2025 DONOR REPORT

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA
Minnesota Professional Chapter

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

May 2026

THANK YOU

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we reflect and look back on this last year, there is a lot to celebrate and be proud of.

Our team has continued to deliver impactful projects that are supported by our amazing volunteers and the support of our generous donors, individuals, corporate partners and Rotary partners.

I am constantly amazed by our volunteers. The hard work and dedication from each of them is inspiring. This year, our very own Kevin Miller received the Mentorship Award at the National Conference - check out the Volunteer Spotlight to learn more about his amazing dedication.

A highlight for me this year was being able to attend the National Conference in Portland, Oregon with three of our members. We connected with our international partners, other chapters, and the EWB-USA staff that support us. The theme for the conference, Purposeful Partnerships, is an idea I support and believe our chapter has excelled with. We have built strong partnerships that have helped our chapter succeed. This includes partnerships with Rotary, international communities, and locally.

Our Rotary partnership is strong. We have successfully supported three projects since the inception of the project grant program led by the Rotary Club of Chanhassen. The 2026 project is the Janko Kollo Water Distribution project in Bolivia. This project will provide clean, reliable drinking water for 30 families living in a high-altitude desert.

We have strengthened our community connections with our international partners in Peru, Guatemala, and Bolivia. This year, with our partners, we completed the Rio Azul Secondary School in Guatemala. The Santa Elena water distribution project and Churchuras water distribution project are on track to be completed in the near future. These are amazing accomplishments and exciting milestones for the communities these projects are in.

Our local team has continued to support our community through accessibility improvements at Gibbs Farm and outdoor infrastructure upgrades at The Division of Indian Work.

We are so thankful for our volunteers, donors, and partners for helping us build a better world. It is our partnerships and your support that allow us to help under-resourced communities and build a more sustainable world.

Thank you

Cole Arends, PE
President
Engineers Without Borders USA - Minnesota Professional Chapter

12 TOTAL PROJECTS

3 COUNTRIES WITH INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

36 DIFFERENT DONORS SINCE 2020

VOLUNTEERS **800** (AND COUNTING!)

OVER **5,000** PEOPLE IMPACTED BY OUR PROJECTS

SANTA ELENA, GUATEMALA

Although the community of Santa Elena already had an existing water system, many residents lack access altogether, while others experience ongoing issues with system maintenance and limited capacity. Our chapter partnered with the community and local municipality to install a new well to support a new, more expansive, water distribution system in order to increase availability to the entire community. The distribution system would be designed by our chapter and implemented by the local community.

In 2022, our chapter completed an initial assessment with the community. They captured drone footage to help guide the design over the next couple of years. In 2025, with the design complete, our chapter visited again to celebrate the start of construction with the community. Through 2025 into 2026, our chapter has remained in contact with the community as they construct the water distribution system. We are planning a final visit to the community in 2026 to assess the completed construction and celebrate the new water distribution system with the community.

SANTA ELENA WATER SYSTEM

Location: Santa Elena, Quiché, Guatemala
Project Type: Water Distribution System
Status: Project is expected to be completed in 2026
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

Previously the community lacked a dedicated secondary school, requiring older students to share limited classroom space with younger children. This resulted in overcrowded conditions and frequent disruptions that hindered effective learning.

The newly completed school has significantly improved the situation. It features seven classrooms, administrative offices, a kitchen, and updated restroom facilities, all contributing to a safe and supportive educational environment. A new sports court also provides space for physical activity, fostering teamwork and enriching students' daily experiences.

In February 2025, our team visited Rio Azul to celebrate this important milestone with the community. The trip offered a chance to reflect on the impact of this multi-year effort, strengthen relationships with local partners, and witness firsthand the positive changes in the lives of students and their families.

RIO AZUL SCHOOL

Location: Rio Azul, Quiché, Guatemala
Project Type: School
Total Project Costs: $115,000
Status: Projected completed 2025
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 community of Chuchurras has long faced serious challenges in accessing clean and reliable water. Residents depended on collecting untreated water from nearby streams and rivers, which often dry up during the three-month dry season. The limited water that remains is frequently contaminated with fecal matter, creating significant health risks.

Back in 2018, an initial assessment helped identify the most effective approach to address these conditions. Over the next few years the team worked to design the water distribution system and traveled to the community in June 2023 and October 2024 to work with the community on the installation.

Through 2025, our chapter continued to work with the community remotely to assist with the construction. Over the past year, substantial progress has been made, and the project is now nearing completion. This effort represents an important step toward improving public health and overall quality of life in Chuchurras, ensuring residents have reliable access to safe water for the future.

CHUCHURRAS WATER SYSTEM

Location: Pasco Region of Peru
Project Type: Water Distribution System
Total Project Costs: $122,000
Status: Construction in progress, final implementation trip planned for 2026
Goal: Provide a year-round source of clean and reliable water to the community.

JANKO KOLLO, BOLIVIA

The Janko Kollo community faces ongoing challenges in accessing safe and hygienic water. Most households depend on hand-dug wells, which are often unreliable. During the dry season, many of these wells run dry, leaving families without a dependable water source. In addition, contamination from cattle waste frequently affects water quality, posing serious health risks.

This project seeks to address these issues by developing a reliable water distribution system. The new system will provide consistent access to clean, safe drinking water, significantly improving both public health and overall quality of life for residents.

In 2024, student volunteers from the University of Dayton visited the community to collect social and engineering data. This information assisted our chapter in the design phase throughout 2025 and implementation is planned for 2026 with the help of funds raised through the Rotary grant program.

JANKO KOLLO WATER SYSTEM

Location: La Paz, Bolivia
Project Type: Water Distribution System
Total Project Costs: $58,000
Status: Implementation 2026
Goal: To provide water to 30 families in the Janko Kollo community through a water distribution system.

SIMAJHULEU, GUATEMALA

The Simajhuleu water project is designed to improve water access for approximately 3,500 residents in Comalapa, Guatemala. The initiative focuses on repairing system leaks, upgrading existing spring boxes, and installing water meters to better evaluate efficiency and ensure long-term sustainability.

This project is a collaboration between the Minnesota Professional Chapter and the University of Minnesota Chapter, combining student leadership with professional mentorship. During the initial assessment in 2024, professional chapter volunteer Alex Behnke supported the team with drone mapping, helping identify priority areas for improvement.

In 2025, the Minnesota Professional Chapter partnered with Rotary Club of Chanhassen to secure $20,000 in funding through its newly established grant program to help with construction. This collaboration plays a key role in ensuring the project's long-term success and its impact on community health and quality of life.

SIMAJHULEU WATER SYSTEM

Location: Comalapa, Guatemala
Project Type: Water Distribution System
Total Project Costs: TBD
Status: Implementation 2026
Goal: To update the existing water infrastructure in Simajhuleu.

DIVISION OF INDIAN WORKS

Location: Minneapolis, MN
Project Type: Building improvement
Status: project complete
Goal: To improve outdoor infrastructure for educational and recreational use.

Our local projects team continued to assist with making improvements at the Division of Indian Works throughout 2025. They assisted with installing gutters and rain barrels on the property. They also made improvements to the outdoor space by grading around drainage areas. These additions help enhance the outdoor space functionality so it can continue to be used for outdoor programs and activities.

Pictured above: Volunteers next to the finished gutters and rain barrels.

Pictured above: Volunteers installing gutters

Pictured above: Volunteers next to a freshly graded drain

Pictured to the left, above, & below: Volunteers surveying the Gibbs farm before beginning designs for wheelchair accessible ramps.

GIBBS FARM PROJECT

Location: Falcon Heights, MN
Project Type: Building Improvement
Status: Design Phase in Progress
Goal: Improving accessibility to a historic farmhouse and schoolhouse using ramps to enhance the experience for wheelchair users and all visitors.

In 2025, our local projects team began planning and designing wheelchair ramps to make the buildings at Gibbs Farm more accessible for visitors. They spent an afternoon surveying around the entrances to the historic farmhouse and schoolhouse for the proposed ramps. They are now in the design phase of the ramps and will continue the design and implementation phase over the next year.

KEVIN MILLER, PE

For more than a decade, Kevin Miller has been a cornerstone of mentorship within the Engineers Without Borders - MN Professional chapter, supporting student teams at both the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and University of Minnesota Duluth. His impact goes far beyond technical guidance—Kevin has helped shape a generation of engineers who are not only skilled, but globally minded and community-focused.

Kevin's mentorship philosophy blends strong engineering fundamentals with a deep trust in students' ability to lead. He empowers teams to take ownership of their projects—especially those serving international partner communities—while ensuring they remain grounded in real community needs. Known for his supportive and thoughtful approach, Kevin helps students navigate challenges constructively, always mindful of their academic commitments and personal growth.

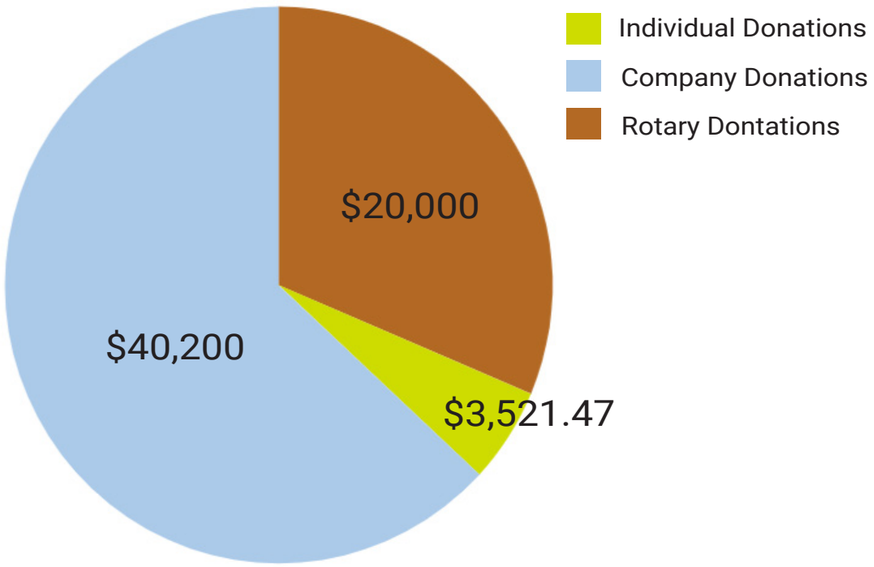
Pictured above: Kevin Miller with fellow EWB members & EWB President, Boris Johnson at the national conference.

With a background in sustainable design and leadership development, Kevin consistently encourages teams to think holistically—integrating sustainability, accountability, and long-term impact into their work. His ability to foster curiosity, respect, and trust has made him an invaluable mentor not only to students, but also to the broader EWB-MN network and its global partners.

In recognition of his exceptional dedication, Kevin was named a Fall 2025 recipient of the David Sacco Mentorship Fund Award. This honor celebrates mentors who demonstrate outstanding commitment to developing future leaders and strengthening community relationships.

Kevin's leadership reflects the very best of EWB-USA's mission—and we are grateful for the passion and guidance he brings to every team he supports.

2025 DONATIONS SUMMARY



Total Donations: $63,721.47

Fun Fact: as of 2025, EWB-MN has raised over half a million US dollars in donations.

2016-2025 Donations Summary

Since January 2016, EWB-MN has raised **$548,721.47**.

Of that total, **$440,000** of that has been used to construct EWB-MN led projects. And in 2026 we'll continue allocating funds as we finish up our projects in Chuchurras, Santa Elena, Janko Kollo, and Simajhuleu.

We are so thankful for all of our donors who have helped us raise over $500,000 to help communities both locally and internationally!

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Thank you to our donors!

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.

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