



News from EWB-MSOE

September 2017



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA
Milwaukee School of Engineering Chapter

“It’s Safe to Cross the River Now”

When EWB-USA recognized our 2016 Chumisa Bridge as one of its worldwide Premier Projects, they explained that it “exemplifies the technical and educational components of an EWB-USA project.” Now the Chumisa Bridge is featured in EWB-USA’s 2016 Annual Report, too. Resident Martín Pú told the post-implementation monitors, “It’s safe to cross over the river now... Safety is a great gift!”

These two quotes represent everything EWB-MSOE strives for in our Guatemala program: With support from volunteer mentors and the Wisconsin Professionals chapter, we provide an excellent technical learning opportunity for our students – some tell us it’s the most valuable of their college experience. We provide an intense opportunity for personal growth through service and leadership for those students who travel on our survey and construction trips. And we provide critical assistance to help our partner communities achieve their self-determined development goals.

Temal Tuk-Tuk Bridge Part of Rotary Trio

In March 2017 EWB-MSOE completed a unique bridge to serve the residents of El Temal, Guatemala, and surrounding villages. The cable-supported bridge spans 150 feet across a deep gorge, and, in addition to carrying pedestrians, horses, and motorcycles, carries the three-wheeled motor taxis known as “tuk-tuks.” This gives the residents much improved access to the nearby city of Zacualpa’s schools, markets, and medical facilities.

The Temal Bridge, EWB-Marquette’s footbridge at Aguacate, and EWB-UW’s footbridge at Rio Lindo are a trio funded by a Rotary Global Grant. The grant is the latest manifestation of the great partnership we’ve developed with the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, other Milwaukee-area Rotary Clubs, and the Guatemala Vista Hermosa Rotary Club. It included key funding for the three bridges plus agricultural training – provided by the Guatemalan organization Tenamaste – that will increase the economic capacity of the farmers.

Your support needed for 2018 Aguacate Bridge

Our students and their mentors from the Wisconsin Professionals are entering the final design phase for a vehicular bridge at El Aguacate. The bridge over the Rio Coyoya will complete a section of road

network for the villages to Joyabaj’s southwest. We first visited the site in June 2015 (during impressive high-water), and we signed a preliminary project agreement with leaders from three communities when we returned in April 2017 to do surveys. We’re on-track to submit drawings and other design documents to EWB-USA later this fall, and are committed to construction in February through April 2018.

With its 60-foot clear span, this will be our biggest vehicular bridge. The Wisconsin Professionals will help the MSOE team on two construction trips and will fully staff a third trip, giving us confidence that we can complete this challenging project. We’ll adapt design details and construction methods developed by the Wisconsin chapters on a progression of bridges, including our 2009 Cuarto Centro de Estanzuela Bridge and our 2016 Chumisa Bridge.

As with all of our projects, significant cost-sharing allows us to leverage our donors’ funds. In addition to all the donated labor, the municipality and the cooperating communities will contribute approximately 35% of the cost for construction materials. That makes EWB-MSOE’s share of the construction (not including travel costs and related expenses) approximately \$42,000. Please consider a generous contribution so we can complete the Aguacate Bridge!

Thanks to 2016-17 Sponsors

Rotary Club of Milwaukee, and reliable corporate sponsors including JF Ahern, CSD Structural Engineers, Stutzki Engineering, and Dakota Supply

Many generous individuals – especially EWB-MSOE alumni

MSOE’s Office for Servant Leadership

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- As an alternative to on-line donations, you can write a check to EWB-MSOE and send it to Doug Stahl, MSOE, 1025 N Broadway, Milwaukee WI 53202.



The first tuk-tuk crossing the new Temal bridge



Temal residents making their first walk across the gorge