WELLS OF HOPE

... For Those Who Thirst ...

N E W S R E P O R T

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Water Program—Drilling

Three wells were drilled in 2011. We were very excited when we received the news that the first well with our new drilling equipment was successfully finished at Las Brisas. The well is 1,040 feet deep and we were very humbled when Ted shared how the community was overjoyed at seeing this life-saving water come gushing out of the ground! The next step to make this well operational is to have

a pump test done, have the transformers installed by the municipality and have the community fundraise to build the holding tank for distribution. It is estimated that this well will provide water for 500 people in the area.

A second well of about 1,000 feet deep was drilled at Laguna Itzacoba, where we had previously drilled with our old equipment. This well was showing heavy signs of silting, so it was determined that it would be more cost effective to drill a new as we knew the aquifer was present, rather than to try to repair the existing one. The drilling was completed and a holding tank is needed.

Father Jaime, who has helped us with backpack distribution and many other things, asked us to re-drill an existing well of about 300 feet. That well is now in operation and makes it our third well of the season.

We were very glad to hear that the municipality of Comapa finally came through and had the electricity connected so that the water could be pumped out of the well that we finished in 2010.

Therefore, we now have 7 wells in operation, helping more than 35,000 people in the Jalapa area.

Check out our WEBSITE

www.wellsofhope.com

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Water Program—Piping Project

In 2011 we continued with Phase II of the piping project of the communities of Laguneta, Duraznito, El Roblar and San Francisco. The community leaders and the project manager, had been reporting that they were pleased with the community support, since the trenches of the whole 67km were dug by community members that had agreed to join the project, which is now 100% complete. This was a great example of what good leadership can do by organizing and coordinating efforts so that more than 800 households could benefit from the well we drilled at Laguneta community.

Before 2011 Campaign ended, we were approached by the community of Durazno asking for $2,000 to help with their own piping project. We are excited to see next year how the communities continue to work together to bring potable water into their homes.

Community Aid

Through our Mission Experience Program we have been able to advance our aid to the different communities. Four houses—some made out of wood and others out of adobe. Some of the volunteers fundraised before they went to camp so they could help out in projects like these.

Book Program

For fifth year in a row, we have been able to provide school materials to all the children grades 1 to 5 that attend the schools we have built and/or helped out throughout the years, which are 9 in total.

One of the groups that went to Jalapa this year, fundraised to pay for Grade 1 and 2 materials. The material is curriculum based and locally purchased. Since we will be building a new school with 300 children, we would like to extend our budget for this program to cover every single student from grades 1-6. We estimated budget would be $10,000.

Health and Dental Program

In 2010 Wells of Hope was please to host 3 dental teams from the Canadian organization Kindness in Action. The clinics are setup in local schools where 3 or 4 classrooms are used for examination, cleaning, extractions and repairs. When possible, instructions for dental hygiene are given and patients are provided with a tooth brush and toothpaste. For many of these people this is a first time experience with a dentist and unfortunately there are a large number of extractions. Priority is given to children first, followed by adults with dental problems and then the general public. In 2010 the services they provided would have cost about $750,000 if performed in Canada.

KIA dentist and assistant at one of the dental clinics in La Fuente School 2011.

Bridge Construction

Last year, we heard a story from the community of Durazno, where one of the children had drowned while crossing the bridge during the rainy season. After visiting the place, it was determined that there was no such bridge, but only three concrete cylinders. Therefore, for our 2011 goals, we decided that Durazno should get a proper structure. Ben and a team of volunteers took on this task and finished the job in just a couple of weeks. The second bridge that was built was for the community of Quetzal, which entailed a much larger construction. After the terrain was surveyed, blueprints were prepared in Canada, the funds were collected and a team of volunteers set to build it. Check out the pictures!

Before– Durazno

After—Durazno

After—Quetzal

Backpack Program

Our Backpack Program was another success! All the backpacks that were so kindly donated, prepared and loaded by the children of the participating schools of the Niagara Catholic School Board were distributed among the children of Santa Maria Ixtan. We also distributed school desks. Thanks to all that made this possible!

Build for Hope

We can't say enough thanks to everyone that is making the dream of Build for Hope a reality. At time of printing this issue, the house was still under construction. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, especially Ben, Frank and Ron. We hope that by the end of the year we have sold the house and we estimate that over $350,000 will be made, which will go towards reducing our debt on our rig and our water programs.

Upcoming Events

Our friends of Dig a Little Deeper Campaign recently held their 3rd Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser on October 1st, which was another success! On November 11, Jann Arden will be in concert at The Shaw Festival with proceeds going to Wells of Hope. All tickets have been sold out! Thank you to everyone that is helping us help those who thirst!

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For more information or to help, please contact Wells of Hope Group
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