



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA

University of Mississippi Chapter

Dear EWB Friends,

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the Ole Miss Engineers Without Borders Chapter! In the spirit of the holidays, we'd like to thank everyone who has been so supportive of our chapter over its ten-year lifetime, as well as to connect with those of you who have not yet had a chance to hear about our chapter's work. We'd also like to give you all an update on our exciting upcoming plans and opportunities for you to get involved.

Over the past year, our chapter has taken a major leap forward in regards to our chapter size and activity level. Our active member count has risen from roughly 10 to 50 and this fall semester alone, we have raised almost \$3,000. Details on our recent activity can be found on our website at ewb.olemiss.edu/news. As for our international work, we are wrapping up our Togo project and moving on to a new project in Ecuador.

In 2007, our chapter made a 5-10 year commitment to aid the Hedome Village of Togo, West Africa. Since that commitment was made, our chapter has built a sturdy three room schoolhouse (completed in 2014), and drilled a desperately needed 230 meter deep-water well (completed in 2017). The schoolhouse contains three classrooms that hold about 40 students each and the well provides clean drinking water for over 5,000 Togolese citizens. Details and pictures can be found at ewb.olemiss.edu/projects.

Looking forward, we are working to adopt a new community in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian village of 25 de Diciembre—named not for the date of Christmas but rather a battle won on that day—is home to roughly 450 people that face some serious challenges. This community deals with a lack of safe drinking water, difficulty growing enough food to support the community, and poor sanitation with resulting health complications. In order to combat these issues, we plan on implementing a safe, clean water source as well as adding a more efficient water distribution system. We are planning an assessment trip for spring 2018 and are launching a fundraising campaign with a goal of \$20,000 to secure the financial support necessary to make this trip possible.

It is the generous contributions of our supporters that allow us to have such a positive impact and gain such a unique, beneficial learning experience. Those of you who get involved by backing these trips are truly the driving force behind our operation, and our work could not be done without your support. Our chapter, as well as all those affected by the positive work of EWB, is extremely grateful for every tax-deductible contribution made. Please visit ewb.olemiss.edu to join our time-sensitive giving campaign.

We are extremely thankful for the supportive Engineering Department at Ole Miss, our generous donors, and everyone who has been instrumental in helping us carry out our mission of humanitarian development. Together, we can make a real impact for those who need it most.

Sincerely,

David Thomas
2017 Chapter President