

Water Deposit with Hand-washing station Pacorral, Tecpan Guatemala, Chimaltenango, Guatemala

The school of Pacorral started the Healthy Schools project with Peace Corps Guatemala in January of 2007. When the school started with HS, there was very little water arriving at the school and the students and teachers were not practicing healthy habits on a daily basis.

The idea for the water deposit with a hand-washing station at the school of Pacorral in Tecpan Guatemala started in July of 2007 when Lynn Roberts and Alberto Xoch came to assess the lack of water and open pila at the school. Lynn and Alberto proposed a plan to enclose the open-aired water basin and build a hand-washing station to better facilitate the practices of healthy habits within the school. The teachers immediately began planning and budgeting the project with the help of the community leaders. The funds for the project were to come from three parties: the community, who gave \$500 in materials and manual labor, the national bank Banrural, who gave \$850 in materials, and a third party organization. Unfortunately the project was postponed due to lack of funding from a third party. In January of 2008, Global Waters decided to donate \$500, making it possible for the community of Pacorral to realize their long awaited project. The money donated from Global Waters funded materials and the skilled labor of a mason from a nearby town.

The construction of the project began on April 8, 2008 and finished on April 24, 2008. The project completed was a water deposit built onto an already existing open-aired water basin complete with a hand-washing station. The water that fills the deposit is fed by a community water system and arrives every other day. The hand-washing station has a total of 10 faucets placed around three sides of the deposit for the students to effectively wash their hands and brush their teeth. The fourth side of the water deposit has two shallow sinks with a faucet per sink for washing rags and mops. The water drains into a septic system in the ground behind the school.

The project was inaugurated on April 25, 2008.

The Healthy Schools project with Peace Corps Guatemala is continuing in the school of Pacorral. Since the construction of this project, the teachers and students have been much more effective in fulfilling their Healthy Schools goals, namely their personal hygiene practices and their ability to maintain the overall cleanliness of the school. There is a PC volunteer who is currently working with the community of Pacorral. The teachers, community members, and volunteer are hoping that their school will be certified as a Healthy School by the Ministry of Education by April of 2010.

The community of Pacorral and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Global Waters in funding this small project. Without their help, the school, teachers, and students would be lacking the infrastructure and water necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle within their school. This small project has improved the standard of living in the community of Pacorral by improving the health of the students, and as we all know, the students are the future of Pacorral and of

Guatemala.

Thank you and best wishes in your future endeavors,
Erin Josephine Treinen