



The Ann Campana Judge Foundation Winter 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

We at ACJF hope you had a joyful, peaceful holiday season and hope your 2016 will be a good one. Our 2015 has been busy, what with a trip to Honduras in early August. Rolando López, continues to be our go-to man in country, functioning as our factotum and ambassador. None of our work in Honduras would be possible without this man. As I have said before he seems to be once or (at most) twice removed from almost everyone in the country. In November 2014 he ran for the National Congress but came up just a little bit short. Honduras has a unicameral legislature with 128 deputies. Rolando ran as a member of the nascent PAC – Partido Anticorrupción. The PAC did win about 10% of the deputy positions, not bad for a first-time party.

Escuela Técnica de Agua Potable (ETAP)

The 'Technical School for Potable Water' (<http://aplv.org/etap>) is a small school run by the NGO Agua Para La Vida (<http://www.aplv.org>) in Rio Blanco, Nicaragua. It trains water technicians with a two-year, rigorous, boarding-school type approach using online materials and exercises. It educates young Nicaraguans to solve rural water and sanitation problems and then sends them out to work for municipalities, NGOs, and other organizations. Students are educated in cohorts of eight, two years at a time.

I first learned of ETAP by accident on a visit to APLV in June 2009. I was there to check out some of APLV's work that the ACJF had funded. I

August 2015 Visit

Las Palmas

I checked on the dam of Las Palmas project and it is holding water just fine. It had been repaired in spring 2014.

El Tamarindo

As reported in the Fall 2013 newsletter we had started a water project in El Tamarindo, a small community (approximately 150 persons) in the Sierra del Merendón, a mountain range just northwest of San Pedro Sula, the financial capital of Honduras. The village is in the Municipality of Choloma, a region of about 250,000 persons and a major clothing manufacturing center. If you have an article of clothing that says 'Hecho en Honduras' the odds are good that it was made in the vicinity of Choloma.

The system is completed in El Tamarindo and working well. The villagers deserve a lot of credit – they started this

Some background: El Tamarindo is isolated from the rest of the municipality and does not have potable water. The villagers started building their own project but ran out of money and materials. Alex had checked out their work and was impressed with what they had accomplished. We decided to fund the rest of the project. The villagers had hoped to finish the project by March 2014 but that proved impossible.

To expedite the work in El Tamarindo Rolando, the leaders of El Tamarindo's *junta de agua* (water committee), and I met with officials of Choloma's water department. After some discussion the head of the water department agreed to provide a 5,000 gallon tank and to maintain the system upon its completion. The community had to incorporate, providing legal status for the *junta de agua*.

As I write this Jorge Chávez is resurveying the system and getting me specifications for the pressure relief valves that will be necessary. I plan to travel there in March 2015 to check on things and pay the bills.



Jorge Chávez and Rolando López at the Las Palmas tank

Los Achiotes

Rolando and I had been told of this village (the name refers to small, fruit-bearing trees) in the Municipality of Omoa. It's quite accessible, right off the main highway that runs along the sea to the Guatemala border - quite a far cry from our usual work environment. The community has about 350 residents but no potable water. But they have a big new, water tank – just no pipes to fill it up. What happened? An Engineers Without Borders student chapter from a US university had worked with them, designed a water system, and provided funding. The students were slated to return in June 2013 to help the villagers finish the project. But the students' university forbade them from returning. Why?

Perhaps you haven't heard, but Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world and San Pedro Sula, its financial capital where Rolando López lives and into which I fly, is the world's most dangerous city (sometimes alternating with Caracas). These rankings are widely quoted and you can

bet that a university is not going to allow its students to go there on an official university-sanctioned trip. Can you imagine the liability issues if something happened? That's the main reason I no longer take students there. It's unfortunate. I have visited Honduras about thirty times since 2001 with nary a problem. I stay out of places where I shouldn't be, use common sense, and work with locals.

In any case, we are considering helping the Los Achiotes folks finish the water project. They have a good, protected supply and worked hard to get where they are. The engineering and training have been done. The pipe needs to be laid, not a small task but easily doable. And I want to emphasize that the EWB chapter was not responsible for this fiasco; they meant well and the villagers are working from the chapter's schematics.

September 2014 Visit

!No hay lluvia!

No rain! I usually avoid travel during this period, which is the middle of the rainy season, which roughly corresponds to the Atlantic hurricane season: 1 June through 30 November. But this year another bullet was dodged: no rain. Main tasks were to check on potential projects and ensure that the Las Palmas dam was holding up (yes!). I also wanted to attend a library (say what?) dedication on 2 September. More about that later.

El Tamarindo

It looks as though the funding for the water tank will not materialize. The Municipality of Choloma is undergoing some turmoil. Suffice it to say that some funds have been 'misplaced'. They were not funds that belonged to the ACJF but they were to be used for the water tank. The ACJF has the funds to build the tank, and if that's what it takes, we'll do that.

Children's Library at Monte Vista

Monte Vista is a village in the Sierra de Omoa, our normal stomping ground. It is a hub village among six villages: centrally located and the gathering point and commercial center. It has the area's elementary school that serves all villages. A kindergarten has been started by Maria del

Carmen Ramirez and now she runs the new library as well – without taking a salary!

Read more and see photos here: <http://is.gd/Rbing8> Here is a bit of what I wrote in the aforementioned post:

After 35 years a professional librarian, why not?

Today, in the village of Monte Vista in Honduras, villagers dedicated a library in honor of Mary Frances. It is part of the kindergarten school building, and, like the school, serves six communities in the rugged region in the Municipio of Omoa. The library serves all but will focus on the children.

The library was the villagers' idea. They know the importance of reading and knowledge and wanted their children to have a better education in a country where only a sixth-grade education is required and provided by the 'benevolent souls' in Tegucigalpa. Why give your citizens a high-school education when one half as much will do fine, thank you very much. Amigo Rolando López will donate a computer or two. Wireless Internet? Perhaps that will come to pass.

The villagers donated 370 person-days and 95 mule-days (hauling stuff) in time to construct the library. The ACJF used several hundred dollars left over from village water projects in the area to help purchase building materials. Mary Frances and I also made up the shortfall.

Pretty neat!

Other Projects Completed/Funded

Towards the end of 2014 we granted El Porvenir (<http://elporvenir.org>) \$5,000 for its latrine project in Terrabona, Nicaragua.

El Porvenir's project, *Improved Sanitation in El Rodeo, Nicaragua*, was completed on schedule and submitted on March 2014. View it here: <http://is.gd/GEIhhP>

Our support of Steve Schneider, who produces the booklet, *Water Supply*

Well Guidelines for Use in Developing Countries, continues. We have supported Steve (\$500) and are acting as a collection/disbursement agent for tax-free contributions. So far, we have collected \$16,150 for this seminal publication. Steve has produced third editions of the guidelines in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese (Mandarin) <http://is.gd/NBj64a> The Swahili translation will soon be updated to a third edition.

If you want all or some of your donation to go to Steve's project, be sure to let me know.

Finances, Donations, and Amazon Smile

We have \$7,500 in the bank with none of that committed to any project. We have collected \$15,930 in 2015. You can make a donation by writing a check to the ACJ Foundation and mailing it to the ACJF (3359 NW Poppy Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330-3476) or use PayPal for a secure, online credit card transaction. Visit <http://www.acjfoundation.org> and click on 'Contributions'. Don't forget Amazon Smile – when you buy from Amazon Smile 0.5% goes to us. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Our 2014 990-EZ form was posted last May; visit our website and click on 'Financials'. You can see what we've done with limited funds. Recall that we have no paid USA staff and all Board of Director travel, including my trips to Honduras, is self-funded. Other than fees to the State of Oregon, PayPal for credit-card processing, and our Internet hosting we don't spend much money for administration.

Activities

The American Water Resources Association's magazine ***Water Resources IMPACT*** has just published its January 2016 issue devoted to topic of Hydrophilanthropy. I have a brief (c. 1800 words) article in there about Honduras that you can access here: <http://bit.ly/1S26b3D>. You can view the entire issue online or download a PDF at the aforementioned URL. There are seven hydrophilanthropy articles in the issue. The lead article by friend and colleague Dave Kremer is not only humorous but extremely relevant as he describes some of the mistakes made when implementing WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in developing regions).

I am still on the Board of Directors of the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation [<http://is.gd/XGFPxq>] serving as Vice President

El Fin y El Futuro

That's the end, as in the newsletter, and the future, as in our plans.

I plan to take a brief trip (one week or so) to Honduras in late March 2015. I will check on the El Tamarindo project and further investigate the Los Achiotres project. Our reputation is spreading; other NGOs have heard of us and some partnerships might be in the offing.

Thanks go to the ACJF's Directors, Loring Green and Mary Frances Campana, and Webmaster Jeanine McGann, who have been with the ACJF since the beginning. None of the above would have been possible without their work. And **THANKS** to our donors, because they make us go – no money, no work!

Special thanks to my *spouse* and *best friend* Mary Frances for unfailing support, love, and encouragement.

Please email (aguadoc@live.com) or call +1 541 602 4085 (Skype: aguadoc) if you want to chat.

Enjoy the holidays and 2015! Thank you all for your continued, generous support!

- Michael

Pictures Follow!



Las Palmas dam. The grouted fissure is between the two men in the foreground, at the waterline.



Las Palmas pressure break tank. Rolando López is on the right.



Inside the pressure break tank.



Library signs – front door and side of building.



Monte Vista kindergarten (left door) and library (right door).



Maria del Carmen Ramirez and Rolando.



Maria del Carmen Ramirez and some reluctant performers.



Mary Frances' library sign with pictures and biography.

Text of the biography:

Mary Frances Campana worked in libraries in the U.S. for 35 years. She held management and information research positions in government, public, university and corporate libraries. She taught library science skills in rural California libraries and set up a library for a Panamanian environmental organization. Mary Frances also holds a Masters degree in Spanish, with a specialization in Latin American literature. Her favorite pastimes are supporting her husband Michael's work in water resources, reading and riding horses.