

Elgin Breakfast
Rotary
Club



Fundraiser: Refrigeration Unit for Operation Feed

*Village of Ajijic, Mexico
Village of San Juan Cosala, Mexico*



The Elgin Breakfast Rotary is seeking donations from local businesses & Individuals to purchase a refrigeration unit for a food pantry in Lake Chapala, Mexico. You can mail checks written out to the Elgin Breakfast Rotary Foundation 501c3, PO Box 851, Elgin, IL 60121.



ABOUT THIS PROJECT:

This project is chaired by Elgin's very own Al & Janine Kirkland. After retiring, Al & Janine moved to a small town in Mexico and true to their spirit, got involved in supporting the population there. If you know Al & Janine, you may want to support their endeavor!

In the small Mexican village of San Juan Cosala, less than an hour's drive from the bustling city of Guadalajara, live Mexican people who desperately need your assistance. It is doubtful that any of us have experienced this level of hunger, and we recognize that this basic need must be taken care of before a person can have hope for anything better. Local volunteers and the Rotary Club of Ajijic, have been providing food and other services to these people – some of the poorest in the greater Chapala area. By installing a commercial size refrigeration unit, they can dramatically increase their perishable food stocks.

The refrigeration budget is only **\$13,115 US** Dollars and over half has already been raised. So any amount you can give will help us reach our goal! And, if you and/or your family or business are interested in going on an International Service Trip in the near future, the Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club will be putting together a hands on trip to Lake Chapala to help the locals.

If you have further questions,
or would like to donate electronically,
please reach out to Past President
Alan Kirk at alankirk@me.com or 847-815-4895.

Elgin Breakfast
Rotary
Club



Rotary



Club of Ajijic

The Rotary Club of Ajijic is a English-speaking club in Mexico, and has been serving the Lake Chapala area since 2002. Its members are business and professional men and women, many retired, who dedicate their time, expertise, and talents to helping others in their local communities, and internationally through the programs of The Rotary Foundation.

For more info, contact:
Jeanette Monosoff, PhD
RCOA Service Project Coordinator
01-3132665398
Jeanettemonosoff@gmail.com



Village of Ajijic, Mexico
It is one of the oldest villages
in Western Mexico



Reasons to live in Ajijic, Mexico

- International Airport 30 minutes away
- 45 minutes from 2nd largest city in Mexico - Guadalajara
- Quality medical & dental care
- 2nd best climate in the world!!!!
- Wonderful Mexican culture
- Fruits and Veggies fresh everyday at markets
- Traditional fiestas and carnivals
- International community
- Great restaurants
- Taxes...
- Short rainy season
- Many activities and events



It is one of the poorest villages in the Lake Chapala area.

Village of
San Juan Cosala, Mexico





Operation Feed Families



Our mission is to feed the people of San Juan Cosala and after that to improve their lives anyway we can. We are always looking for ways to make their lives better.

Projects of Operation Feed:

- Scholarship Program
- Clothing Distribution Center
- Micro Business for Women
- Vision Clinic
- Tooth brushes and toothpaste program
- Female Hygiene program
- Cooking Classes
- Children's Art Camp
- Family Christmas



Operation Feed Volunteers



Produce from Guadalajara



Fundraiser: Refrigeration Unit for Operation Feed

August 12, 2024

In the small Mexican village of San Juan Cosala, less than an hour's drive from the bustling city of Guadalajara, on the shores of Lake Chapala, live Mexican people who desperately need assistance. The village is known for being one of the poorest in the greater Chapala area — many of its residents making money through house cleaning or gardening, only earning around \$20 USD for an entire day of work. There are numerous families in San Juan Cosalá that do not make enough money to take care of their families. They do not have running water or electricity, many make their own homes out of plastic tarps, and others live in houses with dirt floors and no windows. It's not uncommon for children to sleep on the ground with a blanket, or for families to sleep together to keep warm in the winter months. Those without running water might wash and cook with contaminated water from the nearby lake Chapala.

The Operation Feed program donates food packages to about 155 of these unfortunate families, totaling approximately 550 people a week. Every Thursday, 60 volunteers come together to purchase, prepare, pack and distribute food packages or despensas based on the number of people in the household. The despensas include dry items; oats, barley or lentils, rice, beans, canned tuna, pasta, cooking oil, fresh tortillas and milk powder for children. Eggs were added in addition to fresh vegetables and fruit to increase the nutritional content. This has not worked well. The eggs, vegetables and fruits perish quickly in the heat. It is now imperative to have refrigerated coolers to store the produce, eggs and other perishables.

Last January, Operation Feed Board and Community members discussed the need for refrigeration to keep despensa perishable items such as eggs, fruits and vegetables fresh and prevent decay from the heat. Fruits and vegetables are donated to Operation Feed every two weeks from a produce business in Guadalajara. Because of lack of refrigeration, nearly half of the produce is lost due to spoilage. Obviously, eggs, fruits and vegetables are an important source of protein and vitamins for growing children.

All operating funds come from donations. There is no assistance from the government at any level - Federal, State or local. Government Social programs are not common in Mexico and therefore, local volunteer programs such as Operation Feed are extremely important. Operation Feed is dependent upon its greater community to support its important contribution to the families of San Juan Cosala.

"There is a great need for refrigeration to keep these items fresh so we can pass them out in the despensas every week. If we had a refrigeration unit, we could also get donations of other perishable items."



Walk In Refrigeration



Cooling System

Request and Budget:
Acquire a walk-in refrigerated cooler to store the perishable items in the despensas. The cost to acquire and install this equipment is \$240,820 MXN (pesos) or \$13,115 USD in today's exchange rate.

Estimate for Refrigeration Unit for Operation Feed

#	Category	Description	Supplier	Cost in MXN	Cost in USD
1	Equipment	Refrigerator Panels	JGV Projects	82,360	4,479
2	Equipment	Condenser	Sinergia Refrigeración	124,520	6,786
3	Equipment	220 Watts connections	Sinergia Refrigeración	18,349	1,000
4	Equipment	Drainage Plumbing	Local contractors	13,765	750
5	Supplies	cement to level	Local contractor	1,835	100
			Total budget:	240,820	13,115

Rotary Club of Ajijic is spearheading a fundraising effort to purchase this much needed equipment. Already donations have been secured from **Rotary Club of Elgin, Illinois** and **ACT Foundation/USA**. RCOA knows firsthand of the wonderful work Operation Feed has done over the years and wishes to see it continue and expand its ability to benefit more Mexican families with more fresh food.

Rotary Club of Ajijic is asking for help from the kindhearted and the greater community of Rotarians to help Operation Feed secure this refrigeration system.

For more info, contact:
Jeanette Monosoff, PhD
RCOA Service Project Coordinator
01-3132665398
Jeanettemonosoff@gmail.com



If you have further questions, or would like to donate electronically, please reach out to Past President **Alan Kirk** at alankirk@me.com or 847-815-4895.

