

Volume 1 Issue 3

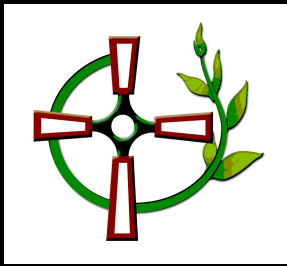
June 2016

NorAm

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
Mission Frère-Advocacy Newsletter



MAKING WAVES



NorAm

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Mission Frère - Advocacy Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Cover: Lake Erie in Wainfleet, Canada

2 MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI 2016

A recap of the March 2016 trip to Haiti with partner Archbishop McCarthy High School.



3 CENTER OF HOPE HAITI INC.

Providing education and hope in Hinche, Haiti.



4 MISSION IMMERSION PERU

Brother Steve Casey leads schools from North and South America to serve Peru's marginalized.



5 RETURN TO PERU

Iona Prep alums Joe Colucci and Luke Hanabergh return to Peru to serve again.



6 HUNGERFEST AT ACND

Students, faculty and staff at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S. advocate for and serve Miami's homeless.



7 ERI / THOMAS BERRY FORUM

A reflection on Edmund Rice International's May Human Rights Training in Geneva and Ecological Justice at Iona College.



8 ADVOCACY LINKS

A spotlight on Brother Michael Maher's work with restorative justice.

When the Mission Frère-Advocacy Program began in October of 2015, little did we know that it would be so impactful in less than a year. During this school year, all of the 17 schools in the North American consortium made waves in advocacy in their own way.

From advocating for changes in prisons and for veterans of the U.S. armed forces to bringing awareness to missing women in Canada and creating programs to clothe the homeless of Boston, the first year of the Mission Frère-Advocacy Program has been successful thanks to the hard work of students, teachers and Brothers throughout the network. We would like to thank all those individuals whose commitment to service and justice and for the promotion of our advocacy program in its infancy.

But 2015-2016 was just a start.

The 2016-2017 year will

continue to see the implementation of advocacy programs in the 17 schools throughout the NA Province. This coming year will also include a workshop for advocacy leaders from schools around the Province. This workshop is tentatively being planned to take place at Jericho House in Wainfleet, Canada. More information regarding this workshop will be available soon.

In reflecting on the program's progress this past year, it is important to remember the true mission of this program and the words of Blessed Edmund Rice, who stated: "give to the poor in handfuls," and of the call to give a voice to those who do not have one. May we continue to do both of these things and continue to inspire students and families through the North American Province in the year to come.

MISSION FRÈRE HAITI

In the Spring of 2015, the Mission Frère program was launched by the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province. Along with a number of initiatives to continue the work of the Christian Brothers, Mission Frère-Haiti was one of the focal points of this program. As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and a place that has been rocked by recent disasters, Haiti's needs are great in many ways.

The Mission Frère-Haiti initiative, in conjunction with Mission Frère-Advocacy, was created to partner with the people of Haiti in order to better serve and advocate for those most marginalized in Haitian society. Through a joint trip of the North American Province, Iona Prep and Archbishop McCarthy High School, the great needs of Haiti were seen and the call for action was witnessed firsthand.



Above- The delegation from L-R: Marshall Ho (Teacher-Archbishop McCarthy), Father Jean Jadotte (Chaplain-McCarthy), Br. Kevin Griffith (ERCBNA Province Leader), Sean D'Alfonso (ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinator), Maryse Emmanuel (Trip Consultant) and Richard Jean (Principal, McCarthy).



A classroom where tuition per pupil is less than \$600 per year.



A view of the incredible Caribbean beauty of Haiti.



The road between Cap-Haitien and Jean-Rabel.



Some of the many beautiful works of art produced by local Haitian artisans.



The contingent with Sister Rose (2nd from left), Sister Nazareth (4th from left) and two volunteers from Spain.

As the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and a country in which the average person lives on \$900 per year, the needs in Haiti are staggering. Haiti's history is one of an underdog, constantly battling the legacy of slavery, the historical threat of foreign invasion, and cursed by the mismanagement of resources and supplies. Outside of major urban areas, Haiti's infrastructure is crumbling. Unpaved roads connect these major cities, access to electricity and water is inadequate at best, and in most rural areas there is a lack of steady jobs. Unfortunately, this is how Haiti is viewed by most people across the world, tainted by the stories of corruption, natural disaster and abject poverty. But the real story behind Haiti is one of great pride in the beauty of its country and its people, a people who greatly appreciate their faith and their education.

During Easter Week 2016, a group traveled to Haiti as part of a trip sponsored by Archbishop McCarthy High School that included parties from Iona Prep and the ERCBNA Province. This trip served as a fact finding mission in order to better understand the situation and needs of Haiti and its people, and how the North American Province of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers could partner with serve and advocate for the people of Haiti.

The contingent of six people (pictured above) flew into Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city, which would be the base for the group's trip. In Cap-Haitien, the group visited a number of schools, operated by the Holy Cross Fathers, Brothers and Sisters. While not the poorest schools that the group visited, these schools were in need of new supplies and technology. In addition to educating students at these schools, the Holy Cross Religious provide social service and outreach to children in the surrounding area. Despite being the second largest city, the urban poverty in Cap-Haitien was palpable, as pollution and a lack of access to work was evident.

The most telling and powerful part of the journey to Haiti was found on the drive from Cap-Haitien to Jean-Rabel, a small town in the northwest corner of the Island. The seven hour drive consisted of a dirt, crater-filled road that severely limited transportation and the movement of goods and people between towns. Along this road, the reality of Haiti's poverty was evident, as the group witnessed the extreme poverty in which most Haitians live.

In Jean-Rabel two sisters of Jesus and Mary introduced the group to the incredible work they are involved in there, which included their work with schools, building homes, and supporting local artists. In Jean-Rabel, these sisters help operate six Haitian-run schools, coordinate a mobile health clinic and sponsor projects that build homes for

locals. Perhaps their most impressive work was with local artists, whose art the sisters sell in order to fund their ministry while supporting these local artisans.

Through the conversations with those that the group met in Haiti, four major areas of need became apparent: education, the construction of roads, access to water and electricity and expanding economic opportunities. In response to these needs, the Province will be partnering with Iona Prep and Archbishop McCarthy in selling art from Jean-Rabel and sponsoring an immersion trip to Haiti in the future. Through the partnering of the Mission Frère-Advocacy program and Edmund Rice International in its work with the U.N., the Province hopes to advocate for improved education, improved roads and better access to water. Finally, the NA Province will be providing a Haitian-born student with a scholarship to attend the Christian Brother sponsored Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S. in Miami, Florida.

THE VIDEO LINK BELOW DOCUMENTS THE MISSION FRÈRE-HAITI TRIP AND PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE SITES VISITED:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CG_Vmmy5YtA

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In February of 2016, The Center of Hope Haiti Inc. (COHH) partnered with the Building Goodness Foundation to begin construction on a new school. The new school will have the capacity to educate 200 students. The current school building will be replaced by a 60-bed orphanage which will be built using local materials and products.

Below are pictures from COHH's groundbreaking ceremony for the new school with current students and teachers.



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the poorest in the world. Because of this, hundreds of non-profit organizations, religious groups, NGO's and other humanitarian groups have flooded the country in an attempt to provide relief to its people and to help rebuild the country after the devastating 2010 earthquake. Unfortunately, several of these groups have only exacerbated many of the problems going on in the country, and are often unable to educate and empower Haitians to rebuild their own country on their own terms. Thankfully, the Center of Hope is providing some of Haiti's most vulnerable children with nutrition, an education in safe, new buildings, and the opportunity to lead their own country to great heights in the 21st century. Mr. Robert Micera, a graduate of Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, New Jersey, has been instrumental in serving on the Center's Board and in implementing these initiatives.

Center of Hope (Haiti), Inc. ("COHH"), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, operates an elementary school and orphanage in Hinche, Haiti. This school is approximately 65 miles northeast of the capital of Port-au-Prince. Incorporated in 2004, COHH was formed to provide education, nurturing, and care to the growing number of orphans in Haiti, as well as to children from families so impoverished that they cannot afford to send their children to school. The COHH school opened in 2011 with 15 first graders. Each year the school has been expanding by one grade up to grade 9. Presently, there are 68 students in grades 1 through 5. The school's mission is to nurture the children to adulthood and prepare them to be productive citizens in Haiti.

COHH distinguishes itself from other schools in several respects:

Students are provided with two meals each day. Some of the food, such as peanuts, beans, and some vegetables, are sourced from gardens on our site. Parents assist in the cultivation and can take home excess food. Oftentimes, the children from the school are readily identifiable in the community because of their level of physical energy.

Class size is limited to 15 students per class. The small class size allows teachers to focus on the individual needs of the students. The school day extends from 7:30am to 2:30pm, while other public schools assign children to either a morning or afternoon session. Teachers are trained to teach in a "hands-on" style, rather than rely on rote memorization as is more common in local schools.

The school curriculum adheres to the requirements of the Haitian Ministry of Education, but COHH augments it with additional lessons, particularly in science. For example, students have learned about the solar system, dinosaurs, and biodegradation, which aren't necessarily part of the Ministry of Education's curriculum.

COHH has received a gold star from Guidestar, signaling that COHH is among the most transparent non-profit organizations. Approximately 85 cents of every dollar goes to Haiti and their work there.

The ERCBNA Mission Frère-Advocacy and Mission Frère-Haiti Programs encourage support of COHH in their efforts at building a better Haiti.

To learn more about COHH visit: <http://www.centerofhope-haiti.org>

PERU MISSION EDUCATION IMMERSION



For more than six years, Brother Steve Casey (pictured above) has been leading the Mission Education and Immersion Program in Peru, Kentucky and more recently, Brownsville, Texas. Bro. Steve first visited Peru in the 1980's, during one of the country's darkest times, as the Shining Path and the Peruvian Government were engaged in a violent battle, while the poor of Peru were caught in the crossfire. But it was here in Peru that Bro. Steve would find his passion, by serving the marginalized in Peru and sharing their beauty and their story with the rest of the world.

In 2012, Bro. Steve began to coordinate the Peru Immersion Program along with Bro. Pablo Keohane from Ireland. It has grown to where 15 schools from the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Uruguay now bring students to participate in immersions in Lima.

In Peru, the immersion program brings students to learn about and live in solidarity with the poor in Canto Grande and Villa Salvador, two of Peru's many impoverished neighborhoods. Students learn about Peru's history, culture and traditions.

They come to experience modern day Peru by living in the Las Flores community (Hendricken House) which is home to Bros. Steve and Pablo.



Brother Steve (l.) with Peruvian Jorge Sanchez Carillo (c.) and Bro. Pablo Keohane (r.)

The immersion program has been incredibly successful. Since Christian Brothers Schools began going to Peru, the program has introduced hundreds of students, teachers and families to the plight of some of the most vulnerable and marginalized brothers and sisters in Peru. Through the immersion program, tens of thousands of dollars have been raised for various programs, dozens of homes have been constructed for families, hundreds of students have received an education at the Christian Brothers school in Lima, Fe y Alegria 26, and hundreds of ER Christian Brother School students have experienced Peru and shared their story with the world.

One of the most important aspects of the immersion program in Peru is what it inspires students to do. The hundreds of students who have gone on this trip continue to serve and advocate for the poor in the U.S., Canada, Argentina, Uruguay and around the world. For many, Brother Steve's work through the Peru immersion trip has been a profound experience that has gone on to transform their lives into lives of service to and advocacy for others.

A Year of Peru Immersion 2015-2016



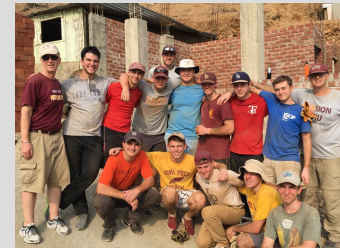
Pilgrims in Peru Immersion-
Teachers from North American
Christian Brothers Schools



Mother's Club from Colegio
Cardinal Newman, Argentina



Iona College, New Rochelle,
New York Mission Peru
Immersion



Iona Prep, New Rochelle, New
York Project Mission Peru
Immersion



Catholic Memorial, Boston,
BERSI Peru Immersion



Bishop Hendricken, Rhode
Island, Peru Immersion



Colegio Cardinal Newman,
Argentina Student Immersion
Trip



Brother Rice, Michigan, Peru
Immersion Trip

CLICK BELOW FOR PERU IMMERSION VIDEOS:

IONA COLLEGE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKZ7Sta4wPM>

CATHOLIC MEMORIAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHRwU5qeWL8>



Luke Hanabergh (left) and Joe Colucci (bottom right) returned to Peru to spend a week revisiting the places and people that inspired them through their immersion trip as students at Iona Prep.



RETURN TO PERU

Most students spend the summer after their first year of college enjoying the beach, spending time with former classmates or searching for their first internship. But some are drawn back to their roots in a different way, influenced by the profound experiences they had through their education from an Edmund Rice Christian Brother School.

In May of 2016, Iona Prep Alumni Joe Colucci and Luke Hanabergh ('15) returned back to Peru after their profound experiences traveling there when they were students at Iona Prep. Joe and Luke spent their time in Peru constructing homes, visiting schools and spending time with friends met there.

After a year in college, most students look forward to a relaxing summer where they can spend time at the beach after their first year away from home. But for Iona Prep graduates Luke Hanabergh and Joe Colucci, their first summer took them back to a place that greatly changed their lives while in high school - Peru. Having experienced Peru through Iona Prep's Mission Peru immersion trip, both Luke and Joe were inspired to return to a place that has greatly influenced their first year of college, and according to them, the rest of their lives.

When asked why he wanted to return to Peru, Joe said "I hope I get a better understanding of what life is like for people living on the hill." Joe added, "During my trip at Iona, we split time between Lima and Cusco, but I want the focus of

this trip to be on working with the people of Lima." Joe recently finished his first year at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business and plans to double major in accounting and finance. At Georgetown, Joe spent each Friday during his freshman year preparing food at a local meal program. "I hope that this trip inspires me to return many times in the future."

Luke Hanabergh recently finished his first year at Ithaca College, where he was involved with the school's



Iona Prep graduates Joe Colucci '15 and Luke Hanabergh '15 spent time with Peruvians Kevin and Anthony.

Habitat for Humanity program. This Fall, Luke will be transferring to Bentley University in Boston, where he plans to continue his Business major and become involved with the school's Catholic Campus Connection. When asked what inspired him to return to Peru, Luke said "I hope to return to Peru to reflect on the many blessings I've received over the past year. I look forward to taking time out of my normal life to be in complete service to God and the people of Peru." Luke added, "I look forward to going to Peru with my new experiences and knowledge from this year, and return with experiences that I can share with fellow alumni, friends, peers, and family."

Joe and Luke, along with countless others who have returned to Peru, are living out the call to share Peru's story with the world.

FIGHTING HUNGER AT CURLEY



Students and teachers prepare some of the 3,600 lunches distributed to Miami's homeless population during ACND's Hungerfest.



Continuing their tradition of fighting and spreading awareness of hunger in Miami, student at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School spent February 26th and 27th engaged in their school's HungerFest. Students spent the day preparing, packing and delivering more than 3,600 lunches to help feed those experiencing hunger and homelessness in Miami. In addition to delivering meals, students raised over \$3,000 through a car wash and fasted for more than 24 hours to live in solidarity with those experiencing hunger and homelessness.

A TRADITION OF SERVICE

Since 1996, students at Miami's Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School have led an event that serves and advocates for some of the most marginalized individuals living in their city of Miami. ACND's annual Hungerfest has provided thousands of meals and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support those experiencing hunger and homelessness throughout their city. In addition to the assistance that students raise and provide, students participate in a 27-hour fast, which gives them a better idea of what experiencing hunger is truly like, and allowed them to live in solidarity, if only for a day, with those who are homeless and hungry. This event also highlights poverty on a global scale, and introduces students to the plight of those who ACND serves in Haiti and those whom the Christian Brothers serve in Peru. This yearly event highlights these issues and helps students to better understand the concerns associated with hunger and homelessness, as well as learn how to serve and advocate for those experiencing it. Students at ACND continue to carry on this great tradition and 2016 was no exception, as students raised more than \$3,000 and provided more than 3,600

lunches to those in Miami.

CREATING AWARENESS

Hungerfest is not merely a fundraiser and service project. In preparation for the event, students learn about hunger and homelessness and the myriad of issues that both cause and exacerbate them. Students are also educated through the expertise of those who work directly with those suffering from homelessness and hunger. Since the program's inception 20 years ago, guest speakers from around the community have been invited to speak about poverty, homelessness and related issues. This past February, Curley welcomed Mario Frazil, the author of the book, *Ways to Conquer Hunger*. In his book Mr. Frazil discusses hunger on a global scale, and advocates for ways in which this issue can be solved not only in Miami, but throughout the world.

CONNECTING WITH MIAMI

One of the major goals of Hungerfest is to introduce students to the realities of their own city. Throughout the city of Miami, ACND has partnered with numerous organizations that students volunteer at throughout the school year and deliver lunches and supplies to during Hungerfest.

Some of these sites include Miami Better Way, the Miami Rescue Mission, St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, and Camilius House, Camilius House is an organization that has worked directly with impoverished individuals experiencing homelessness for more than 50 years.

A SCHOOL COMMITTED

ACND's Mission Statement reads "By word and practice, interaction and experience, we foster acceptance and appreciation of different cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds, preparing each person to be a responsible, involved, and compassionate citizen in a global society." Hungerfest is another great example of how ACND students are fulfilling this mission and the mission of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers schools throughout the world.

For a brief write-up of Hungerfest, visit:
<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article66195982.html>



In May, Iona Prep Director of Campus Ministry Anthony Casella traveled to Geneva to participate in ERI's Human Rights Training in conjunction with the U.N. Anthony was the representative from the North American Province, and his experience there was one that allowed him to gain a better understanding of advocacy and how it can be implemented in schools in North America. Find Anthony's reflection on the trip below:

"For me, the trip was eye opening because it allowed me to better understand the process that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) go through with the U.N., and the ways in which the U.N. works with NGO's at the international level.

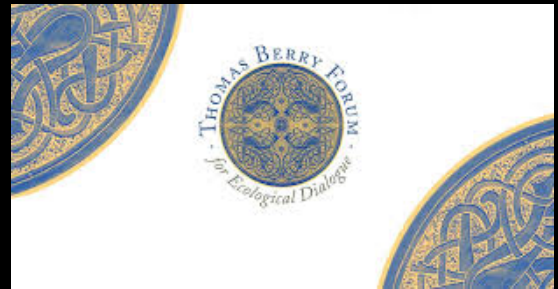
During the two weeks, we met and listened to different representatives that work in the global human rights field. They provided much in the ways in which schools can be involved in advocating for the marginalized around the world. Furthermore, having the opportunity to spend time with 11 other individuals from Christian Brothers Schools from around the world allowed us to understand what works and doesn't in our schools, and allowed me to help design a comprehensive four year program for Iona Prep.



Iona Prep Director of Campus Ministry, Anthony Casella (Left) represented North America at the ERI Human Rights Training in Geneva.

The Iona Prep Campus Ministry Team has developed a new Christian Service Program that will be rolled out to next year's Freshmen class. The goal is for Iona Prep's service requirement to shift from being about "getting hours done" to making a difference or having an impact in the lives around you. That in and of itself will introduce the idea of advocacy and what students can do to give a voice to those who need it. To take that a step further, Iona Prep plans to establish a Human Rights Club in the school and utilize activity periods to provide the school community with workshops where members of the club can talk about predetermined human rights topics.

ERI is still looking for applications from North America for the Human Rights Training in Geneva to be held from Oct. 31-Nov. 11, 2016. Interested applicants should contact Brian Bond at bpbond@edmundrice.org



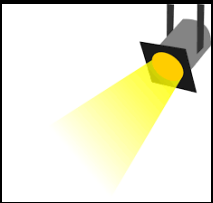
Led by Brother Kevin Cawley, the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College supports a variety of initiatives aimed at bringing awareness to and promoting justice regarding ecological issues.

In May, Iona College welcomed Jeanne Anselmo, co-founder of the Contemplative Urban Law Program at the CUNY School of Law and a world-recognized holistic nurse and mentor to Iona College. At the Iona event, students reflected on Pope Francis' Laudato Si' and Thich Naht Hanh's Letter to Mother Earth to promote ecological awareness.



Iona College International Business Major Bruka Mikan has spent the semester in Geneva working with Human Rights.

In June, the Thomas Berry Forum will be partnering with Edmund Rice International to co-sponsor several Iona College students attending the GreenFaith North American Convergence in New Orleans. This conference gathers religious leaders from around the world to share, create and implement meaningful ideas to promote ecological justice in the 21st-century.



ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT-BROTHER MICHAEL MAHER RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Brother Michael Maher serves as one of the Directors for the Smart Justice Network of Canada. This organization is a non-partisan network of volunteers who work together to promote “responsbile, fair, humane, efficient and financially smart ways of responding to criminal and social justice challenges.”

The Smart Justice Network advocates for changes across many topics, but focuses particularly on advocating for changes that prevent crime, promote social justice and reduce the risks of repeat criminal behavior. Brother Michael works directly with restorative justice, which recognizes that crime is more than just the act, and focuses on repairing harm caused by such behavior by involving all stakeholders in cooperative resolutions.

Below, find some of the work in which Brother Michael is engaged.

- Promoting action through engagement at the legislative branch to ensure laws that promote restorative justice are passed.

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/696/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18826

http://org.salsalabs.com/o/696/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18898

- Smart Network Members advocating to the Canadian Department of Justice regarding the implementation of restorative justice in response to crime.

<https://sencaplus.ca/en/news/justice-delayed-unclogging-canadas-courts>

ADVOCACY LINKS



Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM): Justice and Peace Alerts

An association of the leadership of men in religious and apostolic institutes in the U.S. The link below is to the CMSM publication “Justice Alert,” which highlights areas where justice is needed and proposes direct action through advocacy. The ERCBNA Province is a member of CMSM.

<http://www.cmsm.org/justice-alerts.shtml>



Edmund Rice International (ERI): Click below to access the most recent issues of Edmund Rice International’s newsletter. This newsletter highlights the various areas of advocacy that ERI is involved in at the U.N. and beyond. Mission Frère-Advocacy works in concert with ERI.

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e4d66fd6201da4a3aeb2f5b00&id=b96679563e&e=50613733ea>



Carbon Rangers: An e-newsletter published by Bro. Kevin Cawley, CFC, ERI Team and Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College. Carbon Rangers creates awareness for climate change and advocates for responsbile environmental stewardship.

http://edmundriceinternational.org/jpic/?page_id=79



Edmund Rice Latin America (LATAM):

The link below is to LATAM, the Edmund Rice Christian Brother’s Newsletter in Latin America. The Latin American Region and North American Province work closely together to promote justice in the Americas. Click below to see the great work being done in Latin America.

<http://edmundricelatinamerica.org/latam-newsletter/>



Smart Justice Network of Canada:

Brother Michael Maher works with this organization to bring awareness to the criminal justice system. Brother Maher and his colleagues advocate for both offenders and victims though Restorative Justice, which advocates for the criminal justice system to address the harm(s) done through mechanisms of support, accountability and healing. Click below to learn more:

<http://smartjustice.ca>



Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders:

EREBB advocates for the rights of children to receive quality Catholic school education and brings together Edmund Rice Christian Brother Schools from around the world. Click below to access their website:

<http://erebb.org>

CONTACT US

We are always looking for submissions and links from across the network and beyond!



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https://twitter.com/ERCBNA_ADVOCACY



www.ercbna.org

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun. The ocean is calm, reflecting the light. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of tropical plants like banana leaves. In the background, a dark, forested hillside meets the water. A few small figures of people are visible on a beach in the lower left.

MAKING WAVES