

Westside Water – Global Water Initiative

Dear Fellow Westside Water User,

What is that coming out of your faucet? Reliable, safe water. And at the last annual meeting, we discussed what many other people face– a lack of reliable and safe water.

Did you know?:

"2 billion people are infected and 4 million infants and children die each year from diarrhea, which is caused largely by contaminated water and food"

(World Health Organization 1992, 1995, Cited in: Bioscience Vol. 48 No. 10 October, 1998)

What could our successful water association do for a few of those afflicted water users?

As the result of a resolution passed unanimously by those present at the last annual meeting and supported by the entire WWA Board, we, the Westside Water Association have a unique opportunity to do something about this terrible state of affairs at a negligible cost: as little as the cost of a single cup of coffee per month.

How could we do this?

Through the Westside Water Association's **Global Water Initiative**. The resolution allows WWA shareholders to choose to contribute a tiny addition to their bi-monthly bill to a dedicated fund. A recipient organization -whose mission is to provide clean water to those who don't have it- would be selected by a small WWA committee which would oversee program effectiveness and report back at every annual meeting. An e-mail from our first selected organization is provided here for your review.

Your participation is voluntary. If ALL of us (235 shareholders) participated -at even the lowest amount- \$2820.00 annually could be raised! That amount would offer so much hope for people who have the desire but lack the resources to secure clean water for themselves and their children.

Please respond to this invitation to participate (enclosed) and return with your regular bill payment. If you'd prefer to call in your response, call Enid Dolstad (567-4798). Voluntary participation is a critical element of this proposal. Please indicate a choice even if you don't want to participate at this time.

ALL RESPONSES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Invitation to participate in WWA’s Global Water Initiative

The following are the options for participation. . **Please indicate at which level you’d like to participate.**

- | | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| 1. \$1 a month (= \$2 per billing period or \$12/yr) | YES | _____ |
| 2. \$2/month | YES | _____ |
| 3. \$5/month | YES | _____ |
| 4. \$10/month | YES | _____ |

If you do not wish to participate, please check here -----> _____

Your water share # (look on your bill) ---> _____

Your Name _____

ALL RESPONSES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Details about this resolution:

- Shareholders determine if and at what level they’d like to participate
- This level will be in effect until we hear otherwise from you. You may increase, decrease or decline at any time
- Your level of participation will be added to each bi-monthly bill and tracked separately
- Each year a WWA committee will choose the recipient organization. (this year it will be **El Porvenir** (Recommended by the folks at Global Water)
- A report on the program will be given at the Annual Meeting of shareholders
- More information about El Porvenir and a project description and budget:
 - Westside Water Website www.westsidewater.org
 - El Provenir www.elporvenir.org
- For hard copies of budget and El Porvenir description, contact Enid Dolstad 567-4798 and she’ll get them to you.

Our Recipient: El Porvenir

Description of this year's recipient organization, El Porvenir, from an e-mail message.

“What a nice message to get. I do thank Ted Kuepper (Global Water) for giving you our name and address.

I have read your description of the idea you have for an interchange between some of your clients (community water associations) and community water projects here in Nicaragua. The type of exchange of support and information that you are proposing is the usual relationship we foster between our project villages and their sponsors. Each of our projects has a different sponsor and they all get photos, narrative and financial report, and sometimes written thanks from the village. Many donors have come down here to visit the wells and latrines that they funded. If you decide to visit, I will be your hostess, translator and tour guide. In addition to receiving reports and photos, if any of the members of your client associations would like to come down and work on a water or sanitation project, we would be happy to have them join one of our one or two week work groups. While we could not represent that they could work on the very same project they funded, they could go and see it, and the project they would help to build would be very similar I am sure. Our web page has more information about these work trips. (<http://www.elporvenir.org>)

Our water projects are almost all simple hand dug wells as you probably know from reading our website. Occasionally we develop a spring capture gravity flow system and on very rare occasion we develop a system which uses an electrical pump. The largest cost in our development work, and the hardest to fund, is sanitation to accompany and protect the water system. We are always looking for funders whose hearts are generous enough to encompass latrines !! as well as water. I will attach to my reply a sample complete community development budget including water, sanitation, and reforestation. Do you think that any of your clients [she's referring to water systems here –ed] would be interested in supporting this type of integral development? We surely hope so.

Thank you so much for your interest

Carole Harper
President of the Board
El Porvenir

More about El Porvenir

From their website <http://www.elporvenir.org>

Mission

- To improve the standard of living of poor people in Nicaragua through sustainable self-help water, sanitation and reforestation projects.

Goals

- To improve the health of poor people, especially the children, and to reduce infant mortality.
- To lessen the physical burden on women and children of carrying water.
- To support self-help, community-initiated efforts in rural villages.
- To transfer to the villagers skills which they can use to improve their lives.
- To preserve the watersheds on which the water projects depend.

Activities

- El Porvenir does not initiate projects; we respond to requests for assistance from rural villages.
- Village residents elect their own water committee, provide all labor on a volunteer basis, and take responsibility for the long-term maintenance of all projects.
- El Porvenir encourages the committee to include women among their members, provides technical expertise and education, and funds the primary materials needed to complete the projects.
- Staff visit the projects periodically after their completion, to verify that they are still in good working order, are being maintained by the community, and continue to provide for the community's water and sanitation needs.

BUDGET: REHABILITATION OF A HAND DUG WELL
COMMUNITY: POSERON COMARCA: SANTA LUCIA

Exchange Rate: 16.60

Materials	Quant.	Unit	Cost/Unit	Total cost \$C	Total cost in US dollars
Bricks	340	Each	1.00	340.00	20
Cement	18	Bags	102.00	1,836.00	111
Sand	1	Trip	800.00	800.00	48
Rebar 3/8"	20	bars	52.00	1,040.00	63
Tie wire	1 ½	Lb	10.00	15.00	1
Metal door	1	Each	800.00	800.00	48
Barbed wire for fence	2	Roll	420.00	840.00	51
Staples	2	Lb	10.00	20.00	1
Rope pump	1	Each	1,992.00	1,992.00	120
Transport of materials	2	Trip	1200.00	2,400.00	145
Legalization of land	1	Each	664.00	664.00	40
Material sub total				9,947.00	628
Contingency 10 %				994.70	60
Tools					75
Total Direct Costs				10,941.70	753
Indirect Costs					
Staff time - developer	10	days	511.7	5,117.00	301
Moto expenses (21 kms X2 = 42 X 10 visitas)	420	Km.	420 X 1.6	672.00	40
Per diem development worker.	10	days	35.00	350.00	21
Total indirect costs				6,571.00	362
Total cost of project				17,512.70	1,115

BUDGET: CONSTRUCTION OF 10 LATRINES.
COMMUNITY: POSERON COMARCA: SANTA LUCIA

Exchange Rate: 16.60

Materials	Quant	U/m	Cost/Unit	Total cost	Total cost \$ US dollars
Bricks	6,000	Each	1.00	6,000.00	361
Cement	30	Bags	102.00	3,060.00	184
Sand	2	Trip	900.00	1,800.00	108
Precast Floors and Seats	10	Each	350.00	3,500.00	211
Zinc / roof	20	Sheets	114.00	2,280.00	137
Transport of materials	5	Trip	1200.00	6,000.00	353
Materials sub total				21,140.00	1,354
Tools				830.00	75
Contingency 10 %				2,114.00	127

Total Direct Costs				24,084.00	1,556
Indirect Costs					
Staff time - developer	10	days	511.7	5117.00	301
Moto expenses (21 kms X2 = 42 X 10 visitas)	420	Km.	420 X 1.6	672.00	40
Per diem development worker.	10	days	35.00	350.00	21
Total indirect costs				6,571.00	362
Total cost of project				30,655.00	1,918

COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS - LATRINES

\$US

Families benefitted - latrines	12
Persons benefitted	68
COST/ BENEFIT	
Cost per family	160
Cost per person	28
Total Cost of project	1,918

COST / BENEFIT ANALYSIS -WELL

US\$

Families benefitted - well	12
Persons benefitted	68
COST/ BENEFIT	
Cost per family	96
Cost per person	17
Total Cost of project	1,155

El Porvenir provides follow up support to the communities in which we develop basic infrastructure. A community health educator visits the village during construction and for several years afterward to teach basic hygiene (handwashing, safe handling and storage of water, latrine maintenance), to test the water quality in the well and promote chlorination if needed, to encourage good care of the projects, and to collect health data about the community. This staff member's salary and all her expenses are paid by a church funding source.

El Porvenir also provides environmental education to all Project communities, explaining the relationship between trees and water, and the concept of a microwatershed. Villages who are motivated to join our reforestation program receive training and materials to construct a village seedling nursery, tend the seedlings, and transplant them at the beginning of the rainy season into protected areas.

Our reforestation program offers two important benefits to families who participate in reforestation: several grafted fruit tree seedlings for each family (usually avocado, mango, orange, lemon, papaya), and educational coloring books for their children. The cost of these supplemental programs is shown below.

The grafted fruit tree seedlings usually bear fruit within two years rather than the five to seven years required for other fruit trees. The families plant these seedlings around the yard of their house and the women water them with their dishwater and washwater. Within three or four years many of these trees are producing abundantly, and some families take all they want to eat and then sell the surplus, realizing a small cash income or bartering for other foods.

The elementary school environmental education project consists of a coloring book developed by our reforesters with drawings by young people to illustrate the importance of trees. We give a coloring book and a box of crayons to each elementary school child in our reforestation project villages, and the reforester in cooperation with the teacher gives a presentation to the children.

PROJECT COST SUMMARY

\$US

Total Cost Well Project	1,115
Total Cost Latrine Project	1,918
<i>Supplement to well and latrines projects:</i>	
Staff time - Reforester	100
Seed, plastic bags, tools for village nursery	100
Coloring books	66
Fruit tree seedlings	60
	3,359