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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professor to organize sustainability project to provide hurricane relief in Puerto Rico

MADISON, Wis. – A University of Wisconsin-Madison professor is partnering with local organizations to raise funds for a project that will provide long-term, sustainable relief to children in Puerto Rico after the hurricane in September.

James Tinjum, Ph.D., associate professor at UW's Department of Engineering Professional Development, is organizing a project called *Solar Para Niños* to install solar panels at Hogar Albergue para Niños Jesús de Nazaret, a non-profit shelter in Puerto Rico for abused children that have been referred by the Department of the Family.

The solar panels will significantly reduce the shelter's energy costs – by at least \$500 USD per month – to allow the shelter to invest more money to help the children. While the project is not directly related to the devastation of the hurricane, it's a step toward overall relief – and sustainability.

"The shelter is a non-profit, so if there's nobody on the island who has the resources after the hurricane to support them, it's even more important for them to have projects like this," Tinjum said.

Tinjum is working with UW-Madison [Engineers Without Borders \(EWB\)](#), graduate students in the [Sustainable Systems Engineering \(SSE\)](#) program which he advises, and the Puerto Rico Relief Fund of South-Central Wisconsin (PRRF-SCW) to implement and fund the project.

The students of EWB and SSE will coordinate the majority of the planning and management. Not only will they learn about renewable energy resiliency and sustainability, they will participate in a project that will have a real and immediate impact on people in need.

Tinjum's goal is to install the solar panels within approximately one year, which will be funded by donations. To accomplish the minimum project objectives of reducing the shelter's utility bills by \$500 per month, the target is to raise \$60,000 by July 1, 2018.

Tinjum is professionally and personally committed to sustainability. In addition to helping create sustainable projects like Solar Para Niños, he biked 1,300 miles around the Midwest last summer to raise awareness about wind energy in a campaign known as [#BikettheWind](#).

Visit www.solarparaninos.wordpress.com/donate/ to donate to the project fund and follow #SolarParaNiños to learn more about the project as it evolves.

To request media and further information or arrange an interview with Tinjum, please contact Sophia Dramm at sdramm@wisc.edu or (920) 905-4088.