



ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

2015 was filled with the ups and downs that any new organization faces, but progress was made in all of the areas important to its work and mission. A brief summary of the most significant events and achievements follows.

Projects - 2015 saw the development and execution of our first project, a partnership with several UCD faculty and the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka that focused on improving Sri Lanka's ability to address serious national health issues. This was a major achievement that was realized very quickly after AWB USA was created and demonstrated the significance of the contribution that AWB USA can make to universities in developing nations. In short, this project used a multidisciplinary approach to solving major health issues in Sri Lanka. Other project proposals we approved in 2015 included a partnership with the UC Davis School of Medicine faculty to provide pediatric cardiology training to pediatricians in the primary teaching hospital in Port O'Prince Haiti, and a partnership with our Canadian NGO counterpart to provide family medicine training to doctors in Myanmar. Unfortunately, both of these projects encountered significant problems that prevented AWB USA and its partners from completing the proposed projects; however, they did provide AWB USA with valuable experience that will serve it well in the future. 2015 was also the start of our first request for proposal cycle. We sent invitations to submit a proposal to more than 200 contacts in developing nations throughout the world.

Fundraising - Developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for raising funds is absolutely essential for every nonprofit organization. In 2015 noticeable progress was made in this area. In addition, AWB USA continues to receive a significant portion of our current funding from its board members who have made a commitment to provide at least \$1,000 a year. 2015 was also noteworthy for the receipt of several \$5,000 grants from a Northern California foundation.

Governing Board - A number of board member changes occurred in 2015. The most significant was the tragic loss of Larry Vanderhoef, the former chancellor of UC Davis on November 15, 2015. Larry offered a unique perspective to some of the first issues our board faced as a new nonprofit, and he will be terribly missed. On the plus side, in 2015 Steve Temple, an agricultural specialist with many years of experience, joined the board. At the end of 2015, AWB USA had ten board members.

Organizational Infrastructure - As a new organization, AWB USA in its first months of operation had to build from scratch a variety of organizational procedures and policies to organize and guide its work. Among the most significant were: a project workflow framework that guides the selection and implementation all projects: the first project proposal forms, agreement letters, final report requirements, and volunteer liability waivers. On the financial front, accounting software was purchased and installed, and the board began to receive regular quarterly income and bank balance statements. A Memo of Understanding and Cooperation with our Canadian counterpart was also developed to guide future joint projects. The organization website (awbusa.org) and corporate logo also took shape in 2015.

Outreach - Reaching out to the community, both academic and beyond, are critical to the growth and ultimately the survival of AWB USA. It is through outreach efforts that donors are identified and volunteers are found to staff projects. In January 2015, AWB USA received a major boost in reaching out to the UC Davis community. Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter sent a memo to UC Davis deans making them aware of AWB USA, the compatibility of its work with the interests and goals of UC Davis, and his encouragement to "look into opportunities afforded by this organization to volunteer their expertise, as they deem their work appropriate to furthering mutual objectives." Throughout 2015, AWB USA board members took advantage of other UCD and community opportunities to tell people about its work and to make contact with people who might be interested in supporting its work and offering their time and talents. Among these efforts were participation in the annual UCD new retiree information day, the annual International House Festival in Central Park, and discussions with the Humphrey Fellows.