

The Vision



A newsletter of *A Vision for Clean Water*

Providing clean water and sanitation to those who need them through education and collaboration

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Update on Handwashing Stations Project for Native American Communities

Water is an extremely limited and precious resource in the dry environment of the Eastern Navajo Nation. Of course it is a constant concern for the approximately 30% of Navajo households who do not have running water in their homes and must rely on hauling water to meet their daily water needs for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. In some cases, individuals may have to travel 40 miles to a water collection point.

Saint Bonaventure Indian Mission and School (<https://www.stbonaventuremission.org/>) is one location within the Navajo Nation that provides access to clean water to the members of its surrounding community. The School does this at no cost and in two ways - direct delivery of trucked water to those who lack mobility or for those with mobility, an onsite well.

Each day approximately 20 families utilize the school's well to fill their 50-gallon barrels for their household water needs. The communal touching of this shared spigot was identified as a potential transmission point for the COVID-19 for this community where the pandemic had hit particularly hard. Knowing that World Health Organization's Director-General had indicated that "*Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases*", St. Bonaventure and AVFCW identified that handwashing at this communal collection point could reduce the potential for transmitting of Covid and other diseases. Until we could provide more permanent washing stations, we did what we could by providing commercial liquid hand sanitizer stations and sufficient gallons of sanitizer.

We were able to get hand washing stations delivered in time for the Community Health Wellness Day hosted at the school. A Vision for Clean Water also supplied soap,

paper towels and convenient storage sheds to keep the stations and supplies dry and safe. A Troy Rotary grant helped us fund this project. Also, NSF International (a global not-for-profit health and safety organization) delivered hand washing hygiene learning worksheets, stickers, and other resources the children will enjoy and learn from. If you are interested in these learning supplies for your own school or home, go to <http://www.nsfscrubclub.org>.



Clean Water Learning for Children in Guatemala

A Vision for Clean Water is providing a grant to the RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) project. This grant will assist in implementing remote computer learning in 50 schools in rural villages of Guatemala using a WiFi-based education information network. These communities are without access to the internet through traditional methods.

Specifically, the AVFCW grant is dedicated to providing 10 focused Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education activities within the platform. Courses will be presented once per month over an academic year to students in grades 4, 5 and 6.

The RACHEL platform consists of a preloaded WiFi server containing a Terabyte of education and research materials, including thousands of books, videos and educational games. The students access the interactive educational information using Chromebook laptops. The introduction of these materials and methods aims to advance knowledge of health and wellness and provide experience in utilizing modern technology.

Peter Tanner, who had been an A Vision for Clean Water volunteer for many years, presented this opportunity to our board and other volunteers on behalf of Junilja', an environmental education-focused organization in Guatemala. AVFCW's education collaborator, Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology, has developed the educational materials for this project. We will share more about this project as it develops.

AVFCW Loses a Friend

A Vision for Clean Water is mourning the loss of our longtime volunteer Tom Hunt who died last December. After attending his first CAWST biosand filter training, Tom through 1ne22Ministries (<https://www.one22ministries.org/>), established four biosand filter producing operations in Cuba. These operations have produced and installed hundreds of these cement filters in the poorest homes in Cuba – at no cost to the recipients. He volunteered at our workshops and counselled many others interested in biosand filters. He will be greatly missed.



Donate to AVFCW

Make a [donation](#): help install hand washing stations in the Navajo Nation.

avisionforcleanwater.org

or

190 Paragon, Troy, MI 48098

Become a **sustaining member** via PayPal. Use the [DONATE](#) button on the AVFCW homepage and choose **Recurring**.

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