



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA
Minnesota Professional Chapter



CHUCHURRAS, PERU

2023

DONOR REPORT

Building a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs.

April 2024

THANK YOU

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I reflect on the past year, there is much to celebrate and be proud of. Our successes, both at home and abroad, were made possible by the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors.

One of our significant 2023 achievements was completing design milestones for the Andrew Peterson Farm, Santa Elena, and Rio Azul projects. In addition to completing design milestones, we continued the implementation of our Chuchurras water project and had the opportunity to visit the Peruvian community. Design continues and the team plans to return to complete implementation.

We made significant strides in advancing our operations by launching a [new website](#), revising our constitution, and streamlining our member engagement processes. These improvements ensure that we can effectively support our projects and volunteers for many years to come.

Attending the EWB-USA conference in Reno was a highlight of the year, not only did we collaborate with hundreds of other volunteers, but we were also honoured to receive the Premier Professional Chapter award for the second consecutive year. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce plans to adopt two new international projects with new in-country partners, one in Bolivia and one in Guatemala.

We are grateful to all our donors, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to our success throughout the year. Your generosity and dedication empower us to continue our vital work in improving lives and creating positive change in communities worldwide.

As we embark on another year of service and collaboration, we remain committed to our mission and values, guided by the belief that together, we can build a better, more sustainable world for all.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



Matt Wessale

President

Engineers Without Borders - Minnesota Professional Chapter



SANTA ELENA, GUATEMALA

The community of Santa Elena has an existing water system, but it does not reach all households and where it does it's often plagued with maintenance and capacity issues. EWB-MN is working in partnership with the local government to improve the community's access to clean water. The local government has installed a new well and pump and the EWB-MN project team is tasked with designing and funding an accompanying water distribution system. The EWB-MN team completed an assessment trip summer 2022 and is planning for construction summer 2024.

SANTA ELENA WATER SYSTEM



Location: Santa Elena, Quiché, Guatemala

Project Type: Water Distribution System

Status: Engineering complete, construction to begin summer 2024

Total Project Costs: \$110,000

Goal: Design and construct a water distribution system to provide a consistent supply of clean water to the community of Santa Elena.



RIO AZUL, GUATEMALA

Construction of phase 1 of the Rio Azul school was completed in 2022. Class is now in session! Students now have space to learn and school administrators have a place to conduct their business. Phase 2 construction will begin this summer and consist of 2 classrooms and an athletic court.

RIO AZUL SCHOOL



Location: Rio Azul, Quiché, Guatemala

Project Type: School

Total Project Costs: \$115,000

Status: Phase 1 completed 2022, Phase 2 in progress

Goal: Design and construct a high school for the community that will consist of 7 classrooms, 2 admin rooms, a kitchen, bathroom facility, and athletic court.



CHUCHURRAS, PERU

The 500-person community in the Pasco Region of Peru has to manually collect unclean water from the local streams and river. These water sources are often scarce during the 3-month dry season. The only remaining flowing streams are contaminated with fecal matter, leading to health issues within the community. Remote construction of the well was completed in fall 2021. Rework continued through 2021 and into 2023. The team travelled to the project in June 2023, completing the construction of the pump house, associated solar energy system, and connecting the pump house to the well. In 2024 the team will focus on completing the final portion of the project, the gravity distribution pipe network.

CHUCHURRAS WATER SYSTEM



Location: Pasco Region of Peru
Project Type: Water Distribution System

Total Project Costs: \$122,000

Status: Construction in progress

Goal: Provide a year-round source of clean and reliable water to the community. The well and pump will be powered by solar panels to pump groundwater up to a water storage tank at the high point of the community. From there, a gravity distribution pipe network will be used to deliver the water to communal taps. To ensure the quality of the water, a chlorination treatment system will be used.

LOCAL PROJECTS



Above image: The Andrew Peterson Farm site has a storied past with Minnesota agrarian history.

Andrew Peterson Farm Projects

Location: Waconia, MN

Project Type: Building improvement

Goal: Our team's project is to improve visitor accessibility to three restored farm buildings using ramps while maintaining the historical aesthetics of the structures.

Gibbs Farm Projects

Location: Falcon Heights, MN

Project Type: Building improvements

Goal: Improving accessibility to a historic farmhouse and schoolhouse using ramps to enhance the experience for wheelchair users and all visitors.



Above image: The Gibbs Farm Site in Ramsey County serves thousands of students and families each year through programming centered on women's history, Dakota culture, and life in the 1800s.



Above image: EWB-MN Professional volunteers and EWB-University of MN volunteers join together for a day of action with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity

Location: Richfield, MN

Project Type: Community building improvement

Goal: Partner with Habitat for Humanity for a day of construction on an active home build.

CHRIS LARSON

What does volunteering mean to me for building a better world?

For me Engineers Without Borders, and their mission of [Building a Better World](#), is all about the people and relationships you make along the way that make the most meaningful impacts. From humble beginnings as a NDSU college student discovering the world and my path, to 14-years later with EWB having been involved with 5-communities and 10-projects, I have had the privilege to develop a vast number of lasting relationships.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I originally started with EWB for a college assignment to get involved with an organization. Having never left the country before and being a prospective engineer, EWB seemed like a great place to start. Our first visit to Guatemala was eye opening experience for me to learn about the challenges that others can face while realizing that I have both the will and the skills to fight these challenges. As a team we would spend hundreds of hours together in the computer lab working together and alongside the community of Las Tablitas, Guatemala. Here's to the beginning years, facing challenges, starting chapters, and relationship building.



End of first visit to Guatemala



Showing children bubbles for the first time

From these humble beginnings I would become even more passionate about EWB and volunteering more of my time. Entering professional life I did additional projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Uganda meeting more wonderful people along the way. Currently, I now lead a core team of volunteers working on a water project for the community of Chuchurras, Peru. This work continues to test my engineering knowledge, judgments, and ability to effectively deliver sustainable solutions to people.



Explaining PVC pipe construction, primer, and glue to community members



Inspecting the well in Peru



STRONGER *Together*
EWB-USA CONFERENCE 2023

“We are delighted to share that our chapter has once again been recognized as a Premier Chapter by EWB-USA, a testament to our chapter’s unwavering commitment and exceptional performance. During the Reno conference, I engaged in numerous discussions with EWB-USA staff, colleagues from Guatemala and Peru, and other chapters. Through these conversations, it became evident that our chapter is operating at an elevated level.

As a Premier Chapter, we have an obligation to lead transformative initiatives within the EWB-USA community. Looking ahead, we plan to continue scaling the use of GIS and Survey technologies to support efficient project assessment and are committed to standardizing the design of our projects and sharing our knowledge. The conference served as a catalyst for expanding our relationships with Minnesota’s student chapters. As we return to Minnesota, we’re excited to find more ways to collaborate with the student chapters in an effort to advance EWB-USA’s mission together!”

Matt Wessale

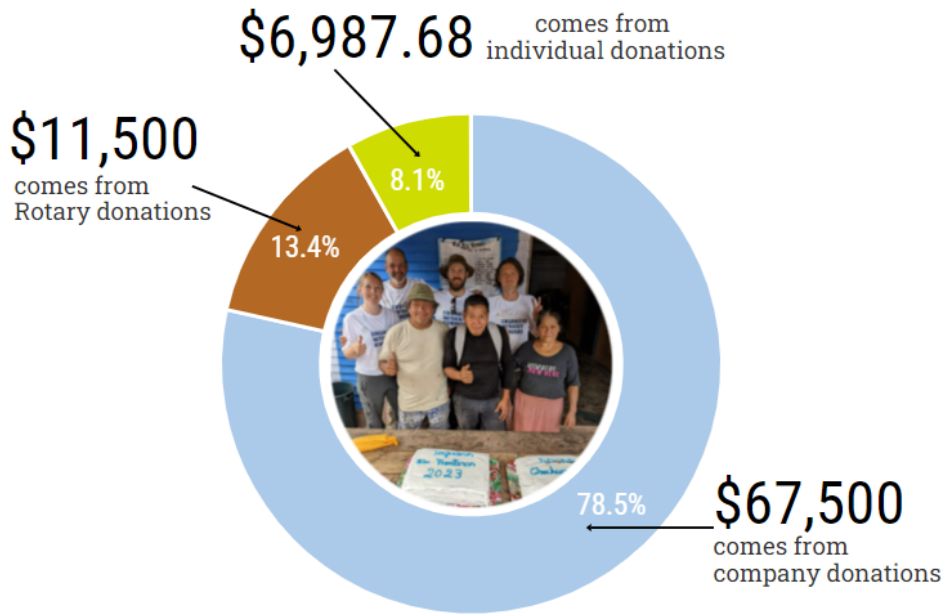
President

Engineers Without Borders - Minnesota Professional Chapter



From left to right is Alex Miller (Santa Elena Volunteer), Matt Wessale (EWB-MN President), Boris Martin (EWB-USA CEO), Jake Hexum (former EWB-MN President), Kevin Miller (EWB-MN Student Chapter Liaison)

EWB-MN 2023 Donations Summary



Total Donations: \$85,987.68

Fun Fact: In 2023, **62** individual/personal donations were given.

EWB-MN 2016-2023 Donations Summary

Since January 2016, EWB-MN has raised **\$485,000**.

Of that total, **\$348,000** of that has been used to construct EWB-MN led projects. And in 2024 we'll continue allocating funds as we construct Santa Elena, Rio Azul, and Chuchurras.

In 2024 EWB-MN will pass the \$500,000 milestone! We look forward to celebrating with our members and donors!

Thank you to our donors!

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Minnesota Chapter



Rotary Clubs

- Chanhassen Rotary Club
- Chaska Rotary Club
- Minneapolis City of Lakes
- Minneapolis #9
- St. Louis Park Rotary Club
- Waconia Rotary Club



We are a group of professional engineers, architects, scientists and others from Minnesota who aim to carry-out EWB-USA's mission. The Minnesota Professional Chapter has project teams implementing solutions for communities in need across the globe while also providing professional mentors for the student chapters in the state.

EWB-USA builds a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs and equip leaders to solve the world's most pressing challenges.

Contact Us

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