

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.

El Manantial Water Distribution Global Grant

We are so excited to share a progress report on the El Manantial Water Distribution Global Grant in Guatemala.

To recap, El Manantial is a community of 1,300 people in the municipality of Joyabaj and our objective is to provide them a sustainable water supply along with health and hygiene training. In the wet season there are two springs the community takes water from, but this is not a sustainable water source in the dry season. In the dry season people must walk to the river, a forty minute round trip, to obtain water. Often this water is polluted. Many of the local homes have rainwater barrels.

In 2016 the community came together to discuss their water shortage problem and in 2017 they collaborated



with the municipality and drilled a well. At 230 feet they reached a reliable water supply that also met water quality standards. The community re-

quested our help to design and construct a water distribution system including an electric pump, water storage tank, water treatment, and gravity water system to reach 125 existing homes with a capacity for an additional 125 in the future.

A partnership was formed among the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, the Rotary Club of Vista Hermosa GT, and Engineers without Borders (EWB) Guatemala.

The Vista Hermosa Club and EWB Guatemala met with the Mayor and El Manantial Community Development Committee to agree on an implementation plan and determine the responsibilities of all the parties.

The Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) EWB chapter students designed a system to pump water from the well to an above ground tank, treat the water, and install a gravity fed series of pipes. The Milwaukee Club was primarily responsible for writing the Global Grant and leading the fund raising to secure the \$120,000 needed.

With the Vista Hermosa Club managing the grant and monitoring construction, EWB-GT identified local contractors and suppliers and began construction. The tank has been completed, a pump and solar equipment to help power it has been ordered, and everyone is awaiting the



delivery of both PVC and galvanized piping for the distribution system. As soon as it arrives, the community will come together providing the labor needed to dig the trench from the pump to the village and install the piping. The community is also working out a user fee system to support the cost of ongoing maintenance. The project will also include health and hygiene training



MSOE EWB students will be travelling to El Manantial later this summer to live and work side by side with the community and assist with construction. Many students report that this experience has been life altering.

None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of the partners listed below. Thank you for helping bring water to those in need.

El Manantial Water Distribution Partners

Rotary Clubs: Fond du Lac Morning, Fox Cities Morning, Hartford, J.Henderson/Elkhorn, L.Haskin/Mitchell Field, Madison After Hours, Madison Downtown, Madison South, Milwaukee Downtown, Northshore, Oconomowoc, Sheboygan, Slinger/Allenton, Vista Hermosa GT, Waukesha Sunrise, Wauwatosa, West Allis.

Districts: 6220, 6270, 4250, 6420, 5170, 6250

Others: World Fund of the Rotary Foundation