

WELLS OF HOPE

20th Anniversary Celebration

FALL 2024
Volume 15
Issue 1

NEWS REPORT

12 Months in Review

On Friday, September 13th, we celebrated Wells of Hope 20 years of helping those who thirst in Guatemala, especially the people of the Santa Maria Xalapán mountains of Jalapa. Our chairman, Scott Maxwell, welcomed all our guests and shared some anecdotes on the blessings received right from the beginnings of Wells of Hope. Board members Peter Mernagh and Frank Memme reminded us of the early education program with fixing classrooms and distributing learning material to later building entire schools and even a health clinic.

John van der Zalm thanked the construction teams on their important contributions on building and rebuilding pedestrian bridges. Then Miriam recounted the numerous projects that have been geared towards community aid and helping those in most need—building adobe houses, teaching women how to connect through cooking, and establishing a partnership with INTECAP to sponsor further hands-on education to young women and men.

The highlight of the evening was Ted's reminiscence on how on this 20th year, his drilling challenges and successes came full circle bringing him back to one of the first drilling sites, specifically where many years ago, after drilling with the very first drilling rig that was not up to the volcanic rocks challenge. Things came to a halt after a series of tremors, "...the volcano simply ate the hammer!", recalled Ted. 20 years later, with cautious optimism, he tackled the challenge once again but this time with the "new" equipment (purchased 13 years ago). After 1,200 feet, he finally hit the aquifer! The community of La Paz was ecstatic and so is everyone involved with Wells of Hope. Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for your continuous support—39 wells have made a difference in more than 96,000 people in Jalapa and Jutiapa who today have clean drinking water! Here is for the next 20 years!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Just go to our website at
www.wellsofhope.com

DID YOU KNOW?

That your donation in securities can save you the capital gains tax while helping Wells of Hope projects in Guatemala? Ask us for our **Planned Giving Program**. Contact us at scott@wellsofhope.com

WELLS OF HOPE

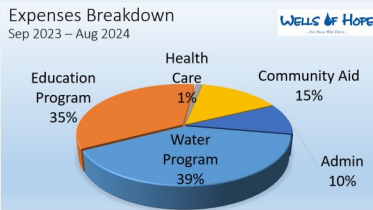
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WATER PROGRAM

DONATIONS

We celebrated 20 years of being the link between the generous hearts of many people in the Niagara Region and throughout Canada—being at the personal level and/or through their companies— and the people of Jalapa and of Guatemala in general.

In the 2023-2024 season, out of every donated dollar to Wells of Hope, 89 cents were invested in our Programs: 39% in our Water Program, 35% went to Education, 15% to Community Aid and 1% to the Basic Health Care program.



The contributions of all our donors have allowed us to bring hope to the people and as Ted has said: “We commend everyone who will never go to Guatemala but they have it in their hearts to give and allow us to put their donations at work.” Thank you to all our donors!

One of the first communities to have a well drilled was the community of Laguneta (picture 1 below). This site is an important one, as it was the first



time that 4 communities came together to share the well and have a pipeline built. The community has grown so much, that after 15 years there was a need to drill a second well on the other



side of the mountain. LAGUNETA II, is 860’ deep and produces 35 gpm. The well was equipped with an electrical panel and a submersible pump. No generator was necessary as the community has access to electricity (picture 2 left).



Not everything goes always as planned. There are usually some small twists and turns to factor in—like having flat tires (picture 3 left) in unconventional places and times, but this time it also involved waiting for a specific part to arrive.

LA PAZ community was chosen as the next drilling site. The whole community gathered to make their request and hear the announcement (picture 4 below). The well was a second attempt with many years in between to have a well drilled. After 1,200+ feet and many drilling hours, the aquifer was finally reached!



The community will get ready with their share of building a tank and a shed so it can be equipped the next season. This well will serve another 700 families and it makes well No. 39 for Wells of Hope.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The school at LA PAZ community has a student population of over 450 children — much needed proper washrooms, a septic tank and a 3-smokeless-stove kitchen was built to complete the commitment made. (pictures below—during construction and finished building).



The Cooking Project is taking wings of its own and a cooking area is being built for it. The donated dehydrated food from Niagara Gleaners continues to be an integral part of the project.



A group of 21 women are taking a one-year sewing course at the Clem Center (picture below) and another group of 25 learned how to sew. The Mission Experience Participants always enjoy this hands-on part of their visit (picture to the right). A total of 3 adobe houses with a smokeless stove each were built this season.



BEN CENTRE

While continuing construction of the Ben Centre, the Reflection Room (picture below) became the provisional classroom for the 25



students taking the sponsored welding course taught by an INTECAP instructor.



Above, a few months later, some of the students already using the hands-on instruction area at the Ben Centre

FUNDRAISERS

From penny sales, to BBQ events to concerts, to our successful silent auctions, to golf tournaments to building a house—and many other things in between to raise funds for Wells of Hope projects in Guatemala. We have done it all—and we keep thinking of ways to keep the awareness of what we do and how the different talents of so many different people come together to make a difference!



THANK YOU

The Wells of Hope Team would like to thank each and every person for their contribution, which allows us to respond to “the cry of those who thirst”. Without your gift, given in love to those whom you may never meet, we would never have been able to accomplish all of the projects that we have completed over the years. These great feats are testimony to the mountains that can be moved when we all work together to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” May our God of Love bless all of you!!!



Ways you can Help

- Donate on-line at www.wellssofhope.com
- Mail in your donation
- Become a sponsor for any of our events
- Host a Wells of Hope fundraiser
- Become a Corporate Partner
- Donate through our Planned Giving Program—contact scott@wellssofhope.com

Upcoming Events

- 17th Annual Taste & See Fundraiser—Spring 2025
 - 17th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser— Summer 2025
 - Passion Event— Fall 2025
- Follow Us
- On Facebook—www.facebook.com/wellssofhope.water
 - Email —water@wellssofhope.com
 - Phone— (289) 313-7109

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