

*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.*

It's March and Rotary International is celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month. It's a great opportunity for the Rotary Club of Milwaukee (RCM) to update our members and partners on the six active water projects we are working on in Guatemala.

- All six projects are built on a proven model:
- ◇ Guatemalan community identifies a need and requests assistance;
  - ◇ RCM or other local club acts as lead, writing a Global Grant to assure all Rotary International (RI) standards are met;
  - ◇ Guatemalan Rotary Club (RC) agrees to partner and serve as in-country Host RC to manage funds and assist communities;
  - ◇ Communities and municipalities enter into agreement to donate labor, materials or other resources;
  - ◇ Student Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Chapters from Marquette University or Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) provide design services, fund raising, and student involvement;
  - ◇ Ingenieros sin Fronteras (ISF) serve as in-country project managers;
  - ◇ Training for maintenance, fee collection, and WASH sanitation are provided.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Las Cruces Pachilip:** Commencing in March 2023, this \$200,000 project is bringing clean water to 85 homes with 500 people. The new system was dedicated this January and this March a festive celebration dedicating the new bathrooms and handwashing stations will take place. The additions were possible with savings that resulted from record community labor participation. The improvements inspired a private donor to fund a new community kitchen. The Rotary Club of



Quetzaltenango Guatemala and EWB Marquette University were our partners and 14 Rotary Clubs and five Districts contributed to this effort. More than 100 families now have clean drinkable water at their homes.

**Tzitzil:** In April of 2024, a \$144,000 project to provide clean water to 108 homes was approved for a Global Grant. Under the direction of Jim Cantrill from District 6220 and the Marquette MI Harbor RC, seven districts, 11 clubs, and an anonymous donor teamed to provide funding for a basic water system for Tzitzil. The project was designed by the student chapter of EWB—Marquette University who traveled to Guatemala in August 2024 to facilitate construction. Rotarians are travelling to Guatemala later this month and will visit the site and participate in the project dedication celebration.

**Churunel:** A Global Grant for this \$150,000 project serving 147 families was approved in May of 2024.

The project was supported by seven Rotary Districts and 16 Clubs as well as students from the Humanitarian Engineering Club at MSOE. The project was completed in November of 2024 thanks in part to a strong community labor response.



**Community celebration unveiling Rotary plaque**

The project includes solar panels mounted on the community school with electrical extended to the well site for the pump. The system operation, including solar, can be monitored on the internet.



**New in 2025**

**Cruz Chich Chumisa:** This \$99,800 project to implement a uniquely structured water system in which the communities of Cruz Chiche and Chumisa are collaborating to form one Water Committee to serve their constituents in the municipality of Joyabaj and department of Quiche, was approved for a Global Grant in January of this year.

The service area includes 469 homes and 3,700 people with a large geographic footprint. Elmbrook RC stepped forward to serve as the lead RC Club with assistance as needed from RCM. Vista Hermosa RC is the country host club. Seven districts and 22 Rotary Clubs are supporting the project. The Marquette University student EWB is leading design.

**Llano Grande:** Earlier this month, a Global Grant application was submitted for Llano Grande in the municipality of San Martin Jilotepeque and the department of Chimaltenango. The community is comprised of equal numbers indigenous Mayan K'iche and mestizos.

The small community has 114 homes in need of a reliable and sanitary water system. The \$157,500 project will provide a substantial extension of electrical service to their spring to allow conduction to the distribution tank site with a solar system installed to minimize ongoing utility costs. Partnering on this project led by RCM is the Vista Hermosa RC and students from MSOE. ISF is overseeing the project and funding support is being provided by 11 districts and 18 Rotary Clubs. Rotary travelers to Guatemala will be guests at the kickoff celebration later this month.

**So join us in celebrating this March Water Sanitation and Hygiene Month in a really big way with six projects valued at more than \$766,000 impacting 1,000 homes and more than 5,000 people. Thanks to all for making it possible.**

**Buena Vista Kitchen:** This project provides an exciting opportunity to create a kitchen, washing stations and toilets adjoining a school. It will facilitate nutritious food preparation for both the children and the community for the first time.



District Governor Peter Bosch is leading the fund-raising effort to raise the needed \$14,700. Six RCs from District 6270 led by Lyn Sigrist of the Waukesha Noon RC have committed to the effort as well as an anonymous do-

nor from the RCM. A kickoff celebration with the Alcalde (Mayor) was held in January. In March, 24 US Rotarians will have an opportunity to work on the site alongside community members and MSOE students.



**Workers pour concrete and lay block to prepare for the new community kitchen**

**Partnering for Bigger, Bolder, Better water projects in Guatemala**

Collaborating with other Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts has made it possible to take on more and bigger water projects in Guatemala. Many thanks to those who have stepped forward with funding and joined the fight for clean water.

**Rotary Clubs** of Arlington IL, Caledonia, Cedarburg/Grafton, Elkhorn, Elmbrook, Escanaba Michigan, Fargo ND, Fargo West, Fargo/Moorhead AM, Fargo/Moorhead PM, Moorhead ND, Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac Morning, Green Bay, Hartford, Holmen, LaCrescent, La Crosse After Hours, La Crosse Downtown, Lacrosse East, La Crosse Valley View, Madison Downtown, Madison South, Marquette MI, Marquette MI Harbor, Marshfield, Milwaukee, Mitchell Field, Menasha, MT Horeb, Oconomowoc, Onalaska Hilltoppers, Oshkosh, Port Washington/Saukville, Rochester NY, Sheboygan, Sheboygan Early Birds, Slinger/Allenton, Sycamore Illinois, Sycamore Illinois Rotaract, Two Rivers, Vista Hermosa GT, Waukesha Noon, Waukesha Sunrise, Waupaca, Wausau After Hours, Wausau Early Birds, Wauwatosa, West Allis.

**Districts** 4250 GT, 4845 ARG, 5170 CA, 5580 ND, 5710 KS, 6220 WI/MI, 6250 WI, 6270 WI, 6420 IL, 6440 IL, 7120 NY, 7750 SC