



The Power to Prosper

THE POWER TO ILLUMINATE LIVES

# ENLIGHTENMENT

April 2009

## What's New at LUTW?



### Light Up Papua New Guinea Event, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter, Get Your Tickets Now!

May 2, 2009

The family of Capt. Nichola Goddard, in partnership with Light Up The World, will host The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter fundraiser on May 2, 2009 on what would have been Nichola's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. All funds raised at The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter will go toward Light Up Papua New Guinea, a project which aims to bring solar-powered lighting systems to more than 1,100 medical aid posts and rural health centers around Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The Light Up Papua New Guinea project idea came from Tim and Sally Goddard after their eldest daughter, Nichola, was killed on May 17, 2006 while serving in Afghanistan. She was the first female Canadian soldier to die in combat. The Goddards worked with LUTW to develop the project in memory of Nichola and to honour her birthplace as well as her commitment to serving people in need. Last summer, a team travelled to Papua New Guinea to install the first solar lighting systems on Kiriwina Island, where Nichola spent the first years of her life.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter will include presentations, project information and updates on the accom-

plishments to date. The event is being held on May 2, 2009 and runs from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The speakers, Val Fortney, Tim and Sally Goddard and Grady Semmens, will be speaking and answering questions at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. respectively. Photographs by Dianne Bos and video material by Grady Semmens captured during the visit back to Papua New Guinea will be on display. Some of the photographs will be on sale. Attendees are welcome to drop in throughout the afternoon to learn more about the project and meet those that were in Papua New Guinea last year. It is being held at the Cantos Music Foundation, Music Room, 134-11th Avenue SE, Calgary. Tickets, which cost \$30/person, are available online at [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org) or by calling 403.266.5004.

## Exciting News...

### Come Travel With Us!

Light Up The World Donor Installation Tour  
October 1-14, 2009



Ghopte Ghyang, Nepal, 2009

LUTW is providing an opportunity for donors to join us on a project in October 2009. Participants will gain hands-on experience with community based renewable energy projects by installing LUTW's solar powered LED lighting system in the 52 homes in the village

of Ghopte Ghyang, in the Helambu region of Nepal. Light Up The World will provide donors with the unique experience of taking part



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in the transformation of a village by working with the community to install safe, affordable, healthy, efficient, and environmentally-responsible lighting systems in rural Nepali homes.

For more information on how to become a participant, please see LUTW's website or email Lana Banks at [l.banks@lutw.org](mailto:l.banks@lutw.org).

### Project Profile:

#### Reading Light Project-Honduras



*Garifuna Villagers in the rural areas of Honduras.*

Honduras is a beautiful country that stretches across 820 km of coast, the majority along the Atlantic (northern) side. This area is particularly susceptible to damaging hurricanes and floods; it was here that Hurricane Mitch wreaked havoc in October 1998, resulting in the death of 5,600 people and more than US\$2 billion in damages. Honduras is one of the world's heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), and is considered one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. Given its high levels of social imbalance and inequality of income, fifty-three percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

Amongst Honduras' poorest are the Garifuna people, an Afro-Caribbean ethnic group that inhabits 36 northern coastal communities. They have perhaps been the population most affected by natural disasters, due to their geographical location. The Garifuna people comprise about 2%

of Honduras' population, the greatest concentration living in the northern municipalities of Limón and Iriona. The closest Garifuna villages are located 100 km from urban areas, and the underdeveloped road infrastructure makes it difficult to travel to these locations. Basic social services are available to some extent in certain villages; however the majority of Garifuna communities have no electric light whatsoever. This deficiency has contributed to the growing illiteracy rate amongst the Garifuna people, which in turn has greatly affected the capacity of their subsistence economy.

As a response to the lighting deficiency in the Garifuna communities, Light Up The World is working in partnership with CAUSE Canada to bring solar powered reading lights to Honduras in Spring 2009. The lightweight, hand-held lights will be made available throughout Garifuna communities, thereby allowing families to read, write, and study into the evening hours. Projected outcomes of the Honduras Reading Light project are: increased levels of literacy in the Garifuna communities, greater effectiveness of child education in schools, and elimination of ongoing expenses for candles and kerosene fuel used for reading light.

More details for this project are coming soon to LUTW's website.

### Notes from the Field:

This past March LUTW's Program Director, Christoph Schultz, travelled to Costa Rica to monitor the Light Up Costa Rica Microfinance for Lighting Project. He shares with us some of his experiences in Costa Rica.

*The trip to Costa Rica gave me the opportunity to better understand the social and economic context for lighting in the areas where the solar powered LED lighting systems are being installed. I was fortunate to travel alongside David and Pam Wiwchar, who initiated the project and are frequent*



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visitors to Costa Rica. David and Pam have developed very close friendships with the Costa Ricans who are working on the project.

*It was evident from our meetings with our project partners that the demand for a more economic and higher quality source of lighting is high. Many also commented on how the candles now "seem very dim" compared to the LED lighting that have been installed in their homes. We visited numerous homes in the village of Mojoncito, where many families used to spend the equivalent of \$20 CDN on candles per month for lighting. Through the microfinance approach, families involved in the project are now diverting those expenditures to LUTW's partner organizations to pay off the cost of the solar powered LED lighting system. Those that I met with were keen to pay off the system in its entirety, in about eight months time, and expressed an interest in purchasing an additional system if given the opportunity.*

*During most of the trip the focus was on the positive impacts of the lighting for the family, however, a chance encounter with a sloth, which was making its way across a gravel road at an agonizingly slow pace, reminded us about the other indirect outcomes of the project. By minimizing the expansion of grid networks into areas rich in biodiversity, which are both costly and environmentally damaging, supplying people with a renewable source of energy is also about helping to ensure that species like the sloth are able to thrive in their natural habitats.*



*The Infamous Costa Rica Sloth.*

### Volunteer in Profile:

#### Lisa Baker

All staff would like to thank Lisa Baker for her ongoing contribution to LUTW since becoming a volunteer for the organization in April 2008. She has been an instrumental part of our team representing LUTW at events, and by helping us to manage our Light Up The Home For The Holidays Campaign in December 2008. She was responsible for sourcing GPS coordinates to give to our donors so that they might know the specific areas on the globe that they helped illuminate. As an extremely busy mother of three, we all appreciate the hard work and dedication that Lisa gives to LUTW every week. Thank you Lisa!

### LUTW Past Events:

#### Global Youth Summit, April 3, 2009



This was a chance for High School students, grades 10-12, to learn, share, connect, and inspire each other to "Grow a Global Community." LUTW spoke to students for an hour in the afternoon and then led two workshops to get them thinking critically about issues relating to international development.

#### One World: Humanity Exposed Photography Exhibition, April 9, 2009

Light Up The World would like to thank Marina McLellan for creating the *One World: Humanity Exposed* photography exhibition at the Webster Art Gallery which encouraged individuals to become conscientious global citizens. She was showcasing various photographs taken by world-travelers and generously donated a portion of the proceeds to LUTW.



### Upcoming LUTW Events:

#### University School Presentations, May 5, 13, 20, and 26, 2009

Once again, LUTW will be making presentations to Grade 3-5 students of four schools which are participating in University School this May. The emphasis of these presentations will be on building sustainable communities.



#### The 2009 CSPG CSEG CWLS Convention, May 4-8, 2009

Each year, the CSPG CSEG CWLS Convention provides a venue for the collaboration of Canada's geo-science community. Once again this year, the convention will be holding a silent auction from which all proceeds will be donated to LUTW. LUTW will have an information booth at the conference from May 4-5, which is being held at the Round Up Center, to inform people about the organization.

#### "Community Development through Solar Lighting Projects in Low-Income Countries" Training Course, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

This is a unique opportunity to gather with dedicated individuals who are keen to learn about how to implement small scale solar lighting projects in developing countries.

The half-day seminar will cover project planning, common challenges experienced with solar lighting projects, the socio-economic impact of lighting in low-income countries, as well as some basic principles of solar system design. Participants will gain a general understanding of how one can approach community based renewable energy projects in less developed countries. The seminar leader, Christoph Schultz, has experience with community development projects in Asia, Africa,

and Central America and is Light Up The World's Program Director.

The cost of attending the seminar is \$40.00. All proceeds will go towards Light Up The World's lighting projects. For more information, please call 1 (403) 266-5004 or register online at [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org).

### LUTW in the News:

#### Etown Radio Show: Dave Irvine-Halliday Nominated for the E-Chievement Award

Etown is a nationally-syndicated, nonprofit, weekly radio broadcast (taped in front of a live audience, usually in Boulder, Colorado) that includes great musical and spoken word guests. It is aired on more than 260 stations across North America, and is podcasted worldwide. During each taping they showcase a worthy individual who is working to make a positive difference in his or her community or the larger world. Dave was nominated for the E-Chievement Award by Dirk Grunwald of Boulder, Colorado, who wrote in and told Etown about his founding role with Light Up The World. Congratulations Dave!

#### Zoomer Magazine

An article was written about Dave Irvine-Halliday and his role in the founding of LUTW, as well as the origins of the Light Up Papua New Guinea Project and of the South Africa Micro-finance pilot project in 2007.

#### Tracker News.net

TrackerNews.net featured LUTW on their green bar banner March 9-13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



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