



ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

2014 was a very busy and important year for Academics without Borders USA (AWB-USA). It was our first year of operation. We were incorporated on April 23, 2014 and received our tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) in July from the IRS. Other filings that made us "official" with the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Attorney General's Office followed shortly thereafter.

The basic idea for creating AWB-USA started early in 2013 with four current board members. Early in 2014, this group learned about the success of a Canadian NGO that had successfully operated projects in IHE's throughout the developing world since 2007. These four founding board members found the achievements and basic business model of the Canadian organization compelling and decided to explore starting a similar, organization in the United States located in Davis California.

Davis is also the home to the University of California, Davis (UCD), a tier one research institution with an annual research budget of over \$750 million. While the goal of AWB USA is to become a national organization, our proximity to UCD helped immensely during the 2014 start up year. We have received encouraging support from the University, including Provost Ralph Hexter, and we look forward to expanding our collaborative efforts with UCD and other higher education institutions in the United States in the years ahead.

Throughout the latter half of 2013, our initial group of four board members reached out to other community members recognized for their interest and experience in international higher education and development. Several saw the potential for establishing this new organization and agreed to join the effort, resulting in AWB-USA's current nine-member board of directors.

With the successful birth of AWB-USA as a non-profit organization, the fall and winter months of 2014 were spent developing contacts, seeking

project ideas from various contacts, refining our mission and goals, fundraising and developing administrative and operational management systems. By the end of 2014, AWB-USA had successfully laid the groundwork for creating and sponsoring its first projects, one in Haiti and another in Sri Lanka. Both projects are now underway.

AWB USA's Goals for 2015 include doubling the number of projects it supports and intensifying its fundraising efforts in order to support project expansion. Needless to say, this is an exciting time for our new organization, and we look forward to identifying more opportunities to assist institutions of higher education in developing nation.