

## Honduras-Santa Rosa de Copan IMA Instituto Maria Auxiliadora

### Aqua Project



VIDES+USA: Kirsten Rotz with Paul Braden.

Paul is a US Air Force engineer who has volunteered his time and expertise for the **WATER PLUMBING PROJECT** to help fix the terrible water problem (polluted and most impractical plumbing) we have at our IMA school in Santa Rosa de Copan. At IMA (Instituto Maria Auxiliadora in Copan) we offer besides room and board, education and preparation for life for poor girls who, without it would be part of the Migrants looking for opportunities outside of Honduras to survive.

The next project we will ask him to look into is to obtain solar panels for our St Mary Mazzarello School in San Pedro Sula. They have no hot water nor heat. There Kirsten serves the poor and rescued girls from the streets and from the gangs.

*[Note: Paul supervised and guided the plumbing renewal at IMA, Santa Rosa de Copan. Alexander DeKeratry will work on the **WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT** during his volunteer year 2015-2016.]*

Friday, August 29, 2014

. Attached are pictures our sisters sent us yesterday. They are very happy and most grateful that you will help them. I hope the pictures help.

First of all, thank you so much for your interest and support of this project! It truly means a lot to see a group of people come together to serve the community. Thank you so much!

This is just a summary of everything we know about the project in Honduras. Right now the dates for this project are September 18 - 22. I would like to try and get everyone on the same page, so I did my best to get all the info together in one place as concisely as possible:

Location -

- The location is a boarding school for girls run by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Salesian Sisters (FMA).
- The school houses 4-6 sisters and a little over 50 boarding girls in addition to the 250+ students who commute.
- There is no solid physical address like we have in the States. However if you use Google Maps, it gives an accurate location: "Instituto Salesiano Maria Auxiliadora" in Barrio El Carmen of Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras.
- The airport nearest to the school, which the Sisters are familiar with, is the international airport in San Pedro Sula.

Work -

- The Sisters are not too savvy on what needs to be done, however they are eagerly trying their best to get us as much information as possible.
- We received their request for help over a year ago, so this has been a continuing problem for them that needs to be solved.
- The Sisters are working on taking pictures of what they have, however they are concerned that they do not know enough to accurately capture anything useful...I will send those pictures to everyone once we have received them.
- The original pipes are very old, metal pipes. The work that has been done is mostly patchwork, so there are most likely PVC pipes thrown in here and there. The Sisters express that they are not entirely sure exactly what has been done to the system in terms of work. As long as the water is running - they have not been overly involved with what work was done.
- The work that has been done was done by local handymen or common workers, and not by a plumber. They do not have access to a certified plumber, so all the work done has been haphazard and mostly just to keep the community with water.
- Since there is no "plumber", the Sisters will not be able to get a diagnosis of the problem. However, Paul has a co-worker who has offered to go and assess the situation beforehand. We will certainly know more after that.

I am working on getting a more accurate report of the problems from a volunteer we had living in the community for 10 months of this year (August 2013 - June 2014). However, she is in the midst of moving so she's temporarily unavailable. Talking with her previously (before I was aware that the community had requested help), she was telling me that water was the biggest physical problem she struggled with. We didn't go into too much technical detail since we were just sharing missions stories and not trying to diagnose a problem, so I will see what she can tell us as soon as she's available.

So, that's where we are at right now. If you have any questions or concerns, or need clarification on something. Please let me know. We are in communication with the Sisters in Honduras, so if you want to ask them questions, we can translate that and get it to them.

Thank you so much, again, for wanting to help out this community! We are praying for you!







