



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.

Escuintla Hospital WASH Global Grant

Welcome to 2022 and our latest update on progress to provide a clean and reliable water source to the hospital in Escuintla, Guatemala.

To recap, the well was completed last May and the water tower and tank were erected in June. The pump to transport water from the well to the tank was installed in August and the pump control and chlorinator were completed in October. Simultaneously, trenching and pipe installation from the pump to the tank and from the tank to the hospital was also completed.

With Covid continuing to overwhelm health systems around the world, Escuintla’s hospital staff still found time to negotiate with the local utility to resolve issues related to electrical equipment and connections needed to power the new water system. They decided the most feasible solution was to purchase a new transformer and wiring. It was installed, hooked up and tested the first week in January 2022.

Our team used that time to move forward preparing specs and bidding out the needed low-water-use sink, toilet and shower fixtures. A local vendor was identified and the purchase and installation completed. In January the pump was tested and all the plumbing checked for leaks.

THE WATER IS FLOWING!!!



Hospital staff and patients now have new fixtures and reliable access to clean water.

What’s next?

Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. In January the team hosted a virtual cadre visit with Rotary International. A cadre visit, similar to an audit, is done by RI mid-project to review work and assure the grant requirements are being met.

Hospital Floor Plan: In February, the team will work with a local firm to create hospital floor plans detailing the plumbing services. This is essential to help define future improvements and assist in maintenance.

Performance Testing: To ensure good service throughout the building, in March, performance testing will be con-

New showers, toilets, sinks and tiling have been installed



ducted on the system and the quality of water delivered through the new chlorinator system will be tested.

WASH Training: In April WASH Training will be commissioned from a local organization experienced in providing training for the Ministry of Health. They will also provide educational posters as part of the training.

Operations and Maintenance Training: Also in April, Training and review of operating and maintenance procedures for all the components of the new system will be conducted following the performance testing.

Monitoring and Evaluation: A detailed baseline evaluation was undertaken last April. Qualitative satisfaction with water service and related sanitation and hygiene issues was determined for both patients and staff throughout the hospital. The final monitoring will be done six months after commissioning is complete, estimated to be around August, 2022.

“Mucha gratitud” to everyone helping to make this dream a reality. When complete we anticipate more than 1,000 staff; 7,200 patients a month; and 1,400 inpatients per day will be served.

Escuintla Partner Rotary Clubs include Mitchell Field, Racine Founders, Sheboygan, Mukwonago, Green Bay, Madison West, Black River Falls, Marshfield Noon, Wausau Early Bird, Milwaukee Northshore, Waukesha Sunrise and Guatemala Clubs Vista Hermosa and Escuintla. Partners providing District Designated Funds include our own 6270, Northern Wisconsin 6220, California 5170, Illinois 6420, and 4250 in Guatemala. Contributing Foundations are the Bostelmann Fund and an anonymous angel.