, the event was a great success with over 400 attending and raising more than \$4,000 for EWB, promoting international development and sustainability. The event has been held for the past five years. Although it was initially a small event, it now attracts people from across Ontario.

Two Charity On The Rocks veterans, The Righteous Pink, an engineering funk-rock band, and The OchO, a well-known Western rock group, performed. New on the bill were Western Engineering rockers Paradox Theory and Toronto's The Sea Inside.

For more information visit the UES Charity website: www.eng.uwo.ca/ues/charity