



To Whom It May Concern,

Three years and ninety days remain until the United Nations expects its Millennium Development goal for gender equality and women empowerment to be fulfilled. The main objective of this goal is that by 2015 gender disparity will be eliminated in all levels of education. This quickly approaching deadline calls upon all of us to take action and support in the pursuit of this goal. As an enthusiastic and talented team of five female, undergraduate Biomedical Engineering students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW Madison) we have taken on a leadership role of promoting women involvement in education and healthcare within their community. We call ourselves the WELDS design team which stands for **Women Engineering Lower** extremity devices for **Developing Societies**.

The United Nations reports that Honduras has the highest rate of homicide on the planet. It is estimated that there is a violent death every 74 minutes in Honduras (BBC, 2012). This high level of violence constitutes many injuries and disabilities in the lower body due to gun shots, machete and knife assaults. These injuries, along with healthcare inequalities, result in a high demand for physical therapy treatment. We plan to travel to Le Ceiba, Honduras and teach the women how to design and engineer a lower body rehabilitation device for a local clinic called CRILA (Centro de Rehabilitación Integral del Litoral Atlántico) that focuses on providing medical services for the economically and physically disabled and disadvantaged.

With the guidance of the Physical Therapy Program and Biomedical Engineering Department at UW Madison, as well as the Hackett-Hemwall Foundation, we are in the process of developing a functional prototype for a device that would assist in the rehabilitation of a variety of lower body ailments. Thus far, we have been awarded \$3644 from the Kemper K. Knapp Bequest Committee from UW Madison for the research and development of the prototype. We seek your support for engineering training and women involvement in developing additional models of the device to improve the healthcare of the community. We plan to travel in March of 2013 to Le Ceiba to host a workshop that will teach women engineering and physical therapy skills. Through this process, we hope to empower the women of Honduras with knowledge, skills, and opportunities for economic and social advancements.

Please help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for the research, development, and implementation of this project in Honduras. Your donation of any kind will go a long way to improve the education and empowerment of women. Along with this letter, we have provided an instructional sheet on how to make a tax-deductible donation to the UW-Madison Foundation. We have also provided a stamped and addressed envelope for your convenience. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at uwmadison.cril@gmail.com or at (920)-627-3707.

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Sincerely,
WELDS Team