

Rotary makes a difference globally, working with partners around the world on projects that promote health, economic opportunity and inclusivity. With this news update, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee hopes to keep members and partners informed about the projects we are working on together in Guatemala.

El Manantial Water Distribution Global Grant

After nearly a year, the El Manantial Global Grant Project is 97% complete and this year families celebrated the arrival of a reliable source of clean water to their homes.



It started with a well drilled by the municipality, a plan agreed to by the villagers, a design by MSOE students, assessments conducted by Engineers Without Borders (EWB), budgets created and

grants applied for by Milwaukee Rotary Club and Vista Hermosa Rotary Club, and funding compiled from an additional fifteen Rotary Clubs and six Districts. It takes a village! But that was only the beginning.

The World Fund of the Rotary Foundation approved the project for a global grant and construction began. A pump was installed to move the well water uphill to a newly constructed water distribution tank and a water treatment chlorination system was incorporated to assure water quality. Solar panels were installed to power the pump and help save on electrical costs.

The community contributed labor to trench and install needed conveyance piping and create a gravity distribution system from the tank to individual homes. EWB Guatemala and Vista Hermosa Rotarians oversaw the work and kept the project on schedule, making adjustments when supply chain issues and unanticipated inflation occurred.

As part of the grant, health and hygiene training was provid-



ed as well as training on system operation and maintenance. An evaluation to measure qualitative satisfaction with the service will be conducted in six months.

A total of 268 household connections and more than 15,400 meters of distribution piping were installed to serve a total population of 1,300 people. Water meters were included to measure usage and assure charges to the users are fair and the system can continue to operate well into the future.

No one entity could have accomplished this alone! It is the collective work of many dedicated participants coming together with talent and commitment to create positive lasting change in the world.

Rotarians Visit Guatemala Project Sites

This March, Milwaukee Rotarians were joined by EWB and Rotarians from our partner clubs in Madison, Marquette Michigan, Waukesha, and Wausau to tour projects in Guatemala. Two groups each spent a week visiting completed projects, getting their hands dirty working with the communities on current projects, and meeting with area leaders requesting help with upcoming efforts.

Although each trip was slightly different, both visits began in Guatemala City where we met and renewed friendships with our great partners from the Vista Hermosa Rotary Club. Each ended with an evening in Antigua to debrief, share impressions, and connect in a meaningful way to plan how to continue working together to provide impactful sustainable international projects. In between we bounced over perilous mountain roads with stunning scenery to reach remote communities awaiting our arrival and eager to share their stories.

*At right, Jim Cantrill from the Marquette Michigan Breakfast Rotary Club discusses the **El Tesoro** water project with community leaders. Milwaukee Rotary is supporting the effort. While in the area, the group also had an opportunity to visit the school and hike down the mountain to see a completed bridge project.*



In **El Manantial** we learned how the new water system had helped the local economy. Cases of diarrhea from unsanitary drinking water declined dramatically, and women and children did not lose hours in their days fetching and boiling water. As a result kids were missing less school.



Pam Hyland and Marci Henderson from the Madison Rotary Club check out the new El Manantial water tank while Mike Paddock fills his water bottle from one of the new taps.

At the **Alcona Bridge** worksite we worked with community members and MSOE students building a bridge.



At left, Kata and Mimi preparing lunch for all the workers at the Alcona Bridge project.

Below, Molly McClyman, Beth Mical, and Lily Swanson from EWB and MSOE take a break from bridge building.

The completed bridge will link people of the area with markets to sell their produce, schools for their kids, and other services including health care.

One of our most moving visits was to the **Escuintla Hospital** where a recently completed global grant made it possible to provide a sanitary and reliable water source to the hospital. The project included a well, water tower, chlorination and distribution system, and new fixtures and washing stations for doctors and staff.

Before our new water system was employed, patients were required to bring their own water with them when they



checked in and doctors lacked access to sanitary hand wash facilities. Babies in the neonatal unit were getting E.coli from baby bottles washed in unsanitary water. This year the hospital saw dramatic drops in infections and provided medical checkups to more than 1,450 newborns.



And in **Pachilip**, Marta, a community leader spoke to the group with translation provided by Bernabé, our EWB Guatemala staff. She asked for our help in partnering to bring water to their community.



Milwaukee Rotary has just learned that Rotary International has approved a new global grant for the project in collaboration with the Quetzaltenango Guatemala Rotary Club.

Milwaukee Rotary has worked for a decade on 15 projects in Guatemala. A common denominator to success is assembling the right team to assist local communities in realizing their dreams. Projects must be community driven and supported by Rotary Clubs, government, partners with technical expertise, and volunteers.

At right, Milwaukee Rotarian and former Wauwatosa Mayor Ehley in a meeting with Joyabaj Al Calde (Mayor) Carrascoza



El Manantial Water Distribution Partners

Rotary Clubs: Fond du Lac Morning, Fox Cities Morning, Hartford, J.Henderson/Elkhorn, L.Haskin/Mitchell Field, Madison After Hours, Madison Downtown, Madison South, Milwaukee Downtown, Northshore, Oconomowoc, Sheboygan, Slinger/Allenton, Vista Hermosa GT, Waukesha Sunrise, Wauwatosa, West Allis.
Districts: 6220, 6270, 4250, 6420, 5170, 6250
Others: World Fund of the Rotary Foundation