The following Rotary Club has initiated a global grant application as detailed below. They would welcome any club within District 6440 to partner and thereby fulfill the funding needs. The Principal Contact will be pleased to come to your club and make a presentation about the proposed program. Please convey your interest to the primary contact. Let us help each other to “Do Good in the World.”

**Project Title: Water Distribution, Los Alas, Chalatenango, El Salvador Total Project Budget:** $90,000

**Area of Focus:** Clean Water

**Sponsoring Int’l Club Name:** Saint Charles Breakfast Rotary Club District # 6440

**Principal Contact Name:** A. J. Voth, International Service Chair

**Email:** ajvoth76@gmail.com **Phone:** 630-531-5015

**Host Country: El Salvador**  **Host District:** 4240 **Host Club:** San Salvador Noroeste

**Needs Assessment:**

The four communities—Los Alas, El Caulote, La Loma, and Las Minas—are subsistence farming hamlets. Situated in the department of Chalatenango, a hilly northern region bordering Honduras, the area was especially targeted by government army attacks during the Salvadorian Civil War from 1979 to 1992. After the peace accords of 1992, many residents resettled into the communities. The department’s physical remoteness and the lack of urban development have discouraged capital investments in potable water supply structures by ANDA, the dominant service provider in El Salvador.

Despite very limited financial resources, every hamlet has a highly organized and effective elected organization responsible for the administration of potable water services, including implementing repairs and additions to the existing systems. Even so, the lack of assistance from their municipalities left the communities unable to fund a large implementation to keep up with their water needs.

**Project Description:**

The project’s objective is to build a reliable, sufficient, and uncontaminated supply of potable water for in-home use.  The hilly region, with large elevation changes, makes a gravity-fed potable water system feasible.  The funding would be used towards building a new water storage tank for each community and a 6.8-km conduction line from an existing mountain-top spring box to each tank.  With the project, all 1,090 residents in four communities will receive access to potable water all day-long and all year-round.

**Beneficiaries:**

There are four communities that are affected by the Los Alas Water project; Los Alas, Las Minas, El Caulote, and La Loma. Los Alas’s population is around 115 residents and with the additional communities, the local population totals between 600-800 people. The residents are natives of El Salvador and are subsistence farmers in the northern rural part of the country. Each community has a community development board, or ADESCO, and is part of the larger Central ADESCO. Each ADESCO has responsibility for their portion of the water distribution system.

**Sustainability:**

Once complete the water distribution system will be maintained by the Central ADESCO. The Central ADESCO is responsible for creating a system to collect water fees which will be used to maintain the system. Solidar Suiza is an in-country partner organization that is responsible for constructing the in community distribution system from the storage tanks to each individual home. One of Solidar Suiza’s roles in the project is to help the ADESCOs develop and implement the monetary water fee system. Additionally, all components and materials used in the construction of the system will be sourced locally and extensive training on system operations, maintenance and hygiene will take place during and after construction.

**Overall Outcome and Impact:**

The overall outcome of the project is to construct a gravity-fed water distribution system to each household in the communities of Los Alas, El Caulote, La Loma, and Las Minas. Members of the Central ADESCO will decide on the final design and discuss pre-construction logistics as well as construction activities prior to commencement of Phase II. Construction activities prior to Phase II involves trenching of the main conduction line as well as all the branch lines (to each community). The main construction activities will include laying the piping, connecting the main connection line and hooking up the main storage tanks. After the system is constructed a general health education session will be conducted for the residents in four communities. There will also be an intensive training program for select operators on the correct and proper operation and maintenance of the water supply system.

Ultimately, a final survey will be conducted to gain an understanding of how access to clean, safe, and reliable water has impacted the community member’s health. The survey results will be compared to the data on the first assessment trip report. While this project has a direct impact on people’s health, it is hoped that through this project process, the communities feel a greater sense of ownership and confidence to tackle projects themselves.