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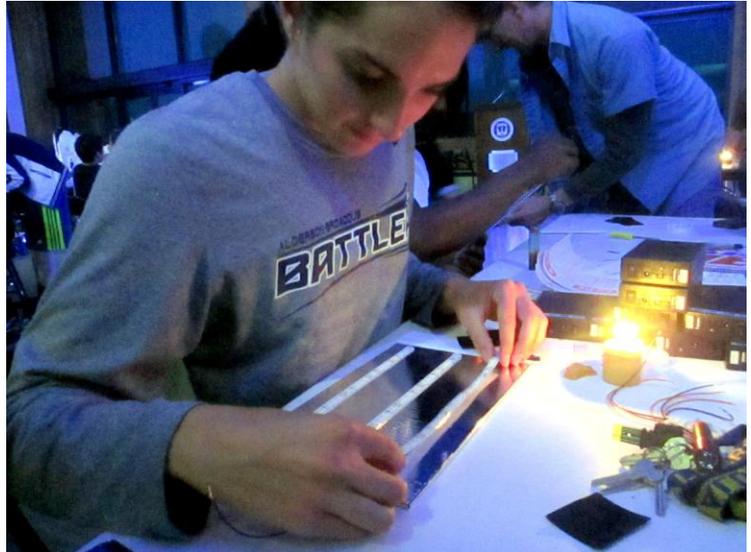
LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS PARTY IN THE DARK ON EARTH DAY WITH NEW VISION

April 26, 2013 – Philippi, WV - Students at Alderson-Broaddus College and members of the Barbour County community joined together with New Vision Renewable Energy and celebrated Earth Day by turning off the lights and making solar lights for Kenya. Eighty-seven individuals filled the lobby of Burbick Hall on A-B's Campus on April 22 to **Party in the Dark**, an event developed by New Vision. The event allows participants to assemble solar powered LED lights and get a feel for what life is like without electricity – a reality for 1.3 billion people living in darkness each night.

Several groups of six to seven students were led by New Vision members and environmental education students who guided them through the process of making the LED lights. Because the room lights were turned off in honor of Earth Hour, participants began with only natural, outside light and candlelight until the first solar lights of the evening were produced.

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. These units will be sent to a village near the city of Machakos just outside of Nairobi, Kenya. Many families in Kenya do not have access to a source of 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 omission of clean environmental resources, including air.

Barbour County native and A-B student, Cierra Nestor, spoke briefly about her month-long mission experience in Nairobi, Kenya in the Kibera Slum and how the lights impacted lives there. "As we are showing love for them," Nestor states, "we are showing them how to take care of themselves." According to Nestor, the realities of the slum are very hard to witness, as it is covered with garbage. Large families live in small, cramped houses and often bathe in unclean water. And like other Kenyan locations, the Kibera Slum is no stranger to living in the dark. Nestor encouraged fellow students at the event by telling them, "You're making a big difference in the hour you're here."



Forest DeLuca, a student at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, WV makes her first solar powered LED light by candlelight on Earth Day.

However, the air and light qualities are not the only things improved with the addition of the solar LED lights. After installation, children are likelier to spend more time studying than before, which could lead them to a higher education. Also, family members are more interactive with each other during the evening hours because of sufficient lighting.

Some A-B students commented on their experience at the event. "I feel good about being able to help a family that doesn't have light," says Forrest DeLuca, a Sports Management major, "I wish I could do this more often." Caleb Villers, a Christian Studies major, states, "It [the event] makes us realize it is so simple to help other people, we just have to get out and do it."

Holding an event such as **Party in the Dark** can bring different cultures together for a good cause, while instilling awareness about afflictions beyond the boundary lines of home. Dr. Joan Propst, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, says, "Talk about community relations from campus to community. You are bringing the community together for a project that serves. What we do tonight has far reaching implications. It's wonderful. It's a great opportunity for everyone to work together for the common good." Sarah Geist, Community Outreach Coordinator, says, "I think it [the event] benefits because it opens up students' eyes to global issues. It's the experience students get from it."

Though Monday's event was geared towards college students, anyone can participate in **Party in the Dark** by hosting their own parties. If interested, visit www.nvre.org for details.

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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 or find us on Facebook at New Vision Renewable Energy for more details. For more information, contact Pamela O'Brien at POBrien@NVRE.org.