

Building Sustainable Water Systems in Guatemala

RCM continues its partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) through a new grant supporting a project in Visiban, Guatemala: implementation of an economically and socially sustainable system that will provide readily available clean water to meet the community's needs for the next twenty years.

The World Community Service Committee has supported EWB through contributions since 2006. In addition, the first Orth grant of \$10,000 was made in 2012 to EWB to support their "circuit rider" program, administered in partnership with a local Guatemala NGO. The circuit rider program provides technical assistance and training to the rural communities to keep Engineers Without Borders projects running, which is key to projects in lesser-developed countries of the world.

RCM has made a new commitment of \$4,000 to the Visiban project, our latest EWB partnership. To leverage these funds, RCM has applied for a Rotary International grant that would bring total Rotary contributions to \$15,000.

Visiban, a village of 200 people located in the Quiche region of Guatemala, is in dire need of a complete water distribution system. Currently the villagers capture rainwater from their rooftops during the rainy season. This water lasts approximately 6 months of the year, leaving them searching for supplemental sources. In addition to increased health issues, the lack of sustainable access to clean drinking water burdens Visiban residents with the need to haul water, a burden that falls disproportionately upon school-aged children. The consequence is time lost in the classroom for elementary education leading to elevated levels of illiteracy.

The village has purchased a spring that will meet the water needs of all current and future households for the next twenty years. The spring is located below the village and requires an electrical pump to bring the water above the village to an elevated distribution tank. The water will then flow from the distribution tank to all homes in the village by gravity.

This January, Rotarians Mike Paddock and Leni Siker traveled with EWB students from UWM to Guatemala. Students worked with local villagers in Visiban to complete Phase I, construction of the spring box, which will protect the spring water from

animal waste contamination from surface water flow and enable villagers to obtain water from a safe, nearby source. EWB students also conducted a site survey to determine the conveyance line for water from the spring box to the distribution tank, and from the distribution tank to the village homes.

Leni made contact with the Rotary Club of Guatemala City (RCGC), which will contribute funds and guidance for the Visiban project. Securing a District grant requires the participation of a Rotary club in the project area. Serving as the project's liaison with the RCGC, Leni will ensure accountability for Rotary funds and help with the final report at the project's conclusion.

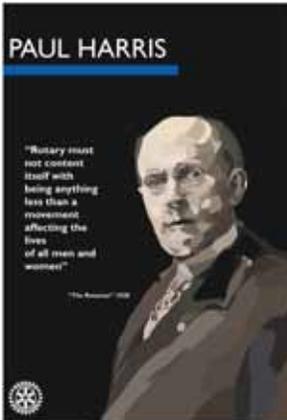


Villagers in Visiban say thank you!

Our grant will fund one of the subsequent phases. Phase II will consist of construction of a storage tank, pump house, two distribution tanks, chlorination box, and the conveyance line from the spring box to the distribution tanks. This phase is scheduled to be completed in June 2013.

Phase III, scheduled for January 2014, will consist of the pump installation, construction of the local distribution pipe system bringing water from the distribution system to individual homes, and installation of tap stands and meters to measure home water usage at each home.

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Rotaract Seeking Support for Trip to Ecuador

By Janine Kolbeck, Chair of the Rotaract International Committee

Our Milwaukee Rotaract International Committee has decided to partner with the local Rotary club in Quito, Ecuador. Six members of Rotaract plan to travel to Quito this Spring. While in Quito we will be working with the local children who depend on the safety and solace found in the Refugio de los Suenos (Refuge of Dreams). These children are surrounded by drug abuse and gang violence, while living in conditions of extreme poverty. Our biggest challenge for this trip is covering travel expenses. We are looking for airfare contributions either through monetary donations or the purchase of actual tickets. In addition, we have created Rotary themed prints which are for sale to interested Rotarians. Contact me at janine.kolbeck@gmail.com for more information or to purchase a print. 🌀

One of the prints for sale from Rotaract.

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Marissa Jablonski, a UWM graduate student and mentor on the Visiban project, described its impact: "Rotary has a direct impact on the EWB students who get to put their engineering education into practice – and a direct impact on the 200 villagers of

Visiban. This village was a forgotten village, and they are so grateful for the support of EWB and Rotarians thousands of miles away in Milwaukee." 🌀

SPEAKER *schedule*

FEBRUARY 5th - Dr. Nelson Neumann is the director of Pastoral da Crianca, a non-governmental organization (NGO) headquartered in Brazil that is focused primarily on the health-care and nutritional needs of mothers and children. The Pastoral uses a sophisticated network of volunteers and community leaders to serve millions of poor families in Brazil and Latin America, and is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the world. Dr. Neumann will discuss the Pastoral as an example of social innovation.

FEBRUARY 12th - Members of Wisconsin's Chippewa tribes continue to urge people to take action to stop a proposed iron mine as they describe how iron mining would irreversibly damage the waterways of northern Wisconsin and the Great Lakes. Chairman **Michael Wiggins, Jr.** of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is one of the most outspoken critics of iron ore mining. The Bad River Tribe opposes the mining legislation introduced last year citing concerns including water quality and safety. Please join us as Chairman Wiggins shares his Tribe's concerns about the safety of our drinking water.

FEBRUARY 19th - Scott Manley, Vice President of Government Relations for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, will provide a different perspective on Wisconsin mining legislation. The WMC supports the mining bill for fostering job creation while upholding environmental protections.

FEBRUARY 26th - Caterpillar Global Mining's Vice President of Industry Relations, **John Disharoon**, will provide a historical perspective of the global leader and manufacturing icon as well as discuss the company's community presence since the acquisition of Bucyrus International in July 2011. The company's roots in Milwaukee date back to 1893, when it moved to Milwaukee from Bucyrus, Ohio. At that time, local officials were looking to expand the area's manufacturing presence, so they offered both land and factory construction incentives to the company to encourage the move. A constant throughout Bucyrus and Caterpillar's history is our commitment to being proactive members of the communities where we live and operate by investing significant time and resources in promoting the health, welfare and economic stability of those communities.

Rotary 1948-1956

In 1948, the Greater Milwaukee Committee began operating formally with 16 Rotarians as charter members. RCM, which boasted a membership of 341, moved its offices to the Astor Hotel.

The Club celebrated its 35th anniversary with founding member Billy Zimmers recalling the menu at the first luncheon. General MacArthur wrote accepting the Club's Honorary membership from his fellow townsmen; he had lived in Milwaukee for only a few months in 1897.

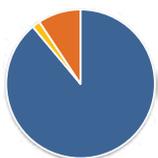


In 1954, Rotarian Otto R. Kuehn (left) reviews a planning model of the Zoo's new larger quarters. (The Zoo moved in 1958).
Photo courtesy of the Zoological Society.

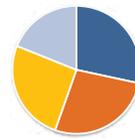
During the early 1950s Rotarians took leadership positions with the Zoo, United Way, Better Business Bureau, and other organizations. Cliff Randall, a Past-President of Rotary and then President of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, is credited with bringing Major League baseball to Milwaukee when the Braves arrived from Boston in 1953. 700 Rotarians and their guests attended the first Major League baseball opening day in Milwaukee, taking

charter buses from the Astor Hotel. The Braves reached 1,826,397 in attendance, setting a National League record.

In honor of Rotary International's 50th anniversary in 1955, RCM donated \$12,500 for construction of a winter cabin at the Boy Scouts camp. They also conducted a comprehensive survey of Club members to honor the occasion. Among the results:

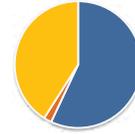


88.92% Republicans
 9.32% Independents
 1.76% Democrats
 0% Socialists



21% own a Cadillac
 20% own a Buick
 19% own an Oldsmobile
 14% own a Ford

57% earn a fair salary
 41% are underpaid
 2% are overpaid



The survey report ended with this: "Can't help but wonder what our grandchildren will say 50 years from now when they compare Mr. Milwaukee Rotarian of 2005 with us."



The Rotary Boy Scout Cabin today.
Photo by Kevin Haass.

During this era, Rotarians enjoyed great programs such as:

- A special 1948 luncheon address on "Observations of a Chaplain at the Nuremberg Trials" featured the spiritual counselor to 21 Nazis in the days leading to their executions.
- James Cash Penney, the founder of J.C. Penney, addressed a luncheon on Looking Forward; he had a perfect Rotary attendance record since joining the New York Club in 1942.
- In 1951, Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen addressed the Club, indicating the United States was in the same state of decline as the British Empire ten years earlier.
- In 1952, a special luncheon program on the conflict between President Truman and General MacArthur took place.
- Mayor Frank Zeidler spoke on his experience as an observer of atomic bomb testing in Nevada and its implications for defending Milwaukee.
- A Senator from Utah spoke on the dangers of Federal taxation now totaling \$9.8 billion annually with a \$260 billion Federal debt.

- In 1953, William F. Buckley, Jr. spoke about moral laxity and mental inertia as constraints to United States recovery from the New Deal.



Jesse Owens

- Olympian Jesse Owens received a standing ovation when he spoke as Secretary of the Illinois Athletic Commission.
- The editor of the *New York Times* spoke in 1954 on Freedom of the Press.
- Robert Baird, Elmer Grootemaat, and Albert Puelicher spoke about results of a Rotary survey regarding social, health, and welfare services in Milwaukee.

- A special luncheon focused on the likelihood of global warming in the future.
- Mayor Zeidler addressed Rotary as the Milwaukee budget reached \$100 million for the first time in 1955 with suburbanization straining services; in the preceding seven years, the Milwaukee footprint had grown from 46 to 70 square miles.
- The prominent author and radio colleague of Edward R. Murrow, William L. Shirer, discussed “The World Today” at a luncheon with the assessment in 1956 that the United States was losing the Cold War. Later in his career, he wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.

Milwaukee and the World 1948-1956

By 1948, racial segregation ended in the armed forces, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities began televised hearings.

In 1949, George Orwell’s book *1984* was published; it was the

first year no lynchings of African Americans took place in the country; and the first television western, *Hopalong Cassidy*, aired on NBC.

In 1950, the first credit card –Diner’s Club – was used in the country. General MacArthur threatened to use nuclear weapons in Korea. Harold Vincent, an active Rotarian, became Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools; he built 44 new schools in the 1950s and 1960s to accommodate post-War demographics.

By 1951, General MacArthur returned to Milwaukee for a parade after a 54-year absence; the Marshall Plan expired after \$13 billion in aid to Europe; and direct long-distance calling began.



Jonas Salk

In 1952, there were 58,000 cases of polio registered in the country; 3,145 people died and 21,760 were left with some paralysis from the disease. By 1953, Jonas Salk announced a polio vaccine and, a year later, the mass vaccination against polio began. The FDA fully approved the vaccine in 1955.

The first color television sets were available for \$1,175 and 71% of the sets in the country were tuned in to watch *I Love Lucy* as Lucy gave birth to her child.

In 1954, the Dow Jones Industrial Average passed the 1929 level for the first time; the transistor radio began to be sold commercially; and Edward R. Murrow produced a documentary on Senator McCarthy.

The year 1955 brought the opening of Disneyland and the Montgomery bus boycott. In 1956, Elvis Presley reached the music charts for the first time; the interstate highway system was created; and IBM invented the hard disk drive. 🌀

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George & Julie Mosher





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Loei is vice president and a Board member at GRAEF and manages the structural group in the Milwaukee office. Loei has been with GRAEF since 1994, and has been a partner at the firm since 2003. Born and raised in Damascus, Syria, Loei started his engineering education at the University of Damascus, College of Engineering. Since joining GRAEF, Loei has worked on a variety of projects, including the Delta Airlines Convention Center and the Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum. Loei and his wife Jenny have two children, Jasmine and Rami, and live in Sussex. He enjoys traveling, treading, wine making and playing tennis, soccer and golf.



Donna Bembenek

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Donna Bembenek is the Senior Vice President of Philanthropy for the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee. In her role for the Y, Donna is involved in all aspects of leadership and strategic planning. Donna is a native of Milwaukee, earning her MBA from Alverno College, her Bachelor's Degree from UW-Whitewater, and her graduate degree from the School of Banking at UW-Madison. Donna is President of Professional Dimensions, a leading professional woman's organization. She is married to Alan for 28 years and they have two children: Lindsay, who works in Washington DC; and Scott, a senior at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha.



Susan Lloyd

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Susan Lloyd directs the Zilber Family Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations to address basic human needs, increase access to opportunity, and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. Susan brings to her work more than 25 years of experience—as funder, researcher, and practitioner—in community development and urban policy. She has developed and evaluated social programs, and for 13 years, served as a program director at The MacArthur Foundation. Susan has a BA from North Central College and master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University, where she also was a National Science Foundation fellow on race and urban inequality.

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed three new members and expressed thanks to the proposers:

**William Robison
Engberg Anderson**

Architecture

Proposer: Keith Anderson

**Paul Westphal
RW Baird**

Investment - Wealth Management

Proposer: Charlie James

**Cameron Yazdani
Schenck, SC**

Accounting

Proposer: Paulette Flynn

Literacy Volunteers Needed at Brown Street Academy

Brown Street Academy needs YOU for the second semester Rotary Reading Club, running February 4th through May 15th. Volunteers are needed Monday – Friday, between 8:30 and 11:00am. Giving just one hour a week or even a month makes all the difference. Partners in Education is committed to Brown Street Academy as one of our two partner schools. Contact Barbara Velez, coordinator for Brown Street Academy, at barbara.velez@yahoo.com.

Spotlight on the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum:

Creating an Oak Savanna

By Caitlin Reinartz, Urban Ecology Center Forestry Specialist

When you walk through the Kranick archway to the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum you will not enter a closed-canopy forest; rather, you will walk into an oak savanna. What will that look like?

Within a savanna, the main players are beautiful prairie plants with deep, fibrous roots and relatively few open-grown oak trees dotted around the landscape. This was an intentional choice of the Urban Ecology Center for a number of reasons.



An example of an oak savanna

First, oak savannas are really beautiful. With such a high variety of prairie plants and wildflowers, savannas are very showy, and something is always blooming from the very first weeks of spring to the very last weeks of fall. The standing dormant plants in winter with their seeds in various shades of brown, black, and rust, are also gorgeous especially after a light dusting of snow. Fewer trees provide the opportunity for sweeping views that one would not find in a denser forest.

For further interest, savannas are also teeming with life. Oaks and wildflowers provide essential food and habitat for many different types of wildlife from birds and insects to deer, rabbits, foxes, hawks and wild turkeys.

Second, the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum will be used as an outdoor classroom for thousands of children throughout Milwaukee communities in generations to come, it is important to include a wide variety of plant communities for those children to play in and learn about. Closed-canopy forest (a forest where the trees are close enough together that the leaves of one tree grow right up to the leaves of the neighboring tree, creating a “ceiling” of leaves) is already represented throughout the existing acres of Riverside Park.

Third, oak savanna is an important ecosystem for Milwaukee’s children to learn about because the Upper Midwest Forest Savannah Transition Zone (read: Wisconsin’s oak savannas) is one of the world’s most endangered ecosystems (Source: World Wildlife Fund). In fact, savannas used to cover 32 million acres of the upper Midwest. As of 1985, less than 0.02% of the original oak savanna still existed, mostly due to fire suppression and conversion to farmland. It is important to conserve this endangered ecosystem, and to show our children the former glory of Wisconsin.

Finally, as the existing soils were highly degraded and classified as contaminated, subcontractors graded the land, capped the contaminated soils, and brought in fill and new topsoil. This new soil does not have the depth and microbiology necessary to support a closed canopy forest. Prairie plants, with their deep and fibrous root system, are one of the best things to plant in degraded soils. Fine roots hold the soils together to prevent erosion and reduce water run-off, and prairie species create a lot of biomass each year which eventually creates more and better soil. 🌱