

WELLS OF HOPE

... For Those Who Thirst ...

NEWS REPORT

VOLUME 5

SUMMER 2012

ISSUE 1

12 Months in Review

Our 2011 fundraising campaign was very active with diverse strategies: our 5th Annual Golf Tournament, followed by the Pig Roast organized by Dig a Little Deeper Group, then by the Jann Arden's Concert at the Shaw and continued by Taste & See in February. The net revenue of our fundraisers was more than \$65K.

Our major fundraiser not yet completed but well under way in 2011 is the Build of Hope: build a house with mostly donated materials and labour, sell it netting us over \$300,000 for our rig loan payment and our water program for next year's campaign. With the hard work of the Three Amigos (Ben Obdeyn, Frank Memme and Ron Hendriks) and the generous donation of many contributors, the Build for Hope is now a beautiful bungalow located in Fenwick (5 Lampman Drive, off Cherry Ridge Boulevard)... we just need to sell it to make the miracle complete!

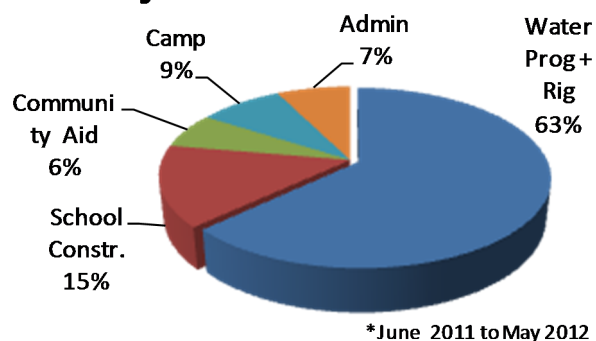
Wells of Hope continues to be a grass roots organization. Of the \$300K Net Revenue between June 2011 and May 2012, 74% came from general donations. As for the uses of these funds, the chart on the top right summarizes their destination.

This year we put very specific emphasis on relationship building, focusing both on strengthening existing relationships and forging

new ones. We partnered with two charitable organizations—Kindness in Action (KIA) and with Miracles in Action (MIA) to complete two projects. These relationships allowed us to utilize the strength, skills and assets of each partner and allowed us to tackle projects in a far more efficient and effective manner than if we had attempted to undertake them alone. We also tried out a type of hybrid partnership, being a facilitator to the Canadian Foundation for facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the local authorities of the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately, the authorities in Jalapa cancelled the visit only a few days before the group was set to depart.

The other type of partnership we have actively pursued is partnering with the various communities we are serving. This type of partnership recognizes that community involvement, buy-in and ownership

Project Allocation 2012



is essential for the long term success of any project. A great example is last year's pipeline project and now Las Brisas community (*please read more under Water Program*) and Los Laureles school (*please read more under school construction*).

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Water Program

Ted arrived on time to take part in the general assembly of the indigenous group of the mountains— at least 3,000 showed up and he was given the opportunity to address the audience and remind the people of the mountains the mission of Wells of Hope and what has accomplished in the last 7 years. This was necessary, because some of the locals are still associating Wells of Hope with the Canadian mining company that is in operation in Guatemala. To reinforce the message and our name in Spanish—Pozos de Esperanza, a brochure exactly as the one distributed in Canada, was translated into Spanish and distributed to the audience and locals.

After this assembly, it was back to work and more requests of different types of water projects came in.

This year's success of the water program is not only measured in finishing the well of Las Brisas, but in witnessing the result of cooperation between Wells of Hope, the community and the Guatemalan government. In addition to having drilled the well last year and now measuring its production, Wells of Hope helped to facilitate the project by providing logistical support in the form of equipment and some materials. The government provided the communities with a grant that would cover the costs of the materials involved and workers from each of the partnering communities worked side by side to build an extensive water tank. The cooperation and teamwork required for the project is very encouraging as it indicates that communities are willing to set aside distrust and

work with a new spirit of cooperation that gives them a new sense of being able to procure their own solutions. This is the essence of our mission: help those who thirst to help themselves.

ing the dry season. In order to alleviate this situation in the short term, Wells of Hope undertook a project to enlarge the existing pond to approximately 10 times the size. Since the pond is dug in dense clay, it should serve as an

	Name of Well	Water	Tested	Pumping	Notes:
1	Campo Esperanza	Yes	Yes	Yes	Camp
2	Comapa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Electricity was finally connected in 2011
3	El Chaguite	Yes	Yes	Yes	
4	Guacamayas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Re-drilled in 2009
5	Laguna El Pito	Yes	Yes	Yes	
6	La Laguneta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Re-drilled in 2009 – now serves 4 communities
7	Jalapa	Yes	Yes	No	Need to go deeper
8	Lag. Itzacoba	Yes	No	No	Re-drilled in 2011-12
9	Las Brisas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Finished
10	Church Jalapa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Finished
11	El Arenal	Yes	No	No	Land ownership problem

The chart above lists the different wells of Wells of Hope, their status and the communities they serve. The number of people that are benefitting now from Wells of Hope wells is more than 35,000, including over 1,000 households that can turn on a tap and drink safe water.

Los Cebollines is a very poor mountain community that has no source of water. When Wells of Hope investigated the situation it was discovered that a very small ground water collection pond existed. Unfortunately the pond was far too small to provide for the needs of the community dur-

adequate ground water reservoir to provide water throughout future dry seasons.

Sanyuyo was another community that approached Wells of Hope, as another international NGO has tried to help them with their water problem and has dug twice unsuccessfully. It was determined that it could be a possible future project, if proper funding for a deep well is lined up. The proposal indicates that this project could benefit 3,700 additional people.

"What is impossible for human beings is possible for God." *Luke 18:27*

Dental Program

We partnered with Kindness in Action once again, who sent two dental groups—each of 22 volunteers, early in the year. Julian, one of the coordinators, reported that they had four very full clinic days in the area. They treated over 400 patients with a variety of services including hygiene (teeth cleaning), preventive treatment, restorative treatment (fillings) and extractions. Somewhat unique to their visit, Julian mentions that it was their pleasurable task of being able to deliver dentures to nearly 20 local residents. Marla, a denturist from Salmon Arm and her assis-

tant had been in Jalapa with a similar group about a month before them taking impressions on patients who needed replacement teeth. After many hours of work back home, some generous donations of materials and a little logistical tap dancing, they were able to deliver and insert these dentures. He mentioned that it is certainly a very gratifying experience to be able to provide these patients with 'new' teeth. Some were only missing a few teeth while some had no teeth at all; some were older individuals and some were quite young. In all cases, though, they were able

to restore some of the function and dignity that was inevitably lost along with their teeth. "The resultant smiles on most of their faces was one of the most rewarding experiences of all of my dental volunteerism," said Julian. Wells of Hope and KIA are already looking forward to next year's campaign.



School Construction

Wells of Hope believes that long term, sustainable eradication of extreme poverty can ultimately be achieved through education. With this in mind and after going through a selection process, Wells of Hope embraced the opportunity of entering a partnership to build its 11th and biggest school yet. Located in the community of Los Laureles, this school services 350 children. After a lot of planning and coordinating in Canada lead by Ben Obdeyn and a team of volunteers, construction began in November 2011. By the end of February, in record time and within budget, Los Laureles com-

munity was inaugurating a new school consisting of 9 new classrooms— in addition to the 3 existing ones, a kitchen and an office. This project was only possible because a 3-way partnership was formed between Wells of Hope, Miracles In Action (a US based charity) and the community of Los Laureles in conjunction with the municipality of Jalapa. Wells of Hope provided the project with design, project management and skilled labour; Miracles In Action provided the funding and the community of Los Laureles and the municipality provided much of the labour. It is very rewarding to see that through these kind of projects, Wells of Hope has been able to help the local economy with jobs, but just as important, that through this interaction, it is able to pass on to Guatemalans that are willing to learn, skills and trades that our volunteers are willing to share and adapt to the local reality, which otherwise

would not be available to them. Wells of Hope also undertook a construction project at the La Puerta school, located directly adjacent to the main road through the mountains, which has a high volume of fast moving vehicular traffic. The school yard is located between the school and the road and it is not uncommon for children to run out into traffic chasing a soccer ball. In order to correct this unsafe condition, a wall around the school yard was built. This project was possible due to a successful partnership between Wells of Hope and the community members of La Puerta, who dug by hand through rock using picks and shovels.



Community Aid—Construction

This aspect of our operation serves to several purposes towards realizing the Wells of Hope mandate. First, we provide houses to the poorest of the poor in Jalapa. Wells of Hope typically focuses on single women with families to support for this type of relief. This year we improved the lives of 5 families by building homes for 5 women and their children- Adelina, Francisca, Marcela, Oralia and Virginia. All of these families were living in extremely poor situations, with no protection from the elements. They can now focus on improving other aspects of their lives, secure in the knowledge that they have a safe, dry house to come home to.

The second purpose to the house construction for Wells of Hope is that it is a valuable part of the mission experience that we offer at Campo Esperanza. This year we hosted over 40 guests for mission experiences in Guatemala. By having them involved in the home construction projects, we allow them the opportunity to gain first hand experience of what it feels like to live in extreme poverty. The guests begin to feel a sense of solidarity with the poor through relationship building with the families. Once an individual has both intellectual and emotional knowledge of what it is like to live in extreme poverty, then the trip to Campo Esperanza can become a life altering event.

Backpack Program

The Backpacks of Hope program was once again in full swing this year. 2,500 backpacks were collected by many Niagara Catholic elementary schools in Canada and other Wells of Hope friends. The backpacks were distributed to Guatemalan school children by Wells of Hope volunteers with extensive involvement from Indigenous community leadership. The children were ecstatic to receive the packs full of school supplies, clothing and toys. Thanks to everyone involved in this program, especially Gunnar and Gertrud Doerwald, who collected over 900 themselves!

A large number of sports uniforms were also donated and shipped to Guatemala. The soccer games are suddenly much more cohesive although it has taken away any excuse for passing the ball to the wrong player! A big thanks to Taylor VanwanRooy and her team for making this possible!



Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 7: 6th Annual Golf Tournament at Riverview Golf & Country Club in Fenwick. Tickets are \$125 and include lunch, steak dinner and golf cart. We are looking for sponsors and prizes. Please contact Ben at benrie.obdeyn@sympatico.ca.

Friday, July 27: Passion Event... A celebration of Food, wine and music at Mori Gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake, from 6:30pm to 10pm. Tickets are \$75 per person and you can purchase them on-line at www.niagarapassion.com.

Saturday, September 15: When Pigs Fly at White Meadows Farm in Effingham at 5pm. Contact tickets@digalittledeeper.ca

We will again have a **concert at The Shaw** at the beginning of November. Stay tuned!

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 tremendous projects that have been completed over the years. These great feats are testimony to the mountains that can be moved when we all work together to "love our neighbour as ourselves." May our God of Love bless all of you!!!

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