

1. Project: Protecting, Educating, and Empowering South Sudanese Girls through Vocational Programs
Submitted by: Erin McGillivray (RPCV Kenya 2002-2004, not a current member)
Country: South Sudan/Uganda
Summary: Constructing four tukuls (adobe thatched huts) to be used for safe and secure housing for ASAH students during the year-end break from early December to early February. The structures will be located at the ChildVoice International (CV) residential center and will enable 38 of the ASAH girls to participate in CV's vocational skills training program during the school break. The structures will be constructed out of Hydraform bricks. ASAH and CV have had a partnership since 2014 and expect to continue working with them and that community for years to come.
2. Project: Empowerment of Rural Women to Lift Themselves from Poverty through the Creation of Mini Bakery Businesses
Submitted by: Wesley Meier (RPCV Nicaragua, current MNRPCV member)
Country: Nicaragua
Summary: Seeking funds for the installation and startup of 60 new fuel-efficient ovens expected to evolve into 40 new mini-bakeries in rural Nicaragua. They have been present in Nicaragua since 2008 and have sold over 1400 technology systems, serving over 240,000 individuals in 123 different communities. The projected timeline is 1 year after funds disbursed, impacting 300 people and will generate an increase of household income of at least 50% over the 12-month post-installation period. The contribution from MNRPCV will be in addition to \$20,000 from Project Redwood Foundation, \$3,000 in-kind support from ISU mechanical engineering volunteers, \$3,000 program income generated from client cost share and EOS fundraising efforts. One of the neatest things about this grant is that the oven manuals and training on installation is provided by current Peace Corps Volunteers in country!
3. Project: Nichols Indigenous Learning Institute
Submitted by: Digna Lipaod Adonis (Wife of Lonnie Nichols, RPCV Belize 1986-1989)
Country: Philippines
Summary: Seeking funds to support culture and instrument training for school children in rural northern Philippines. The goal of the Indigenous Learning Institute is to connect Indigenous Igorot children to their culture, and help preserve and sustain their important ancestral heritage. The funds would help cover train-the-trainer costs to teach 5 th and 6 th grade students cultural instruments, songs and dances.

4. Project: Sparkle & Shine – Sewing and Bag Production Development
Submitted by: Melanie Heston (RPCV Swaziland 2012-2016,)
Country: Swaziland
Summary: Sparkle & Shine empowers teen Swazi mothers through work experience and personal development, providing them with confidence and skills to improve their lives and the lives of their children. They utilize sewing training, on-going lessons, and mentorship within the community to help women learn sewing skills to help generate income for themselves and their families. The project is expanding so funds will help cover the costs of an additional sewing machine and needles, fabric, and sewing tools & equipment. They are also seeking to bring in an experienced community sewer to help the young teen moms have an additional mentor and teacher to perfect their sewing skills.
5. Project: Building a Skills Training Centre
Submitted by: Jeff Hall (Sierra Leone 1987 – 1989, current member of MNRPCV)
Country: Sierra Leone
Summary: The proposed project includes building a skills training center and training plan to assist youth in acquiring marketable skills in the community of Mamboma (population 660). The center will serve as a hub for youth participation in decision making, trainings, business, the arts, and even a soap making class. The community already has 80 registered youth for the soap making and dying course. The building will also be accessible to the surrounding communities and can serve as a large meeting space for community groups, visiting NGOs and government personnel to provide capacity building and democratic forums.