

# **WATER ENGINEERS FOR THE AMERICAS**

## **2016 YEAR END SUMMARY REPORT**

### **TRIPS MADE BY WEFTA VOLUNTEERS IN 2016**

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#### ***Trip to Chiapas, Mexico by Ramon Lucero***

Ramon returned to Chiapas and was able visit some past projects and scope out the proposed new project of Tierra y Libertad, near the Miguel Hidalgo community. A follow-up trip will be needed to finalize project specific details in 2017. Ramon's trip report is available on the WEFTA website.

#### ***Trip to Honduras by Andrew Robertson, Emily Sotelo and Marty Howell***

Andrew, Emily and Mary traveled to Honduras in April to scope out past projects and upcoming ones. The team split up to cover more ground with Andrew spending his time with Enrique. Trip reports are available on the WEFTA website describing the trips.

#### ***Trip to Bolivia by Jason Gehrig***

Jason Gehrig and Chris Edmundson, from Parish Library in Senkata, traveled to Bolivia to follow up on recently completed water wells and community water supply projects implemented by Suma Jayma, along with preliminary visits with elected officials and community leaders in the rural municipalities of Pucarani, Viacha and Coro Coro to discuss technical collaboration needs for desired water and wastewater treatment. During this trip, Volunteers also helped the Senkata Community to set up computers for two libraries thanks to the donation from Spirit of Christ.

#### ***Trip to El Salvador by John Lincoln, Matt Earthman and Steve Wright***

John, Matt and Steve traveled to El Salvador to follow up on the trip made in late 2015 by John and Scott McKitrick.

#### ***Trip to Honduras by Andrew Robertson***

Andrew made a second trip to Honduras in September to follow up on discussion from the trips in the spring of 2016.

#### ***Trip to Kenya by Paul Kennedy and Scott McKitrick***

This trip was made by Paul and Scott in support of the work of Waterlines.

#### ***Special Invitation to Sustainable Brands Conference in San Diego***

Andrew and Karen were invited by the Vinyl Institute to give a short presentation of the work of WEFTA at the Sustainable Brands Conference, and participate in a panel discussion.

## **WEFTA PROJECTS OF 2016**

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### ***WEFTA Event***

#### ***Clean Water Connections for Latina America***

The main goal for the event was to connect different actors involved in the work that WEFTA is doing in countries in Latin America. During the event, donors, in-country partners, WEFTA volunteers and their families and friends had the opportunity to connect with each other and get updates on the work done in each country. We had presentations from Honduras, El Salvador, and Bolivia.

The event took place at the Santa Fe Women's Club. Approximately 50 people attended. Food served included dishes from some of the countries WEFTA is working.

The event included extracurricular activities as:

- Field trip to Taos Pueblo, where WEFTA volunteers, donors, in-country partner representatives, and other WEFTA supporters had the opportunity to share experiences with tribal members and learn about their customs and water related issues.
- On other trips, our in-country partner representatives got to visit some New Mexican landscapes.

#### ***Chacoma Irpa Grande Well and Contorno Centro Water System, Bolivia***

The funds for these projects were transferred down toward the end of 2015, and work was completed in early 2016.

### ***Projects in Honduras***

Small transfers totaling about \$7,300 were made to Honduras for the cost of specialized local technical assistance related to the upcoming projects. Most of this work is related to necessary surveying of the project sites, but some was for the purchase of equipment related to the Monquecagua project. Work on the larger projects in Honduras, especially the Monquecagua project, is expected to get in gear toward the end of 2016 and especially through 2017.

#### ***Jalsuri Hand Pumps – Phase 2, Bolivia***

A transfer of \$14,200 was made to Bolivia in the end of June for the second phase of this large hand pumps project.

#### ***Chacoma Irpa Well, Bolivia***

A transfer of \$6,500 was made to Bolivia in late September of 2016 for a well to be drilled for the community of Chacoma Irpa to serve 154 families, approximately 770 people in all.

#### ***Hichuraya Grande Hand Pumps, Bolivia***

A transfer of \$9,200 was made to Bolivia at the same time the Chacoma Irpa project transfer was made to fund the construction of another hand pumps project, this time for the community of Hichuraya Grande.

#### ***Ecological Latrines Project, Jason Obergfell Fund, Bolivia***



WEFTA has transferred a little over \$2,000 to fund the work of Jason Obergfell related to development of ecological latrines in the Cochabamba area and altiplano of Bolivia. These funds were all raised by Jason via personal contacts and tracked via special account set up for his work.

### ***Ongoing Circuit Riding Programs in Honduras and Bolivia***

WEFTA continues to transfer \$2,500/quarter to Honduras to support the circuit-riding work of Enrique Lozano and \$1,500/quarter to Bolivia to support the work of Suma Jayma in the same capacity.

## **DONATIONS RECEIVED 2016**

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### ***Grant from the Wallace Genetic Foundation***

The Wallace Genetic Foundation approved a \$75,000 grant to WEFTA to cover operational costs of the organization which arrived in December of 2016. This is \$25,000 more than the customary \$50,000 grant received from the Wallace Genetic Foundation to make up for the annual donation in that amount from Waterlines to cover site visit travel expenses and the circuit rider program. Waterlines is in the process of ‘sunsetting’ and will no longer be a direct source of funding for the work of WEFTA.

### ***Contribution from the Spirit of Christ Catholic Community, in Denver, CO***

WEFTA received a donation of \$6,440 from the Spirit of Christ parish of Denver, Colorado in June. The funds were used to assist the Senkata Library Network in El Alto, Bolivia as they strive to improve student access to online educational resources in their existing parish libraries. This was done more as a favor than anything as the parish did not have experience with international transfers and coordinating such work. Jason’s years living in and working in Senkata were a huge help in making the possible. It’s possible that this Denver parish may be encouraged to fund water and wastewater infrastructure in the area where Suma Jayma works in years to come.

### ***Contribution from Jennifer McDowell via the Pittsburgh Foundation***

WEFTA received a donation of \$30,000 from Jennifer McDowell in July to cover project costs and potentially additional administrative costs of the organization, and another donation of \$1,000 in November as special support for Suma Jayma.

### ***Various Contribution from IceWorks of Albuquerque, NM***

Throughout 2016, IceWorks donated over \$3,000 to WEFTA in increments ranging from \$150 to \$500 in support of the work of the organization. The most fascinating thing about this collaboration is that IceWorks found WEFTA and came with the proposal of donating a percentage of each new contract they sign with new clients to fund the work of WEFTA.

### ***Contribution from the Chlorine Chemistry Foundation***

WEFTA received a grant of \$55,000 from the Chlorine Chemistry Foundation in September to fund the ongoing work in Honduras.



***Check from Deborah Douglas to fund travel expenses to Kenya***

In early 2016, Deborah Douglas sent WEFTA a check for \$5,000 to cover the cost of sending a team of volunteers to Kenya to scope out Waterlines projects.

***Contribution from individuals and matching grants***

Throughout 2016, WEFTA received a little over \$10,000 from individual donations other than those identified above.

