

Dear GEAA members and friends,

I am delighted to report that we are hearing good things from [Rose Wamalwa](#), who worked with GEAA last year thanks to an [IREX Community Solutions Program](#) fellowship. Community Solutions is a program of the [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State](#) designed to match talented midlevel professionals from developing countries with older, more experienced mentors (*that's me!*) in the US who are working in their field.

Check out the film, [The Water Women](#), which features the work Rose has been doing since returning to her home in Kakamega, Kenya. Congratulations Rose! GEAA is so proud to have played a part in encouraging women to employ rain water harvesting in the rural communities of Kenya.

Since August, [Jacques Nsengiyumva](#) has been working with us as GEAA's second Fellow sponsored by the Community Solutions Program. Jacques is the Environmental Standards and Regulations Officer for the Rwanda Environment Management Authority in Kigali, Rwanda.

He is working with GEAA and the College of Architecture at UTSA on our [Community Rain Gardens project](#). Jacques will apply what he learns about [Low Impact Development techniques](#) when he returns to Rwanda, where he will collaborate with high schools and universities to create engineered wetlands to clean up sewage effluent. (Stay tuned for more on this elegant project.)

While Jacques has been with us, he has toured the water quality laboratories at the [San Antonio River Authority](#), worked with UTSA students on their entry for the [EPA's Campus Rainworks Challenge](#), learned about sources of funding for his projects in Rwanda, and attended [SXSW Eco](#), where he met with potential sponsors. We are grateful to everyone who has helped to ensure that Jacques' fellowship with GEAA advances his ambitions to improve water quality in Rwanda.

Mentoring Rose and Jacques has been a very rewarding experience, for which I thank the Community Solutions Program and our local friends and partners. I sincerely hope that by sharing what I've learned as director of GEAA, they will be better prepared to address the challenges they face in their home countries.

From the mountains of Kenya to the fastest growing city in Rwanda to the Texas Hill Country, conserving fresh water and mitigating water pollution are vital to the health of our communities. I feel privileged to be able to share GEAA's expertise - and access to expertise - on best practices for solutions to our common challenges. Thank you for your part in making this possible.

Have a great weekend and a spooky Halloween!

Annalisa Peace

*another water woman*

Executive Director

[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)