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## Engineers Without Borders-USA, University of Maine Student Chapter Newsletter

Engineers Without Borders

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## New Project in El Descanso, Ecuador

Through our Ecuadoran project partner Monica Gonzalez, Director of the Foundation for the Conservation of the Tropical Andes (FCAT), we have begun collaborating with the community of El Descanso, Ecuador. They appear very motivated to work with us on a number of issues facing their community, with the availability of clean drinking water as top priority. El Descanso is a community of about 35 homes and 120 people, but the program will also benefit two neighboring communities. Community leaders have submitted their EWB program application and it is pending approval. EWB-UMaine's application to adopt this program is also currently pending approval.

## Fundraising to Travel

Travel costs for the assessment trip will include flights to Quito, Ecuador (estimated at \$1000/person), in-country travel, food, shelter, medical supplies, a translator, a satellite phone, water testing supplies, surveying equipment, and any supplies needed for small scale demos or projects. With a goal of sending three or four students and two mentors, the estimated cost of our first assessment to El Descanso is over \$8000.

**This is where we need your help.** Your charitable contributions will not only be helping a hard-working community in need, but you will also be providing our members with the opportunity to expand their world view and develop their cultural understanding. They will build character, work ethic, professional experience, and an ongoing commitment to something greater than themselves.

## EWB-UMaine Fundraising Gala

**EWB-UMaine will be hosting our first formal fundraising gala dinner this November.** We will be sending out invitations soon with more information about the event. If you, or someone you know, is interested in donating or attending our dinner, please email us and provide us with a contact information including email and mailing address.

## Mission Statement

University of Maine Engineers Without Borders strives to foster a worldwide cultural awareness and a strong sense of volunteerism in today's future leaders through sustainable and community-driven engineering projects.

## EWB-UMaine Leadership

**President:** Jonathan Roy  
**Vice President:** Ellie French  
**Secretary:** Spencer Traxler  
**Treasurer:** Grace Clement  
**Project Leads:** Justin Bearce  
**Fundraising:** Jesse Shank  
**Publicity:** Nat Midura  
**Membership:** Andrew Purgiel  
**Advisor:** Jean MacRae  
**Mentor:** Robert Sypitkowski  
**Mentor:** Edwin Nagy  
**Mentor:** Kyle Coolidge  
**Mentor:** Karen Merritt

## Professional Mentors

We currently have three assigned mentors. Our Professional Engineer-in-charge is Robert Sypitkowski, an environmental engineer who has served as mentor on a number of EWB-USA projects, including our first project in Honduras. Professor Edwin Nagy, a civil engineer and former Peace Corps volunteer will aid in infrastructure design and construction planning. Kyle Coolidge, a dual civil and chemical engineer will focus on the water treatment aspects of the design. All three have been EWB-UMaine mentors in the past and have traveled on previous trips.

**Please contact us if you would like to our team!**

## Planning the Assessment Trip

Upon program approval our next step is to plan our first assessment trip. We are consulting with the community to determine when it will be most convenient to visit to discuss options, explore potential water sources and learn about the community's needs and wishes. We expect to send a small assessment team (5-6 members including at least one mentor) in early January or March of 2016.

## Where do I go to Donate?

**Visit our website at:** <http://umaine.edu/ewb/donate/>