

BUILDING A COMMUNITY DAYCARE CENTER



SANTA ROSA DE AYORA, ECUADOR



Santa Rosa de Ayora is about one hour northeast of Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

THE NEED

Local contacts and family connections helped EWB-JHU identify the Santa Rosa de Ayora project. During the project coordinator's visit, the community stressed a need for a daycare center for young children. In the community, unsupervised young children have been involved in accidents, and no efforts have been made to address this issue.



Preschool children from Santa Rosa de Ayora, Ecuador take a break from their arts and crafts.

THE EWB-JHU RESPONSE

Project Scope

In essence, the community wants a two-story building (12m x 16m). The first floor will be used as a daycare facility and community meeting place. EWB-JHU will help the community with the design and implementation of the first floor. Two or three years later, the community will decide whether or not to build the second floor for a community health and wellness center and an office for utilities and the police. Since there is water and sewer access near the planned facility, EWB-JHU plans to install two sinks and two toilets into the facility.

Assessing the Site

Sufficient amount of data had to be collected from the site in order to work on the design with the rest of the team back home. During the first site visit, the team established and strengthened ties with community members: the assessment team met important community administrators and gained a greater understanding of the community and culture. EWB-JHU members obtained material pricing and transportation from hardware stores in Cayambe, a nearby town. During the second assessment trip, EWB-JHU, with a professional structural engineer from the US and a professional civil engineer from Quito, conducted a thorough technical assessment of the site. A baseline public health survey was conducted. A topographical survey of the site was obtained and tri-axial soil testing was done by a university in Quito. The university has agreed to provide labor and loan equipment for the implementation trip. They also agreed to look over the preliminary and final designs for the daycare center to ensure a safe structure.

Engineers Without Borders™-USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.

The Johns Hopkins University chapter (EWB-JHU), established in 2005, seeks to fulfill these goals through the partnership of students, professors, and professionals.

SUMMARY

The Santa Rosa de Ayora community has a population of about 1050 and includes a church and a preschool. Currently, the community does not have a childcare facility for children under the age of four. The children are often left home alone, as both parents have many responsibilities. The proposed childcare facility will serve many purposes. During the day, the facility will serve as a daycare center. In the evenings, the facility will serve as a community meeting center. The community also plans to add a second floor two or three years later for a health center and an office for utilities and police.



EWB-JHU members assessing the projected building site.

MOVING FORWARD

The next steps for EWB-JHU is the design phase of the project, and continual communication with the locals contacts in Ecuador. The EWB-JHU members are currently working with professional engineers and architects in designing a safe and sturdy daycare center, as well as working on obtaining sufficient funding for the project. The team will travel to Ecuador this summer to lay the foundation, construct the first floor, and assess other community needs such as health, water and sanitation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EWB-USA: <http://www.ewb-usa.org>

EWB-JHU: <http://ewb.jhu.edu>

Ecuador Project Page: <http://ecuadorprojectjhu.googlepages.com>

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Tax-deductible donations can be made via checks made out to "Johns Hopkins University" with "EWB-JHU Ecuador Project" in the memo line.

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