



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
STUDENT CHAPTER

## *Engineering for Life* EWB-WYO in Partnership with Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

May 2010

### Project History

In October 2005, Hurricane Stan caused mudslides that destroyed the village of Panabaj in the highlands of Guatemala. EWB-WYO helped relocate the community to a new location, known as Chocomuc, along the shore of Lake Atitlan. Over four weeks, December 2007 – January 2008, a team of 16 UW students built a new school in Chocomuc. The school now serves over 200 students, who are now in their new homes, away from the risk of further mudslides and seismic activity.



Engineers Without Borders™ -USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2002 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.

For more information:

Website: [www.ewb-usa.org](http://www.ewb-usa.org)

Phone: 303-772-2723

### New Partnership

To remain engaged with the Mayan communities of the highlands, EWB-WYO is partnering with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) at their Altiplano campus in Solola, on the north side of Lake Atitlan. UVG has established the Atitlan Research Center with a focus on a range of issues affecting the Lake Atitlan area and the surrounding communities. Research interests include pollution, health, economic development, and community educational outreach.

### *Engineering for Life*

*Engineering for Life* is a central theme for the Atitlan Research Center. It focuses on sustainability and use of new tools (physical and technical) to improve quality of life in the region. EWB-WYO and UVG envision their partnership to foster formation of a series of demonstration centers for appropriate technology at the Altiplano campus. Students from UW and UVG will work cooperatively on problems encountered throughout the highland communities. As solutions are developed, they will be beta-tested at the Altiplano campus, where training in their implementation and use can be provided to community members.

### New Projects

The partnership between EWB-WYO and UVG has the potential for cooperative pursuit of a host of projects, such as the following:

- In-home water purification systems
- Clean-burning wood stoves
- Solar ovens
- Effective waste disposal
- Sustainable agricultural practices

Larger projects with broader impact could also be pursued. Some of these include

- Standards for timber engineering design and construction to stimulate a sustainable timber products and construction industry
- Early warning system for mudslide risk control
- Control and remediation of cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Atitlan

### Our Vision ...

... is a world in which all communities have the capacity to meet their basic human needs.



*Excelencia que trasciende*

DEL VALLE  
GRUPO EDUCATIVO

To Learn more about this project:

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for more information