

Winter 2026 Edition

Chapala Sunrise
Rotary
Club



PROJECTS

Service Project Updates

Winter 2026 Edition

We are an English-speaking club comprised of both expats and Mexican nationals. We are actively engaged in a number of service projects in the Lake Chapala area that celebrate the Seven Areas of Focus.



Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico



On Target!

The President's Message

by Nicci Beninger

January marks the midpoint of our Rotary club's executive term—a good time to review the past six months and outline plans for the remaining six months of my term. I will also restate my five goals for my July-to-July presidency.

1 To increase membership by three

With 53 active and seven honorary members, we are the largest club in District 4140 and are healthy and growing. We have recently welcomed 5 new members and three honorary members to our club.

2 Increase our presence in Chapala

We have initiated 3 new projects, including providing health education talks on nutrition, dental and heart health to local villages. We are working with the Blue School in Chapala to provide electrical and painting upkeep to classrooms in this Special Needs School and we are helping at the Tepehua Community Centre with a Children's lunch program and recently raised money for a special Christmas dinner for these children and their families.

3 Ribbon Cutting at the Sanitary Wastewater Treatment Facility

We completed our sanitary wastewater treatment facility at the village of Ojo de Agua using Global Grant funds. Raw sewage is now being treated in a municipal sewage system that incorporates a 3 chamber 180,000 litre septic tank, sewer pipe system and an engineered wetland. This project was completed and opened in July of 2025 with 60 people attending the ribbon cutting ceremony.

4 First Aid Station in Ojo de Agua

We are proceeding with planning and funding for a new Global Grant for the La Cuesta / Mezcala Medical Center with a First Aid Station in Ojo de Agua. This village First Aid Station was the third item noted in the medical needs assessment that was originally completed with their water and sanitary treatment grant. The need for a local village medical facility has grown and will become a satellite First Aid Station.

5 To further our relationships with other Rotary Clubs

We have furthered our relationships with other clubs with a joint wheelchair distribution project with our district governor. We have gained new friendships, support and donations with our Trip to Yuma, Arizona, our Heart-to-Heart club hosting with various clubs from the United States, and our Friendship Conference, hosting our western Canadian friends.

We are looking forward to our next 6 months. 🌟



Chapala Sunrise
Rotary
Club



District 4140 Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico

About our club: We are an English-speaking club comprised of both expats and Mexican nationals who are actively engaged in several service projects in the Lakeside area. Through our weekly meetings, discussion groups and volunteer opportunities our members are informed of issues affecting our neighboring communities and are able to prioritize needs, and work with community leaders to come up with solutions that work for our Lakeside neighbors.

About our District: Rotary International District 4140 is a Rotary district in Mexico that covers the states of Nayarit, Jalisco, Querétaro, Colima, Michoacán, and Guanajuato. The district has 158 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, with 1,666 Rotary members and 428 Rotaract members. The Governor for the 2025-2026 Rotary year is José Enrique García Vidrio.

About this Publication:

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Chapala Sunrise
Rotary
Club



Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico

The Seven Areas of Focus



PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME:

Diabetes Education Program

Held the last Monday of each month at 5pm at DIF.

PROJECT LOCATION:

DIF Chapala Government Office

Santos Degollado 327, Chapala Centro, Jalisco, MX

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Helping to educate community members to the causes of Diabetes and how to best manage this national epidemic through proper nutrition, exercise, and medication.

PROJECT LEAD:

Dr. Oscar Ibarra Jr, dr.oscaribarrajr@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

DATE: January 26, 2026
DIRECTOR: Betsy Whitaker
CONTACT: betsy.s.whitaker@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Our Diabetes Education Program primarily serves the barrio of Tepehua, one of the poorest areas of Chapala. Our Past-President, Dr. Oscar Ibarra, Jr. leads this project and our President-Elect Erika Alamos, a nutritionist, volunteers her expertise as well. Other members help with the set up, registration, and taking vital signs and glucose measurements for the attendees. At this time we have about 45 regular attendees with seven Type 1 diabetes. Through the philanthropy of a community member and some donors, labs and in some cases insulin, are paid for. The Club is currently paying for sensors for the Type 1 diabetics to monitor their glucose levels, especially the 10 children. The sensors must be replaced every three weeks and are an expensive and unsustainable cost to the program. We are seeking sponsors for the children. We were dealt a major blow this year. We had a generous doctor who was paying for almost all of the costs of this program. However, he tragically passed away last year. For a while, his wife continued the support but she has moved on. We have scrambled to keep this valuable program operating. A private donor is helping with partial costs of running the program and recently, the government health service announced some help with donated medications. We hope to raise enough funds so that the children in the program with Diabetes Type I can be provided with sensors as they are being educated about how to manage exercise, nutrition and healthy habits. 🌟



Past President Dr. Oscar Ibarra Jr. is passionate about the Diabetes Education Program and has been a key leader from the beginning. Rotary volunteers assist at the Monday Clinics in the Chapala Centro area.



Diabetes Education Program, January 2026



ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

DISTRICT No: 4140 **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

The Seven Areas of Focus

- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Peace Building & Conflict Prevention
- Economic & Community Development
- Supporting the Environment
- Water, Sanitary & Hygiene
- Maternal & Child Health
- Education & Literacy

PROJECT NAME: **La Cuesta / Mezcala Health Clinic**
Global Grant Number: GG2682537

PROJECT LOCATION: In the Village of La Cuesta
between the Towns of Mezcala and San Pedro Itzicán.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Disease Prevention and Treatment Grant to re-open a health clinic in La Cuesta / Mezcala to serve indigenous communities along Lake Chapala, Jalisco Mexico.

CLUB PROJECT LEAD: Karl Dyer, w.karl.dyer@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

PROJECT START: Winter / Spring 2026
PROJECT FINISH: Winter 2027
STATUS: Pending Global Grant Approval

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

The purpose of Global Grant 2862537 is to restore and equip a public healthcare clinic in La Cuesta.

La Cuesta is an indigenous village located between the towns of Mezcala and San Pedro Itzicán in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. The total population in the area surrounding La Cuesta is approximately 20,000 people. The native villages along the north shore of Lake Chapala are underserved. In addition to the routine illnesses; obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer, the area is known to be the epicenter for kidney disease - listed as the worst in the world for end stage renal failure, on a per capita basis.

The need for additional healthcare services has long been recognized and a clinic was built in La Cuesta about 8 years ago. This building was part of a private practice that subsequently closed. When the practice did not sell and the terms of the land use agreement were not being met; the land and structure on it returned to the original indigenous property holder. This occurred in the spring of 2025. In July 2025, the community approached The Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club and asked for help to re-open the health clinic in La Cuesta.

The Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club seized the opportunity because it fit well with the club's plans to replicate our existing healthcare projects in additional indigenous communities. The Club has ongoing projects in Diabetes awareness and prevention, Nutrition, Cardiology and



Aerial Photo of La Cuesta / Mezcala Clinic Building

Dentistry. We have a Global Grant for Kidney Transplants that serves many patients in this area. The ability to follow up with recipients locally and to serve patients early in their diagnosis may prevent the need for dialysis or surgery.

The Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club has always worked closely with the local communities and enjoys a strong working relationship with the regional government in Poncitlán. In order to make this dream a reality, the Club reached out to the State of Jalisco Secretary of Health Director for Region IV and asked for assistance. The Director of Health immediately saw the potential and was fully aware of the need. An agreement was reached with the Health Department to fully staff the facility with doctors and support personnel. The staff will include: primary care doctors, nurses, a psychologist, a nutritionist and a fulltime dentist. They will provide medical support staff, equipment and building maintenance as well.

The local government and the Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club will restore the building to meet the State standards for a regional "Casa De Salud".



ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME:

**La Cuesta / Mezcala
Health Clinic**



Existing Furniture in Reception / Admin Office



In need of Medical Equipment & Healthcare Furniture

ROTARY DISTRICT
No: 4140

PROJECT BUDGET

ROTARY GRANT
No: GG2682537

#	Category	Description	Supplier	Cost in Pesos	Cost in USD
1	Equipment	Repair roof	Local Contractor	\$137,700	\$7,650
2	Equipment	Remove damaged material	Local Contractor	\$38,200	\$2,122
3	Equipment	Installment of new sheetrock doors & windows	Local Contractor	\$85,000	\$4,722
4	Equipment	Install new electrical panel and outlets	Local Contractor	\$26,450	\$1,469
5	Equipment	Reconfigure 2 examination rooms	Local Contractor	\$79,410	\$4,412
6	Equipment	Equip a new dental office	Local Contractor	\$17,500	\$972
7	Equipment	Restore space for kitchenette	Local Contractor	\$28,500	\$1,583
8	Equipment	Paint building in and out	Local Contractor	\$204,565	\$11,365
9	Equipment	Improve air circulation Install 4 air conditioners	Electroclimas	\$77,589	\$4,311
10	Equipment	Provide a Solar Electric system 15 panels	Hollandairy	\$163,264	\$9,070
11	Signage	Clinic and Rotary	Local Contractor	\$10,500	\$583
12	Equipment	Medical equipment	Local Vendor	\$184,000	\$10,222
13	Equipment	Healthcare and Hospital furniture	Rotary Grant	\$184,400	\$10,244
14	Supplies	Materials for Ojo de Agua First Aid Station	Local Community	\$220,320	\$12,240
15	Operations	Value Added Tax VAT	Rotary	\$83,996	\$4,666
16	Project Management	Contingencies	Rotary	\$110,200	\$6,122
Total Budget:				\$1,651,594	\$91,755



Ambulance Entrance



Repairs Underway

For more information contact:
Karl Dyer, Project Lead,
Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise
email: w.karl.dyer@gmail.com
WhatsApp/Cell: +52 333 475-6119
www.chapalarotary.org



Community Team



PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

The Seven Areas of Focus



PROJECT NAME: San Pedro Itzicán Community Center Refurbishment, Expansion and Improved Safety for the San Pedro Itzcan Community Center

PROJECT LOCATION: Centro Comunitario adjacent to C. Benjamín Cruz 47-37, 45978 San Pedro Itzicán, Poncitlan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Providing boots on the ground Project Management of the Capital Works Improvements including construction tasks / scope of work, scheduling and payment certificates.

PROJECT LEAD: Michele Bell, michele@bellistic.net

PROJECT UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION START: December 2025

CONSTRUCTION FINISH: June 2026

STATUS: Approved / Funded / Active Construction

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

The Community Centre for San Pedro Itzicán provides meals to over 180 kids per day, holds English and Special Needs classes, teaches health and hygiene, distributes monthly food packages to needy families, runs a local bakery, and operates a small bazaar selling gently used clothing and other items.

With public safety being a priority, the purpose of this project is to maximize the useability of this ever-evolving Community Centre building. The Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise is working with a local contractor to build upon previous Rotary projects to move this facility toward its ultimate completion.

Some previous Rotary projects include providing furnishings for the Kids Kitchen, assisting with the on-site bakery, building washrooms, constructing a ditch and culvert to safely direct the seasonal runoff to the lake, constructing a watermain along the public roadway, and providing health education to the community and English classes to the children.

New Rotary work under this project include:

- Connecting the on-site water system to the new street watermain.
- Conducting an electrical investigation and upgrading the breaker box to alleviate the power brownouts causing damage to expensive kitchen equipment.
- Converting an existing office space into a medical and a dental space, both with tiled floors, sealed walls, new sinks and better lighting/ventilation.



Medical / Dental Office Dimising Wall



A typical day at the new Community Center

- Providing solar hot water to the Kids Kitchen and a solar electrical system to help reduce the electricity bills and provide hot water for dishes.
- Completing the construction of a brick surround wall for better security.
- Adding a concrete floor to the area behind the existing washrooms and the gravel area downstairs in the main classroom area to provide the center with more useable floorspace.
- Adding a safety railing to the ramp / walkway.
- Waterproofing walls and roof areas as required.

For this unique project, the Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise is providing Project Management and Accounting services. 🌟



The Seven Areas of Focus



PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME:

**Kidney Disease
Transplant Program**

PROJECT LOCATION:

Patients are located in remote village along the north side of Lake Chapala

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Villages along the north side of the Lake have challenging terrain and infrastructure issues. Various factors, such as, poverty, genetics and environmental issues, have contributed to a concentrated region of Kidney Disease.

PROJECT LEAD:

Karl Dyer, w.karl.dyer@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

DATE: January 26, 2026
DIRECTOR: Betsy Whitaker
CONTACT: betsy.s.whitaker@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Over the past two years, we have been in touch with a group of Rotarians, named Heart to Heart, from several states in the mid and south western states of the U.S. They are particularly interested in working with us on addressing the needs of people with renal failure in our area. The local area has the highest rate of End Stage Kidney disease in the world... caused by a number of factors. This group found the funding for approximately \$100,000 U.S. for us to set up a kidney transplant program. We are partnering with the Lila K Foundation. They have done this work for a number of years, but were unable to expand. We have now funded sixteen successful transplants! Additionally, we are partnering with a Rotary Club in Guadalajara that runs a recovery center near the hospital for cancer patients. They have agreed to accept our patients, post-surgery, so that they can recover in a sanitary place across from the hospital for post-surgery follow up.

We have learned some lessons. The Global Grant only funds the actual transplant, including the cost of surgery for the donor. However, there are upfront costs for labs, medication, dental work, psychological support, donor matching etc. Unfortunately, we have also had two donors rejected for health issues. Yet we still must pay for their pre-surgery expenses. Even more distressing is the impact on the potential recipients who now must wait for a match with a cadaver. That typically takes at least a year. Karl Dyer has been reaching out to private donors and other Clubs to help with these pre-surgery expenses, which, ironically cost more than the surgery itself. ☹️



Keily (pink sweatshirt) after a biopsy at the Lila K Mexico Foundation program continues her treatment. She is a disciplined patient and enjoys getting better.



An early detection program for kidney disease at San Pedro Itzican y Mezcala, en Ponciltán, Jalisco call the attention of 1380 inhabitants.

Boots on the Ground

by Barbara Wilson

Our willingness to do work, in the field, supported by donors who want to see what ACTION looks like:



- Over three years, a team of Rotarians collaborated with local councils, officials, and partners to design and build a village-wide wetlands wastewater treatment system, and trained volunteers for two years to support long-term sustainability.



- Eleven members who volunteer on Friday mornings to set up, serve hot meals and play games with 45-65 children who don't have enough to eat.



- Eighteen members who volunteered to set up and take down tables, chairs and decorations and to house and transport master Mexican craftspeople at a 3-day Artisans Fair – one of the premier events of the year at Lake Chapala.



- A team of ten club members who identified and vetted house-bound and working people with no access to wheelchairs that could accommodate dirt roads and cobblestone streets. The members assembled wheelchairs and fitted the recipients with expert help from one of our members, a polio victim who rose to great challenges and became a Paralympian basketball player. He currently runs wheelchair tennis and pickleball events for communities around Mexico.



- A team of four members who are medical professionals, offering bi-monthly classes in isolated villages on heart healthy behaviors, nutrition and dental hygiene.



- Eleven members who educate, take vital signs and distribute medications to diabetes patients monthly.

By getting our hands dirty and working directly with the under-served and indigenous population in our area we gain new community partners who we meet in the field. We build trust with villagers and with our partners through our visibility, and our willingness to listen and work with them over extended periods of time.



Trust of outsiders is not easily given after years of promises, rip-offs, and abandonment. An outgrowth of our work in the field, is that partnerships are being built not only with like-minded and more fortunate people, but with the recipients themselves. The community gains trust and acquires new skills and confidence that empower them to help each other, to advocate for themselves and their community and to take action, too.



The Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise prides itself in being your “Boots on the Ground” in Mexico. What does that look like? Wading through raw sewage to take measurements of contaminants in an indigenous village with no sanitation treatment system.



2) A young indigenous woman from the village of Ojo de Agua became a leader through her work on the village sanitation system project. When we asked villagers for a representative to speak at the inauguration of upwards of 125 people, this woman was chosen by her peers.

She spoke with passion and advocated that our Club continue our work with them to establish a first aid station and is working with the local Council to gain their permission.



3) Two women in our Diabetes Education program no longer need medications. They have learned to control their diabetes through the health and nutrition practices that we teach. They continue to attend the classes, as they choose to mentor, cheerlead others and be a model for success among the group. They developed their own raffle among their neighbors, to contribute to the cost of running the monthly program that distributes necessary medications.



Boots... (cont'd)

Examples include:

1) An isolated village, new to us, approached our leaders to help them renovate and equip a medical building that was returned to their indigenous council under the terms of a lease agreement. There is little access to medical care for the 14,000 people in the immediate area. The group included the mayor, the lead of the Council, a local nurse, and villagers. With few resources, but as a demonstration of their sincerity and willingness to pitch in, they organized a community raffle to raise funds to clean the building and to do some minor repairs. Their effort and commitment led us to embark on developing a Global Grant for the La Cuesta Community Medical Center.



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Our Club is fortunate to have a bilingual emergency room doctor, engineers and team members who have reached agreement with the State Health authority to provide staffing, maintenance and expertise to ensure the sustainability of this project. The local Health Authority is providing architectural services for renovation to meet the standards of a public health facility and while the municipality is providing legal services for a thirty year agreement between the local Indigenous community and Health Region 4 which will ensure that the Center remains viable and sustainable. We are continuing to seek funding commitments for this impactful project.

Want to know more? Visit us! Or check out chapalarotary.org. Our home page takes you up-to-date news blasts about our activities, project summaries (click on projects), and contact information for our Executive Board. You can click on links that take you to our frequently updated Face Book page - Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise, or watch Club related videos on our YouTube channel.



The Seven Areas of Focus



PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME: Blue School Special Needs Institution.
General Building Maintenance - Update.
Painting, Electrical, Building Maintenance.

PROJECT LOCATION: Centro de Atencion Multiple 29,
Francisco Medina Ascenci, Chapala, Jalisco.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Capital Improvements: Providing kitchen equipment,
roof waterproofing, minor electrical and other building
maintenance related items.

PROJECT LEAD: Nicci Beninger, niccimjb@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION START: February 2026

CONSTRUCTION FINISH: April 2026

STATUS: Approved / Funded / Active Construction

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

The "Blue School" is a special needs school that has been in operation for thirty years. This special education school currently has six groups: One Pre-School, three Elementary, one Secondary and one job-training for a total enrollment of 91 students.

The school currently runs multiple classrooms of children five days a week from 2pm to 6pm daily. The teachers are committed to not only teaching these children but also to providing a loving and caring environment.

The Rotary Club of Chapala Sunrise has been involved with trade renovation work including painting and electrical upgrades to help improve both classrooms and common areas alike and our work continues, with additional electrical, cosmetic and other upgrades.

As mentioned, the Blue School is centrally located within the Town of Chapala across the street from the local high school. With this convenient location, and the new and ongoing improvements, Blue School is looking to other organizations to help make use of the available morning classroom space.



A typical classroom at the Blue School



Rotarian Visit, including our District Governor

The Club organized a visit to the "Escuelita Azul" in Chapala. This school specializes in children with special needs, focusing on mental disabilities. Here, one of the teachers explained how this school provides a loving and caring environment for these special children. This school needs help, and our Club is helping with its various needs. Bravo, Club Rotario Chapala Sunrise! 



The Seven Areas of Focus

	Disease Prevention & Treatment		Peace Building & Conflict Prevention
	Economic & Community Development		Supporting the Environment
	Water, Sanitary & Hygiene		Maternal & Child Health
			Education & Literacy

PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME: **SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM
Higher Education**

PROJECT LOCATION: Tepehua Centro Comunitario: Calle Ramon Chavez #16, Chapala (Tepehua)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club works closely with the Tepehua Centro Comunitario A.C. to implement a higher education component to the Scholarship Program.

PROJECT LEAD: Bill Wilson, billwilsonphd@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

DATE: January 26, 2026
DIRECTOR: Betsy Whitaker
CONTACT: betsy.s.whitaker@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

There are many barriers for children with few resources to graduate from preparatoria (high school). There are not enough enrollment spaces for all students who wish to attend. Acceptance is based on grades and entrance exams. We strongly believe that students who have made it through all of the hurdles, should be given the chance to advance to the next level.

Two years ago, we began a scholarship program for students who have graduated and want to continue their studies. They live in one of the poorest barrios in the area. We provide scholarships to seven students who have been accepted into programs for technical degrees, licenses or university. They turn in their grades twice a year, with receipts, to demonstrate that the money has been spent on educational expenses and/or transportation to the school. This year's students include young adults who are studying industrial engineering, nursing, surgery, physiotherapy and teaching. All of our students currently have a "B" average or better. The students or family members are expected to give service to the Tepehua Community Center in return.



Tepehua Centro Comunitario Building

Olga and Moises - two examples of the success of the Rotary Scholarships Program

**MOISÉS SILVA
CASTAÑEDA**

**MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
IN ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS**
EDUCATION JOURNEY:

- COLEGIO NACIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN TÉCNICA Y PROFESIONAL
- ESCUELA SECUNDARIA TÉCNICA 83
- ESCUELA EUGENIO ZÚÑIGA URBANA 309

**OLGA YALI SANABRIA
LARA**

**LIC PRIMARY EDUCATION
LIC PSYCHOLOGY**
EDUCATION JOURNEY:

- ESCUELA NORMAL RURAL MIGUEL HIDALGO
- ESCUELA SECUNDARIA FORANEA #1



Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico

The Seven Areas of Focus

Disease Prevention & Treatment	Peace Building & Conflict Prevention
Economic & Community Development	Supporting the Environment
Water, Sanitary & Hygiene	Maternal & Child Health
	Education & Literacy

PROJECT SHEET

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PROJECT NAME: **Dental Program**

PROJECT LOCATION: Community areas in and around Chapala including Ojo de Agua, Tepehua, Chapala, San Antonio and and more.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Providing much needed Dental Care to communities and those who cannot typically afford regular visits to a dentist. We already have seen a multi-generational impact as adult patients are now referring their children for preventive care.

PROJECT LEAD: Dr. Carlos Cerda, conde_33@hotmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

DATE: January 26, 2026
DIRECTOR: Betsy Whitaker
CONTACT: betsy.s.whitaker@gmail.com
STATUS: Requires Funding to Continue

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Dr. Carlos, along with a nutritionist and two cardiologists are providing preventive health education every two months to the village of Ojo de Agua. A member of our Club, Dr. Carlos Cerda, donates approximately a day a week to serve the dental needs of those who cannot afford it. He continues to work in the village of Ojo de Agua, along with his wife, who is pediatric dentist, to educate the families on dental hygiene, distribute toothbrushes and toothpaste, and to register patients. Last year, he and Club members went to the village twice for dental education. He plans to return monthly to address the needs of the villagers. In the last year, he has provided service to 84 patients. These patients are required to pay a small amount (such as 50 cents for a filling). Even though every peso counts in those families, he has found that patients value the service that was provided for them if they pay even a bit. Budgets need to pay for materials, labs and dental fixtures, such as, plates and bridges. This Program is currently in need of funding to continue. 🌐



Dr. Carlos Cerda in the Ojo de Agua Square



President Elect Erika providing nutrition education.



Community Education Program in the square



Map of Chapala and lakeside villages



Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico

The Seven Areas of Focus



PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME:

Ojo de Agua - First Aid Station

PROJECT LOCATION:

**Village of Ojo de Agua, Mezcala, Poncitlan,
Jalisco, Mexico (north shore of Lake Chapala)**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

**A follow up project to our successful
Global Grants in the Village of Ojo de Agua. This project
implements the construction of a new first aid station.**

PROJECT LEAD:

Nicci Beninger, niccimjb@gmail.com

PROJECT UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION START: SPRING 2026

CONSTRUCTION FINISH: FALL 2026

STATUS: Functional Design and Funding Stage

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

As part of the village assessment completed in 2018, the need for a first aid building was identified after the need for potable water / sanitary house connections and a sewage treatment system to clean up the water quality entering the lake.

The proposed first aid center will serve as a satellite to the planned La Cuesta / Mezcala Medical Centre, located 7km east. Due to the rough two-track road, travel takes about 20 minutes by car, and much longer on foot.

Currently in the design phase, this first aid centre will serve as an assessment unit for critical care patients and may also function as a medical or dental care facility. It will meet WHO standards for remote medical units and be spacious enough for necessary equipment and first responder work. The building will include:

- A patient examination area large enough to hold a medical couch with appropriate side clearance.
- A space for a sink with running water.
- Lockable first aid cabinets and basic supply storage.
- A separate area for waste containers including removeable clinical waste containers.
- A dedicated telephone to contact emergency services.
- Easy to clean surfaces, and adequate lighting.

The building will be serviced with municipal water supply, a septic system and will have adequate parking with a dedicated ambulance loading area. 



Ojo de Agua with LaCuesta and SanPedro Rotary Projects for Geographic Reference



Aerial of Ojo de Agua looking easterly to Mezcala



Rotarians on a Village Tour - January 23, 2026



The Seven Areas of Focus

Disease Prevention & Treatment	Peace Building & Conflict Prevention
Economic & Community Development	Supporting the Environment
Water, Sanitary & Hygiene	Maternal & Child Health
	Education & Literacy

PROJECT SHEET

ISSUED IN ENGLISH FOR CLUB MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY

PROJECT NAME: Ojo de Agua - Engineered Wetland, Wastewater Treatment Facility. Sanitation Global Grant

PROJECT LOCATION: Village of Ojo de Agua, Mezcala, Poncitlan, Jalisco, Mexico (north shore of Lake Chapala)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A follow up project to our successful water supply / distribution system and a second Global Grant. This project implements a constructed wetland wastewater treatment system for the Village.

PROJECT LEAD: Nicci Beninger, niccimjb@gmail.com

GLOBAL GRANT COMPLETE

CONSTRUCTION START: November 2024
CONSTRUCTION FINISH: July 2025
STATUS: Completed and Fully Operational

DESCRIPTION OF RECENT ACTIVITIES:

There was much progress last spring! The 180,000L three chamber septic tank was commissioned and brought into service on April 9, 2025. This was accomplished two months earlier than expected by building a temporary piped bypass of the engineered wetland. The conveyance piped system was completed in April - including the bricked Registers or "manholes". The grading of the Humedal was "Liner Ready" in May and 9,000 sq feet of polyethylene liner was installed - all in one day. 550 cubic metres of red volcanic lava rock was installed in June and the Humedal was brought into operation with effluent filling the wetland. The village water committee has been trained on the maintenance of the system. The native grown flowers and plants, specific to the engineered wetland design, were planted to complete the build-out of the system. Of course no Rotary project is complete without the Project Signage. Our contractor fabricated and installed a beautiful steel sign and prepared the site for the July Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrating the completion of a large construction Rotary Global Grant. The Rotary Club of South San Francisco is our International Partner and we are proud to be the boots-on-the-ground club that represent the twenty one Rotary Clubs and Districts that have joined in the funding of this key Global Grant project. 🌱



Boots on the ground



The 180 cubic metre septic tank is operational



The polyethylene Humedal (pond) liner being installed



Aerial: Wetland, septic tank and Village in the background



GET INVOLVED



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs. We are governed by high ethical standards. Whether designing projects, fundraising or engaging with the villagers and local businesses we ask ourselves:

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to All Concerned?
- Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

As seen on **YouTube**

TEDx Talks Barbara Wilson

We meet every Thursday at 10:00am
 Nos Encontramos los Jueves a las 10:00

Restaurante La Palapa de Don Juan
 Paseo Ramon Corona 32, Chapala Centro
www.chapalarotary.org

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Chapala Sunrise
Rotary
Club



Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico



GET INVOLVED!

The Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club is a proud part of both the local community and Rotary International, District 4140, one of the largest and most diverse humanitarian organizations in the world. The district covers the states of Nayarit, Jalisco, Querétaro, Colima, Michoacán and Guanajuato.



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District 4140



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