

# THE ECUADOR PROJECT LAS MERCEDES, ECUADOR

## ABOUT US

**Project Started:** 2012

**Faculty Advisor:**

Dr. Helena Solo-Gabriele, Professor, CAE

**Professional Advisors:**

- Josenrique Cueto P.E., Responsible Engineer in Charge, Hazen and Sawyer
- Dr. Diego Deleon, MD, International Development Lead, Professor
- Michael Connelly, Construction Lead

**Project Leads:**

- Jessica Chabot, IEN, Class of 2017
- Nathan Bates, BME, Class of 2017

## HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

Las Mercedes is a small and poor rural community in the southern part of Ecuador. The community houses nearly 2,000 citizens in around 350 houses. Most homes are made of brick or wood and lack basic necessities. Our project began in an attempt to help the community improve health outcomes and general well-being.

A local NGO, Dana Rasch, and his organization had built a health center, but the community still lacked basic things, specifically a sewage system. Sewage leaked onto the streets, and led to a high incidence of disease. Our project first aimed to address this issue and has since expanded into other areas, most recently energy.

## GOALS AND PROGRESS

Thanks to the support from our generous partners and donors, we installed a sewage system in the community in the summer of 2014. As of January of 2015, over 2/3 of the community was connected, with more being connected each day. Our next step with the sewage project is to install outhouses in the homes that do not have one, so that we may see 100% of the community connected to our system.

Following completion of our sewage project, we are looking to expand into other areas. The community identified the need for a park, which will replace a dark and dangerous dirt lot where youth frequently play. We are in the process of designing the park with the government, and are focusing our next steps on installing solar lighting. This lighting will provide safety while ensuring both economic and environmental sustainability.



## CONTACT US

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