

**July 2024—SPECIAL EDITION ON 2025 PROJECTS**

Globally, Rotary’s goals include facilitating universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and strengthening the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to develop, finance, manage, and maintain sustainable water and sanitation services.

Since 2010, Milwaukee Rotarians have worked toward the Rotary International goal of facilitating access to safe and affordable drinking water world-wide. Nine water projects have been completed or are underway in Guatemala through a strong collaborative network with two more in the planning stages.

**PROJECTS IN PLANNING**

**Llano Grande Water System:** This Global Grant will provide a water system for the Llano Grande community in the municipality of San Martin Jilotepeque and the department of Chimaltenango. The small community has a population of 341 with equal numbers indigenous Mayan K’iche and mestizos. A community assessment involving Vista Hermosa and Milwaukee Rotarians, Ingenieros Sin Fronteras–Guatemala (ISF-GT) staff, and 19 community representatives resulted in identification of clean water as the top priority.

The community currently shares a water system constructed 23 years ago with other villages but is experiencing heavy rationing due to limited water supply. Rain catchment and fetching surface water requiring a 1.5 hour round trip are also utilized, but the water borne diseases from contaminated water are significant problems. The project will utilize a spring acquired by the community but will require electrical power/solar panels and a pump, to move water to a distribution tank which must be located at a higher elevation in the mountains.

Llano Grande has an excellent record of volunteer community capacity demonstrated with construction of a large vehicular bridge in 2016 and a school in 2023. The

community will contribute donated labor, raw materials and Q800 (est. \$104) per tap. A new Water Committee will implement a fee collection system to ensure sustainable funding for maintenance and system operation.

This \$99,091 project will rely on a proven strong collaborative partner network. *Rotary Club of Milwaukee (RCM)* will be the international club submitting the grant, coordinating fundraising and organizing weekly planning and operational communications. *Vista Hermosa RC* will be the host club in-country with an amazing record of successful financial stewardship, accurate and timely monitoring/evaluation, required reporting and liaison to the community and to vendors. *ISF-GT* will provide project management supervising the donated labor from the community, training for repair and maintenance, sanitation/hygiene and fee collection, and communication with all local participating partners.



**Community members volunteer their labor trenching for a distribution line**



**ISF-GT staff and Rotary visiting the spring with community representatives**

The student *Humanitarian Engineering Club at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE)* will design the system to meet all professional standards and will travel at their own cost to assist in construction activities. Negotiations have resulted in the municipality’s



**Rotary Community Assessment Meeting**

**July 2024—SPECIAL FUND RAISING EDITION**

pledge to provide substantial construction materials.

The Global Grant (GG 2465763) is currently being written and funding contributions are being sought to underwrite the funding goal of just under \$100,000.

**Cruz Chich Chumisa Water System:** This Global Grant will implement a uniquely structured water system in which the communities of Cruz Chich and Chumisa will collaboratively form one Water Committee to serve their



*Bernabé Morales of ISF-GT measuring water flow*

constituents in the municipality of Joyabaj and department of Quiché. Citizens in these two communities in the Guatemala Highlands are primarily indigenous K'iche, and have one of the highest poverty rates in the region. They have amply demonstrated their collaborative commitment in a successful 2016 joint project building a strategically located vehicular bridge.

The proposed system will have the typical project components of a spring as the water source, hand trenching and piping of a conduction line, building a concrete distribution tank for water pressure, a chlorination unit, and then digging of distribution lines and installation of meters/taps at each home site. All training and monitoring/evaluation requirements of Rotary International will be provided in the project. A weekly international Project Management Zoom meeting ensures continuing progress of the construction. Periodic newsletters inform all involved parties of the project status.

Funding is being sought from Rotary districts and individual clubs for the project cost of \$140,900. *Elmbrook Rotary*

*Club* has stepped forward to serve as the international Rotary Club with responsibility for grant submission and fundraising for this GG 2465941, with assistance as needed by RCM. Vista Hermosa RC will again be the in-country host club. Substantial contributions of labor and materials by the *Municipality* and the two communities have already been negotiated.

A spring has been acquired as the water source within 8 kilometers of the service area. A needs assessment has been completed by the two Rotary clubs, ISF-GT, and over 70 community members. The Marquette University Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Chapter will design the water system and provide on-site assistance to ISF-GT and the community.

The system will serve a combined population of 3,700 people in over 300 households with a large geographical footprint. The objective is to eliminate water borne diseases and parasites that are now quite common when people use contaminated surface water.

These bigger bolder projects serving larger numbers of families are only possible through partnerships. Please join us

***We are so much more powerful together. We are requesting financial participation by Rotary Clubs, Districts, and individuals in these critically needed projects. Please contact:***

**RCM World Community Service Committee**

Jerry: [jerrystepaniak@gmail.com](mailto:jerrystepaniak@gmail.com)

Patrick: [croninpatrickj3@gmail.com](mailto:croninpatrickj3@gmail.com)

**Elmbrook Rotary Club**

Harry: [hjarchmin@earthlink.net](mailto:hjarchmin@earthlink.net)

Doug: [doug@hjsusa.com](mailto:doug@hjsusa.com)

To view past news updates and learn more about RCM efforts in Guatemala go to

[Home Page | Rotary Club of Milwaukee \(milwaukeeerotary.com\)](#)

And click on "Making a Difference", Globally