



Project: WAVES for Development International (WAVES)
Project Reporting Dates: From: October 2010 To: March 2011
Project Leader: Dave Aabo

Project Summary – Grant is for general operating support. Dave Aabo, as the unique full time staff member based in NY, is ensuring operations continue in Peru through overseeing team there as well as volunteer recruitment and selection internationally.

Progress – Because of the critical operating support early on, programs have continued and grown in Peru. See attached community bulletin reports from Lobitos.

Staffing – Kevin Fitzpatrick has also helped out with web-based tasks from Peru. On Feb 28th, he left the country. Additionally, Sylvain Gaeng, from Switzerland, lived in Talara, Peru (about a half hour from Lobitos) in November, December and January. Moreover, Daniela Amico, Peruvian founder of WAVES, has more flexibility in her work schedule to take on tasks for WAVES.

Other Funding – Volunteers still provide the majority of funding for the programs. A high school group from NYC attended the programs in February which generated additional funds for the organization. Through the production of a short documentary, initial DVD sales and related donations have also started to generate other funding. WAVES Alumni family foundations also supported programs via year-end contributions.

Milestones Current – An important Milestone in the last six months has been the growth of the Peruvian-based team and change in structure. A local woman, Irene was hired on as a full-time Associate Director of Administration. Additionally, she taught the small business course. Local Surf Instructor Holggers was promoted to Associate Director of Surf and Logistics. Sam Roches, from Switzerland, was hired as the Associate Director of Voluntourism. The Associate Director structure was chosen to encourage team decision making and coordination in Lobitos. WAVES founder Sylvain Gaeng alternates living three months in Peru and Switzerland.

Organizing a successful high school group visit to Lobitos was a milestone as this can potentially lead to further repeat group trips on an annual basis. Additionally, a micro-credit homestay construction project was created through the experience. An additional room and plumbing system was built on the house of a local family with funds from the school. The family will pay back half of the amount of construction cost as visitors to the area stay in the newly constructed room. More families can access this building fund and the current family now has a water tank to store water and improve their family hygiene conditions.

The photography program has been moved forward by visits to Lobitos from a number of professional photographers. These photographers worked directly with Henry to create a portfolio and get some of

his photos exposure outside of Lobitos. He is planning a show in Lobitos to highlight his photography let community members know he is available for hire.

CAPTURE: A WAVES Documentary, telling the story of the photography program launch, has been accepted to two film festivals in NJ and Florida. 1000 DVDs have been printed and packaged in biodegradable material.

A [new website](#) for the organization has been launched. While not complete, it is a step in the right direction allowing multiple team members the ability to update and post events and news stories.

Milestones Future – Launching a membership program in June is a milestone for the future. Currently the website back end plug-in is being developed to connect the website to Salesforce, a Constituent Relationship Management software, to manage memberships. Finding an affordable expert to do this, or learning the process ourselves has been the greatest barrier.

Continually building the capacity of the WAVES staff is a future milestone. Investing in the team members that the organization currently has onboard is important. By further training staff – whether in administration, or their program specialty, the programs are dependent on the quality of the instruction provided by staff and volunteers.

Opinion – Overall, progress is positive. The operating budget of WAVES has close to doubled each of the last two years. We'd like that to continue that trend! We realize that more and deeper funding sources are needed. To that end we're looking to grow the programmatic elements that have worked well (volunteer presence, English classes in the school, conservation initiatives). Continuing 100% annual growth is difficult; especially as the numbers get bigger. We're confident that with sustained support, great things can continue to happen in the lives of Peruvians and volunteers alike.

Photos: Irene, WAVES Associate Director of Administration, meeting with group of women at small business training class in the WAVES office.



Global Learning Collaborative high school group visit to Lobitos over their winter break. Each student completed a final project for school credit.



One of Henry's latest photos:

