

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today with this FINAL update on the Aguacayo Water Project. After almost 25 years, the community of Aguacayo once again can enjoy one of those things most of us take for granted: RUNNING POTABLE WATER AT HOME.



(A community leader is showing Alan Winslow, a member of the Evansville Rotary Club and CoCoDA board, the faucet with the running water - 7/05)

And we feel not only proud of the fact that we were able to complete the project but we are also proud in the way it was accomplished. By a true collaboration of many people and institutions both in El Salvador and the U.S.:

- **Community of Aguacayo**
- **CRC** (Committee for Reconstruction and Socio Economic Development of the Communities of Suchitoto)
- **REDES** (Salvadoran Foundation for Reconstruction and Development)
- **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**
- **Suchitoto Municipal Government**
- **Rotary Club International** and the following **Indiana Clubs**: Evansville, Brazil, Greencastle, Vincennes, Jasper & Brownsburg
- **San Salvador - Cuscatlán Rotary Club** from El Salvador
- **CoCoDA** (Companion Community Development Alternatives)

As most of you know this project took quite some time to get started, but once it did with the first \$20,000 awarded by the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People and our first Rotary meeting in Greencastle, IN, things began to fall into place to take us to where we were this past July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005: In Aguacayo inaugurating their community water system!!!



(Community gathered with the Rotary Delegation and representatives of the other NGO's involved to unveil the water reservoir tank - 7/05)



(Javier Martinez from REDES and Isaias Sandoval, Mayor of Suchitoto as they cut the ceremonial ribbon - 7/05)

The project benefits 50 families which all have running potable water in their homes. The faucets are placed in their "pilas" (sink-like tanks where people hold the water for cooking, washing, bathing and drinking). Before now they had to walk a mile or so straight down to a ravine. For some of you that have walked this trail you know how hard, tiring and dangerous this trip was. And mainly women and children had to do this every day. Not anymore.

Behind this success is the hard work and organization of the community. Since the repopulation in the mid 80's (the people in this region were forced to flee military attacks during the war, but came back and *repopulated* in defiance of the military threat), water was their primary concern and number 1 priority for the Directiva (Community Board). Their efforts, determination and patience have finally paid off. All the families in the community did their part contributing all the non-skilled labor for the project. The hard terrain and the high temperatures made their effort and work the more valuable.

The CRC was the liaison between the community and CoCoDA. They accompanied the community along the way and helped in the implementation of the project and the financial reporting. It was a CRC representative, Otilia, who with CoCoDA met with a representative of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People in Louisville, Kentucky back in 2002 and thus the whole thing began to unfold.

REDES, along with the CRC, were the first to support this project. Their involvement was essential, providing all the technical expertise, doing all the surveying measurements and putting together the technical report and budget that was used as the basis to implement the project.

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People saw the value of this project and believed in this small community's ability to see this project through from beginning to end. Their contribution opened up other doors and encouraged Aguacayo and their friends to continue in our fundraising efforts. Of all the involved groups, unfortunately they were the only ones not represented at the inauguration. But their presence was felt by all of us.

After receiving the first grant from the Presbyterian Church, the community, the CRC and CoCoDA approached Mr. Isaias Sandoval, the Mayor of the municipality of Suchitoto where Aguacayo is located. We were all under pressure because having already this money meant that we had to do the project, but the funds were not nearly enough to complete it. The Mayor realized the importance of the contribution and decided to also add to this effort by fully funding all the electrical installation required to run the water pump. This may sound as something small, but you have no idea how hard and expensive it was to bring the electrical line from the main road to where the pump is located.

Up to this point, we could guarantee only that there would be water in the community. The idea, had we stopped here, was to set up 2 or 3 communal faucets inside the community where people could go with their jugs and get water instead of having to go to the ravine. This was what we called Phase 1, which was to guarantee availability of water inside the community.

Phase 2 began in a meeting we had with several members of 3 Rotary Clubs in Indiana: Greencastle, Jasper and Evansville. We looked at what we had and what remained to be done to make Aguacayo's dream come true of having running potable water in each and every home. At this meeting we decided to take on Phase 2 with Rotary Clubs around Indiana. Eventually, 3 more clubs joined: Brazil, Vincennes and Brownsburg. As the grant from the Presbyterians was instrumental to start this project, so the contributions from the Rotarians were key in finishing it. We were also successful with the Evansville Rotary Club to get a \$9,000.00 Matching Grant from Rotary International that helped us meet our fundraising goal.

The Rotary Club in El Salvador gave us all the support we needed. It is mandatory, in terms of the RI Matching Grant, to have the endorsement and the participation of the local Rotary Club. They were able to provide us with everything we needed and then some. They were always available to receive us, hosted both of CoCoDA's Rotary delegations in 2004 and 2005, signed and supported the Rotary Matching Grant and were always at our disposal for everything we needed to guarantee the success of this project.

CoCoDA's Revolving Development Fund provided financing for the project, when the timeline of implementation in Aguacayo demanded funds, yet the commitments and pledges from contributors had yet to be received. The Aguacayo Water Project exemplifies the two parts of CoCoDA's mission: 1. Coordinating international cooperation for democratic economic and social development in Central America - "*community to comunidad*" - by helping pull together diverse people and organizations to work towards our common goal - the goal put forth by the residents of Aguacayo themselves; and 2. Promoting awareness in the United States for more just relations with Latin America, by introducing Rotarian leaders in Indiana to the realities of life in rural El Salvador, and helping build friendships across the barriers of wealth and poverty, culture and language, privilege and oppression.

The total price tag of the project was \$79,911.00 allocated as follows:

DETAIL	AMOUNT
Materials	\$23,716.02
Non Technical Labor	\$8,320.00
CoCoDA Adm.	\$4,000.00
CRC Adm.	\$1,474.00
Electrical Line Installation	\$30,712.46
Technical Labor	\$2,999.00
Water Meters	\$3,000.00
Water Pump	\$5,379.64
Miscellaneous	\$309.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,911.00</b>

The contributions to the project were as follows:

<b>Contributors to CoCoDA</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Brazil, Indiana Rotary Club	\$3,000.00
Brownsburgh, Indiana Rotary Club	\$1,000.00
Evansville, Indiana Rotary Club	\$1,205.00
Evansville - Rotary International Marching Grant	\$9,000.00
Greencastle, Indiana Rotary Club	\$2,500.00
Jasper, Indiana Rotary Club	\$1,000.00
Vincennes, Indiana Rotary Club	\$2,000.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$19,705.00</b>

<b>Other Contributors to the Project</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Aguacayo Community	\$8,475.57
Suchitoto Municipal Government	\$30,712.46
Presbyterian Committee on the Self Dev. of People	\$20,000.00
REDES Foundation	\$1,600.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$60,788.03</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,493.03</b>
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This will be the final Aguacayo Water Project report. We all have learned a lot during these three long years of work. We soon will be discussing with the CoCoDA Board of Directors how we can best put this experience and the knowledge we've acquired to good use - considering how many other communities there are in El Salvador and other parts of Central America who still do not have access to safe, clean water. We hope that you who have been partners with us in the Aguacayo project will continue to accompany us and our Salvadoran associates in other exciting and challenging projects, tangible steps towards a brighter and more just future for all.

On behalf of CoCoDA, our associate organization the CRC, and the community of Aguacayo, I want to thank each and every one of you for all your support. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and it is an honor for me to call you my friends.

Iván J. M. Villasbôa  
 Coordinator CoCoDA Aguacayo Water Project Campaign



(Javier Martinez for REDES, Nelson Ayala for the CRC, Iván Villasbôa for CoCoDA and the Presbyterian CSDP, Ron Keeping for Rotary Club and Isaias Sandoval for the Municipality of Suchitoto after receiving Commemorative diplomas from the Community - 7/05)



(Water reservoir tank with logos of participating organizations - 7/05)



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS, WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS !!!**