



CLEAR ROUNDS *for* CLEAN WATER

VISION FOR 2015-2016

We will provide clean water systems and latrines for the 124 families of the 2 villages of Tamborcito and Semutz Esquipulas. The people of this region are Q'eqchi Maya and live in extreme poverty.

NEED: At the request of the village leaders of the two Mayan villages of Tamborcito and Semutz Esquipulas, a team of Rotarians from District 5520 visited their remote villages to assess their need for water. The Rotarians found that there is a nearby spring in a cave which provides a small amount of water which the women and girls haul to their homes each day. However, in the dry season the spring no longer has water and they resort to climbing a mountain to get water from a different spring. This time-consuming effort affects the ability of the girls to attend school. Their rudimentary latrines are in very bad and unsanitary condition. There is poor access to hand washing.



DEMOGRAPHICS: The villages of Tamborcito and Semutz are located in the tropical lands of the Zona Reina of Usphantan, Quiche. They are ethnically Q'eqchi Mayan and speak Q'eqchi rather than Spanish. They had to flee from their native homelands during the long Guatemalan civil war and were relocated to this area in the 1990s. The village of Tamborcito has 69 families and Semutz has 35. They are sustenance farmers, growing corn, beans and cardamom. The villages are a 6 hour drive from the nearest hospital, located in Usphantan. The nearest rural health clinic is an hour away by car, but no one in the villages owns a vehicle. A well trained local midwife attends the women at birth.

PLAN: Each village has legal water rights to a spring and has obtained egress rights to lay pipe across private lands. The water from the spring is contaminated with bacteria. A concrete spring box will be built at each spring to protect it from further contamination. Down the slope of the mountain a large distribution tank will be built for each village. This is where the water coming from the springs will be chlorinated daily. Pipes will take the clean water from the distribution tank to each home and public building. Latrines will be built on site by the beneficiaries with materials purchased with grant funds.



A series of 4 classes in sanitation will be taught to the adults by the regional health department with the assistance of Peace Corp workers. The instruction will include; placement of latrines, protection of food stuffs, environmental cleanliness and hand washing. All students will also receive age appropriate teaching in hand washing. The young men responsible for the daily chlorination will be taught the proper way to chlorinate and how to measure and document the results.

SUSTAINABILITY: Each village will form an official Water Committee that will be responsible for the oversight and maintenance of the water system. The committee will ensure the water is being chlorinated adequately, will levy a monthly fee for water use and will decide penalties for water misuse. The monthly fees will provide the committee with an income to repair the water system and purchase the chlorine tablets. Monthly testing for bacteria will be done by techs from the Usphantan county health department. Should problems be identified, there is a process in place for the health department to work with the water committees to assess the cause and find a solution.

In order to develop a lifelong habit of hand washing, the teachers will participate in the hand washing classes taught by the Peace Corp workers. The teachers will conduct the classes in each subsequent school year. Age appropriate materials for each grade will be provided that can easily be duplicated to stimulate the interest of the students. A hand washing station will be built at the school.

For more information on this project, contact:

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