

Building Strong Futures

Annual Report
2012 & 2013



Long Way Home



Letter from the President

Dear Friends in the LWH Community,

The years 2012 and 2013 marked my seventh and eighth years volunteering with Long Way Home. I became involved in 2005 and have served as board president since July 2008. It is time once again for our report to donors and I approach this one, spanning two fiscal years, with a heightened sense of nostalgia as I hand the reins of presidency to Aaron Colvin. Please join me while I reflect on the mountain of change that has visited this organization since I became involved nearly a decade ago.

In my first memory of LWH I am standing before a flattened, dusty landscape that appears to be the size of a landing strip for small aircraft. It is filled with men planting tufts of grass they have just brought from their own backyards. Mateo, the one with the vision, tells me that in one year it will be a flourishing soccer field. Of course I was impressed. In my town we use backhoes, seeds and sprinkler systems. Our family pledged to return to see if the grass would grow.

When we returned a year later, I not only found a soccer field but an organic community garden, a fledgling volunteer program and the dream of building so much more. Even as the park was shaping up, the organization was refining their focus.

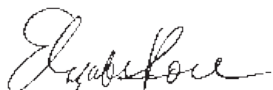
With time, reflection and close work with the community, we finally centered on a mission that was achievable and relevant. We would build with trash and create new communities that created education and employment opportunities under a mantle of environmental stewardship. Our metaphysical changes were also reflected in our strengthening financial picture. Our total income, close to \$9,000 in 2005, grew to nearly \$157,000 in 2013. Our expenses also bloomed, from a little over \$7,000 to over \$160,000 at the end of last year.

As far as improvements on the professional side, when we began, our staff was long on hope and optimism and short on degrees and experience. In 2005, LWH had a paucity of community members with a long-term stake in our project. We also lacked administrative experience and technological capabilities. Geez, we didn't even have a toilet!

However, by the end of 2013 we boasted a local construction crew of ten, half of whom had been with the team since we broke ground on the school. Our strictly Comalapan teaching staff numbered five and our student body reached 43 children from the neighborhood. Our administrative staff had Masters Degrees in Nonprofit and Natural Resource Management and our Executive Director began working towards a Masters in Education. We used 1400 *eco-ladrillos* (trash bottles) in the construction of our four-stall, dry-composting latrines.

As we move forward we expect change to continue. I want to thank you for your support over the years of my tenure as board president. I am looking forward to continued success and am pleased to stay on the board for this inspirational ride.

Sincerely,



Long Way Home | www.lwhome.org
Education, Employment and Environmental Stewardship



Board of Directors

Elizabeth Rose
President

Aaron Colvin

Ben Smith

Danny Paz

Jon Fripp

Ross Mordini

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear LWH Friends and Family,

With the support of over 1000 people since 2009, LWH has leveraged manpower, time, professional services and financial gifts primarily in the construction of a state of the art K - 12 school campus for the residents of San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala. In addition to adding several more classrooms in the last two years, students began attending classes in January 2012. From those original 21 students, we grew to 43 and at the end of 2013 we were granted official school status by the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. And these are not your average students. Students at our primary school are leading the pack in the innovative use of recycled materials. I was personally most impressed by the easy chair made from 75 plastic bottles by one of our 5th graders, Jovani.

Staff

Matt Paneitz
Executive Director

Adam Howland

Adam McBurnie

Ben Smith

Bryan Many

Genevieve Croker

Lars Battle

Lisa Massey

Liz Howland

One of the people that has been so critical to the success of the school is outgoing LWH board President Elizabeth Rose. Although Elizabeth will remain on the BOD, after more than 5 and a half years as President, she is stepping down from the senior position. When Elizabeth's tenure officially started with LWH on July 7th, 2008 we were of course working hard but in need of leadership. Without flinching Elizabeth got to work. She immediately started fundraising, writing articles and recruiting volunteers. While some might say that allowing us to build her garage out of tires was her biggest contribution to our success, others might point to the creation of the annual Rubbish to Runway ReFashion Show. What I am most grateful for is her availability to LWH staff 24 hours a day. It's hard to say just how many times we have called her at 3am with an emergency. It's not hard to say that she took each call and treated us as family. I speak for the entire LWH team when I say: Thank you so much, Elizabeth, for your commitment to your team and to fighting poverty.

Looking ahead we expect great things as well. In 2014, with the creation of our offshoot business, Los Técnicos, we will be able to pay for most school operational expenses including teachers salaries. In 2015, students will have the option of continuing their education at our middle school. We also plan to finish construction of the entire school campus and turn our attention to rebuilding Comalapa. Of course, this is only possible with your continued support of our mission.

Hasta La Victoria!




Students on Campus

The 2012 academic year marked an exciting milestone for Long Way Home and our vocational school project: we welcomed our first students into the classrooms! With a modest 21 students in four grades, we finally began to realize this dream of a self-sufficient education center that was focused on providing increased education and employment opportunities through environmentally friendly construction. A fresh energy gripped the organization at all levels as the sounds of children laughing and learning rose above the buzz of power tools and *Radio Ranchera* that formerly dominated the construction site.

In 2013 we expanded our student body and the number of grades we offered, receiving 43 students in Kindergarten through the Fifth grade. We also expanded our teaching staff, adding four energetic, local teachers. For the first time we were able to plant the tire terraces with our students, growing several kinds of lettuce, celery, beets and radishes. A local agricultural student did his practicum hours with us and started teaching the children about the importance of a varied diet and non-chemical fertilizers.

For Children's Day on October 1st of last year, Nancy, one

of our new teachers, organized a school wide competition to encourage students to think of creative re-uses for waste materials in their homes. In addition to the winning chair created from plastic bottles, students crafted model cars from aluminum cans, floatable boats from product containers, and flower baskets from woven chip bags. Looking at all of the wonderful and functional items that our students fashioned, it was apparent that our model is more than just a pipe dream, it's a real possibility!



“Aquí me gusta el silencio. Hay mucho ruido para las escuelas en el área urbana. Aquí se puede escuchar los pájaros y el viento.”

◆

“Here I like the silence. There's a lot of noise for the urban schools. Here you can hear the birds and the wind.”

~ Josseline
5th Grade in 2013



Living Waters

Development works offers many challenges to overcome and among the most difficult to adjust to can be the elongated timeline. We joke, but everything here seems literally to “take longer than it takes.” However, with persistence and patience comes that most magical day in the life of a development worker when a piece of the puzzle finally slides into place. In the case of our super high tech micro-filtration water purifying system, it all began with a Shenandoah valley church and some US Peace Corps

Volunteers stationed in another valley in Guatemala. After years of meetings and conversations, Mr. Mac Sterrett led a group of eight volunteers with Living Waters for the World (LWW) to our little hilltop campus and installed a system that will allow us to convert harvested rainwater into potable water for the school’s use.

In addition to the obvious benefits of a clean water source, the completion of our 50,000 gallon cistern prior to the 2015 rainy season will provide enough quantity that we can sell *tambos* (5 gallon jugs) at a reduced price to our neighbors that are currently without an affordable source of uncontaminated water. Water sales should generate enough revenue to pay for machine operation and maintenance, reducing school operational costs and improving health outcomes for students and local families.

We are grateful to the group of volunteers that came to install our system and look forward to continuing a wonderful partnership as we work toward a mutual goal of providing clean water for the world.



“The ambitious staff, the dedicated teachers, and the thoughtful children of Long Way Home were such an inspiration. I was honored to be just a small part of bringing a clean water system with Living Waters for the World.”

~ Rhonda Richie
LWW Volunteer



Romeo's Earthship

Our first official partnership with Earthship Biotechure resulted in a beautiful house for a single mother of four. In 2013 we joined forces again to build a home for someone we all know and love, our Comalapan Foreman, Romeo Apen, and his family. This opportunity was offered to all of our local construction workers but only Romeo was interested in accepting the terms, among them a payment of \$5,000USD to cover the cost of the land on which the Earthship is built. By hiring his family members and working evenings and weekends to craft wooden Christmas nativity figures, Romeo was able to deposit nearly half this sum before we broke ground on the foundation!

Romeo's wife and mother provided snack to the staff and volunteers each day of the three week build that took place between January 21 and February 8, 2013. With 64 volunteers from 15 countries and the staff of both Long Way Home and Earthship Biotechure, we turned 600 tires, 3,250 cans, 4,400 glass bottle and 7,500 trash bottles, (over 18 tons of "waste"), into a three-U, Simple Survival Model Earthship for Romeo, his wife and his young son, Bryan. Romeo completed the terms of the agreement in late 2013 and received the title to his land and self-sufficient home.

Although this was our third build with Earthship in Guatemala, it was the first time that their founder, Mike Reynolds, was able to join us for part of the workshop. What a wonderful opportunity for our staff to work alongside the man who pioneered the re-use of tires and other waste on the construction of beautiful, self-sufficient structures! When he stood at the top of our 3000 tire retaining wall and talked about spreading our school models all over the world, it was a wonderful confirmation of our larger vision.



"We need to be doing this in about 100 other places in the world, like, now."

Mike Reynolds
Founder
Earthship Biotechure



Rubbish to Runway

In the fall of 2011, 18 fashion models slipped into plastic bags, bicycle inner tubes and Trader Joe's sacks made into *haute couture* ensembles and took to a Newburyport, Massachusetts runway in Long Way Home's inaugural Rubbish to Runway ReFashion Show. The event was a fashion exploration of the many uses of waste as textiles. It engaged and encouraged local New England designers to think outside the sewing box and create functional fashions that were also an artistic example of the second principle of living green: reuse.

"In keeping with Long Way Home's mission, each year we organize an evening to bring awareness to the problem of global contamination and to encourage innovation in solving this problem. Our show brings attention to another outlet for re-purposing items you might normally discard," said event organizer and LWH Board Chair, Elizabeth Rose.

Held at the lovely Nicholson Hall, the nights included light refreshments, a silent and a live auction, and the main attraction: a 40 minute parade of "trashions." Café style seating around tables decorated with reused materials encouraged an enthusiastic audience, given to cheers and clapping throughout each model's runway walk.

The first event was attended by 160 people and earned \$2,000 for our vocational school project. In its third year, the event grew to 220 guests and brought in over \$11,000 in funds for our organization.

Long Way Home would like to extend a special thanks to the following event volunteers: Diane Gage, Karen Dardinski, Casey Sussman, Margot Lindau, Kate Boulter and Renee Schneider.



"My love is designing women's clothing and accessories. I am inspired on a daily basis by my surroundings. The Rubbish to Runway event was right in line with my greatest passion which is taking on a design challenge!"

~Erika Lynn Smith
E.Lynn Smith Designs



Daring to Dome

As we moved into 2012 we transitioned to our third building method: superadobe. Polypropylene tubing, the same material used in grain sacks, is laid in coils and filled with a compacted mix of earth and cow manure, the walls of these *aulas* (classrooms) also form the ceilings. Each dome is capped with a glass bottle cupola, bringing natural light in stunning colors streaming into the rooms on the second floors.

The dome shape is one of the strongest in geometry and provides an excellent layer of security in a seismic region like we have here in Comalapa. Round is sound. The adobe fill is not too dissimilar from earthen building techniques employed in many places in the world for centuries. These considerations and others led us to construct several structures, going so far as to send several staff to a CalEarth workshop in Colombia to ensure that we were taking full advantage of this versatile and innovative construction style.

By the end of 2013 we had five earthbag domes nearly finished and ready for occupation. The art lab, which is featured on the cover of this report, is actually a combination of the earthbags and *eco-ladrillos* (trash bottles) tied together with a web of nylon string. It is built into the lower tire retaining wall that supports the east side of the site and is a lovely combination of bags, bottles and busted tires.

Although we originally planned to construct nine of these earthbag domes onsite, we have recently elected to return to tires as our primary wall material. Our alternative construction academies are designed to provide an alternative construction method that is safer, less expensive and environmentally friendly. While these domes are undoubtedly the first, they require more skilled labor, thereby raising the cost, and they use newly purchased materials rather than re-purposed, waste items. How fortunate we are to have this living laboratory to experiment in!



Previous Page: Staff member Bryan Many lays a strip of barbed wire between two courses of earthbags.

Below: Liter bottles of beer are affixed to a chicken wire and rebar cage to form the cupolas of the domes.



Top Left: Volunteer Jane Ouillette tamps the final course on Aula 3, possibly the last ever on this campus.

Above: Completed beer bottle brilliance.

Bottom Left: Chatty Raul Morales, who came on to the staff in 2013, has done a lot to improve communications between the international volunteers and the local crew.



“Adentro de las costales es una mezcla de tierra y estiércol de vaca. Esta mezcla se revuelve con agua hasta llegar a la humedad correcta para llenar la bolsa.”

“In sacks of polypropylene is a mix of dirt and cow manure. This mix is blended with water until it has the right moisture content and then is added to the bag.”

~Raul Morales, LWH Crew



Groups from Guate

Long Way Home has had an international volunteer program since the very beginning of our projects in Comalapa. In 2012 and 2013, however, we were pleased to witness a rise in *domestic* volunteers, groups from here in Guatemala.

Some of our most frequent visitors come from Educare, a K-12 school in San Lucas, Sacatepequez, which is located between Comalapa and the capital. At least twice each year, students of all ages and abilities spend a day here at the school site, hauling dirt, throwing cob, sorting tires and sifting sand. According to their staff, they return each year because this project helps students understand the value of hard work and allows them to do something real for the environment.

Like the students from Educare, many of our other Guatemalan groups come from a more urban environment and have fewer experiences with rural life. Spending a day

working on constructing the school can be a way for them to fulfill community service requirements or to earn credit toward Scout merit badges. Sometimes groups of students “adopt” our project and return year after year to pound tires and see how the site has changed.

The long-term success of Centro Educativo Los Técnicos Chixot depends on buy-in at the local, regional and national level. The students from the larger cities who volunteer with us now may, as adults, have the opportunity to help our school increase its impact. Their experience with us may result in support for our school in the future. Building these ties now is so critical as we introduce a model of self-sufficient, vocational education through green building projects in communities with limited resources and underdeveloped waste management strategies. Youth across the economic strata must be engaged by these radical methods and form the habit of working toward improvement for all citizens.



Previous Page: Educare, a school in nearby Sacatapece, volunteers with us several times each year.

Below: This group of Colegio Americano de Guatemala students volunteered with Long Way Home from 8th grade through high school graduation.



Top Left: Scout Troop 88, from Guatemala City, spent three nights and four days volunteering with Long Way Home in July 2012.

Above: A group of students from a high school in Chimaltenango chose to fulfill their community service requirements by working on our tire garden retaining wall.

Bottom Left: Two students from Educare have a blast getting filthy as they help to relocate and reorganize tires.



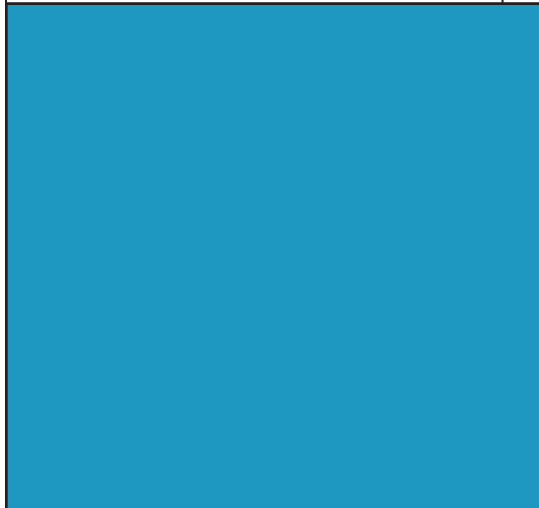
“Les enseña el valor del trabajo duro, y los acerca a la pasión, dedicación y amor que cada voluntario pone en el mismo.”

“It teaches the value of hard work and brings out the passion, dedication and love that each volunteer contributes.”

Educare Students and Staff

2012 Financials

Income				TOTAL
Individual Contributions				\$73,387.50
Volunteer Contributions				\$44,364.97
Corporate Contributions				\$23,246.61
Foundation & Trust Grants				\$17,000.00
Earned Revenue				\$22.51
Total Income				\$158,021.59
Expenses	Operations	Fundraising	Program Services	TOTAL
Officer & Director Salaries	\$1,730.00	\$1,332.50	\$9,187.50	\$12,250.00
Staff Salaries & Wages	\$1,710.00	\$1,302.50	\$9,037.50	\$12,050.00
Employee Benefits	\$3,749.40			\$3,749.40
Payroll Taxes	\$3,687.06			\$3,687.06
Staff Training & Development	\$806.49		\$4,255.20	\$5,061.69
Total Salaries & Related Expenses	\$11,682.95	\$2,635.00	\$22,480.20	\$36,798.15
Construction Materials			\$35,284.69	\$35,284.69
Construction Labor			\$38,819.61	\$38,819.61
Total Construction Costs			\$74,104.30	\$74,104.30
Total Volunteer Program			\$15,200.77	\$15,200.77
Awards & Grants - Organizations			\$1,913.82	\$1,913.82
Awards & Grants - Individuals			\$50.65	\$50.65
General Expenses	\$4,838.99	\$843.49	\$149.31	\$5,831.79
Facility & Equipment Expenses			\$2,866.33	\$2,866.33
Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$2,764.90	\$804.86		\$3,569.76
Fundraising Expenses		\$3,198.24		\$3,198.24
Contract Services	\$4,579.99			\$4,579.99
Insurance & Business Expenses	\$5,184.33			\$5,184.33
Total Expenses	\$29,051.16	\$7,481.59	\$116,765.38	\$153,298.13
Net Operating Income				\$4,723.46



2013 Financials

<u>Income</u>				TOTAL
Individual Contributions				43,991.37
Volunteer Contributions				47,035.59
Corporate Contributions				8,809.93
Foundation & Trust Grants				43,762.18
Special Events				12,950.50
Earned Revenue				47.38
Total Income				\$156,596.95
<u>Expenses</u>	Operations	Fundraising	Program Services	TOTAL
Officer & Director Salaries	\$2,272.50	\$1,315.00	\$9,862.50	\$13,450.00
Staff Salaries & Wages	\$2,417.50	\$1,545.00	\$11,587.50	\$15,550.00
Employee Benefits	\$620.56			\$620.56
Payroll Taxes	\$5,201.67			\$5,201.67
Total Salaries & Related Expenses	\$10,512.23	\$2,860.00	\$21,450.00	\$34,822.23
Construction Materials			\$22,215.74	\$22,215.74
Construction Labor			\$33,178.05	\$33,178.05
Total Construction Costs			\$55,393.79	\$55,393.79
Total Volunteer Program			\$11,812.82	\$11,812.82
Awards & Grants - Técnico Maya			\$9,815.08	\$9,815.08
Awards & Grants - Romeo's Earthship			\$21,512.18	\$21,512.18
General Expenses	\$3,144.38			\$3,144.38
Facility & Equipment Expenses	\$1,263.25		\$2,318.07	\$3,581.32
Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$1,169.54	\$2,651.78		\$3,821.32
Fundraising Expenses		\$700.00		\$700.00
Contract Services	\$8,690.31	\$2,500.00		\$11,190.31
Insurance & Business Expenses	\$4,835.06			\$4,835.06
Total Expenses	\$29,614.77	\$8,711.78	\$122,301.94	\$160,628.49
Net Operating Income				-\$4,031.54



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Waste Management: Wheelabrator
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Donor Spotlight

Long Way Home relies on support from many places: volunteers, individual donors, churches, universities, and other nonprofits. The **Arizona Community Foundation (ACF)**, one of the latter, generously gave us grants in both 2012 and 2013. The first came after an ACF staff member, Jill Christiansen, was visiting a friend at the project and brought school supplies donated by her co-workers for the students. She returned to Phoenix and regaled the office with stories of the work Long Way Home was doing in Guatemala. The employees voted to provide \$5,000 toward one of the earthbag classrooms we were constructing at the time because according to Jill, who was then Philanthropic Services Advisor, we were “really providing an opportunity for the community to build its own capacity through sustainable education.” In 2013, they renewed their support by providing \$10,000 in matching funds for our annual “Just \$21” campaign. We are so grateful to ACF and to all our contributors. You make our work possible.



Volunteers

Individuals

Aaron Wilkin	Darren Finkbeiner	John Richards	Pat Nicholas
Adrienne Gawne-Cain	David Liou*	Jordan Morrisey*	Paul Britton
Ahmed Al-Huneidi	Dean McEvoy	Juliette Teicher	Paul Duffy
Alex Baker	Debra Meaden	Justin Henson	Paul Schumacher
Alex Krason	Ditte Christensen	Kalyn Bocast*	Peter Elkins
Alex Sinclair	Donna Worosila	Katelin Hillmn	Pierre Gruget
Alice Micolier	Dori Lavy	Kaylie Haynes	Rachel Rodgers
Alicia Fox	Ed Jones	Kenny Short	Reverie Sypes
Alison Pirtle	Elizabeth Spero	Kevin Day	Richard Gaines
Allison Home-Douglas	Eloi Gruget	Kevin Wright	Rita Breen
Amanda Alessandra	Emily Emmons	Killian Connor	Robin Rutchik
Amanda Robinson	Emily Graylands	Kristen Gaines	Rosa Henderson
Amber Thompson	Eric Lynn	Lanie Padbury	Rosalia Padilla
Andrea Cannizzaro	Eric Sweet	Leila Thompson	Ross Mordini*
Andrea Carmichael	Erik Thompson	Lisa Lundeen	Rusty Shorey
Andrea Purcell	Evan Shirakawa	Liz Cramer	Sadie Kent
Andrew Weiler	Fran Webb	Loren Impson	Samir Patel
Annmarie Devivo	Gabe Miller	Luc Gruget	Sara Sebastian
Anyia Kawka	Gene Rutan*	Luke Wilkinson	Sarah Mykkänen
Asli Kesler	Geoffrey Jess	MacKenzie Finkbeiner	Sarah Spofford
Baptiste Molins	George Day	Marco Alatorre	Scott Connor
Ben Tipper	George Moore	Margo Sauter	Seth Koczerginsky
Ben Webb	Haley Watson	Mark Bursie	Shane Bonsall
Bernier Mathieu	Hans Paap	Marvin Wegner	Shane Carr
BoJana Kolarevic*	Heather Houston	Maryann Maniscalco	Shannon Grosse
Brady Haynes	Helen Holtz	Maureen Broihier	Shawn Rutan
Brie Frost	Helen Stimson	Maygen Dochuk	Solimar Villatoro
Caroline Maitre	Holly Tyler	Melissa Foster	Stephen Hebert
Carolyn Messer	Jacob Lopez*	Michal Kawka	Susan Gaines
Casey Plank	James Drury	Mick O'Leary	Susan Redlich
Christian Chavez	James Galletly	Misha Danilov	Taylor Fujimoto
Claire Aston	James Medellin	Myles Danforth*	Terrance Fleming
Claude Errera	Jane Ouillette*	Myriam Bernier	Weronika Kosior
Clifford Perkins	Jeanne Lenfant	Nancy Ortiz	Weston Norwood*
Daniel Petschel	Jesse Bradford	Nicholas Curtright	Willie Jay
Daniel Sussman	Jessica Whiting	Nick Mory	
Danika Padilla	Joe Kendrick	Noah Crosson	*Indicates Golden Machete recipient
		Noe Gruget	
		Ophélie Pluquet	

Groups

Colegio Americano de Guatemala
Colegio Maya
Earthship Biotechture
Educare
Florida International University: Alternative Breaks
Florida International University: Hillel-YAD
George Washington University
Leap Now
Leap Year
Living Waters for the World
NAPA-OT Field School
Scout #88
Southern Methodist University
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
Universidad Rafael Landívar
University of Colorado - Denver
Upward Bound
Where There Be Dragons

Volunteer Spotlight

Jane Ouillette came to Long Way Home in the summer of 2013 and brought a refreshing burst of energy to the dreary days of the Guatemalan rainy season. While here, she worked on our earthbag primary school classrooms, becoming a superadobe expert and prompting Adam to bestow upon her a “golden tamper” in addition to the coveted Golden Machete she earned. Like other inductees to “The Order,” Jane stood out in a field of super heroes. No matter the task her beaming grin never dimmed and her positive attitude prompted others to work harder, longer and with more cheerful spirits. Without the enthusiasm of volunteers like Jane, we would not be where we are today. Thanks to all of those who have literally left a little skin in the game in Comalapa!



How Time Flies!

▼ School Progress January 2012 ▼



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- ▲ Welcome Center.
- ◀ Jovani in our first fourth grade class.
- ▼ Elementary school platform.

- ▲ Welcome Center.
- ▶ Jovani finishing fifth grade.
- ▼ Elementary school classrooms.



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2



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3



▲ School Progress December 2013 ▲



Long Way Home uses sustainable design and materials to construct self-sufficient schools that promote **education, employment and environmental stewardship.**