



## PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ACROSS AMERICA MAKE SOLAR LIGHTS FOR KENYA



Students at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, WV celebrate light after making 100 solar LED lights for Kenya, Africa.

**May 7, 2013 – Philippi, WV** - It is no secret that college students love to have a party and this night was no different. On Earth Day 2013, students and community members filed into a dark room on campuses across the country for **Party In The Dark - Light Up The Night**, an event sponsored by New Vision Renewable Energy. There was a sense of uncertainty and vulnerability in the air as the students gathered in the darkness. They made their way to tables that could only be found because of the small kerosene lantern or candle that was lit in the center of each table. The night started for these students in a very similar fashion as it does for one-fifth of all humanity on a daily basis. There are 1.3 billion people in the world today that live without access to electricity and a clean light source, similar to the setting these students found themselves in on this night. There was one major difference for the students gathered in this dark room -- they were about to be part of the solution: bringing light to some very special families. The Earth Day **Party In The Dark** event was designed to build and bring renewable lighting for two orphanages and a small village outside of Machakos in Kenya, Africa in partnership with Compassion International.

New Vision Renewable Energy is partnering with Renewing Eden and other environmental organizations, mobilizing students from all across the United States to get involved. Campus groups from West Virginia University, University of Charleston, West Virginia State University, Alderson-Broaddus College, Davis and Elkins College and Shepherd College in West Virginia as well as Bethel College in Minnesota, University of Nebraska, Northwestern College in Iowa and Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania all partnered with New Vision on Earth Day. Students enjoyed making solar powered LED lights from the kits provided by New Vision. The lights are powerful and light up an entire room and replace the harmful kerosene lanterns that are used as a primary light source in developing countries. On Earth Day, these students took a stand to push back the darkness so that children in Kenya can blow out their kerosene flames for the last time. Only 15% of families in Kenya have access to electricity, making toxic kerosene lanterns and their harmful fumes an everyday occurrence in their homes. Long-term exposure to kerosene takes a severe toll on respiratory

systems. In fact nearly 40% of Kenya's childhood fatality rate is partially due to the toxins in the air in their own homes. The deployment of renewable lights and power will not only help the air and light quality but the United Nations Foundation reports that children spend 1.5 hours more each night studying when they have a clean source of lighting, which is the best way to improve education in the developing world. Better lighting also gives families a chance to connect and have time together in the quiet of night.

On Earth Day the rooms where the events were held did not stay dark for very long. As each light was completed, the rooms became brighter and brighter. At Alderson-Broaddus College, by the end of the night, the main administration building was filled with 100 new lights prepared for sponsors to help send them to Kenya. The excitement in the room grew as these students saw that they had taken the first step in changing the lives of an entire village of children on the other side of the world. Last year, the results of **Party In The Dark 2012** enabled New Vision to send solar lights to the Kibera slum. Joining together with the Kibera Youth Initiative for Community Development, a trash for light exchange program provided 20 New Vision Portable Solar Power Pack & Lights to families who collected 1,000 bags of trash.

**Party In The Dark** is a national year round movement that takes place in homes, schools, churches and businesses all over the country. It is a simple act of inviting people to gather and have a party where the lights are turned off for one hour. The donations from these parties go directly to the purchase the New Vision Portable Solar Power Pack & Light for children and families in developing countries. The New Vision Portable Solar Power Pack & Light is composed of approximately 90 LED lights connected to a 12-volt, 9.8 amp battery and a 10-watt solar panel. The light is available as a kit and made from recyclable materials. To find out how your group can be part of **Party In The Dark**, go to [www.partyinthedark.org](http://www.partyinthedark.org) or call (937)469-1048.

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#### **ABOUT NEW VISION:**

New Vision Renewable Energy is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization launched in Philippi, West Virginia in 2009 and is growing as a grassroots community-based organization working to ReEnergize Communities to implement renewable energy solutions in their own neighborhoods. New Vision is an educational and innovation movement focusing on applicable technologies with renewable solutions and serves as a hub of collaborative discussion, training and invention bringing together green innovators, community leaders, youth, companies, organizations as well as public and private partners. As a member of the United Nations Foundation Energy Practitioners Network, New Vision helps to eradicate the effects of poverty in the developing world. Visit [www.NVRE.org](http://www.NVRE.org) or find us on Facebook at New Vision Renewable Energy for more details. For more information, contact Pamela O'Brien at [POBrien@NVRE.org](mailto:POBrien@NVRE.org).