

Summary of Progress regarding Education and Water Projects in Malingua Pamba & the contiguous 7 communities, Ecuador April, 2003 through October, 2009

April, 2003 Pam Gilbert, recently retired math teacher from Boulder, CO got lost in the Andes. Two indigenous (Quechua) boys who were walking home (2 hrs) from their Saturday secondary education lessons, went 1.5 hrs out of their way to help her. She was touched by their gracious help and their passion when they spoke about the importance of education. She didn't realize that the gentle yet strong Quechua spirit was about to change the direction of her life.

Oct, 2003 After dreaming about the boys and feeling the passion which radiated from their eyes when they spoke about their desire for a secondary education, Pam returns to Ecuador to try to help them. She discovered that their community only provided a very mediocre elementary education in a classic one-room school with one teacher for all 6 grades. The president of the community suggested building a classroom. The labor will be provided through *mingas* – “volunteer labor” for which the Quechua are famous. She agrees to return and provide funding for the materials (\$1,000). They were to make 1,000 cement blocks. Meanwhile, Pam's friends got inspired by the chain of events and sent \$4,000 in their Christmas cards.

Apr, 2004 Pam returns with \$5,000 and the work begins in earnest on a large classroom plus an apartment including a **shower**. to be used for 2 teachers (the county seat is 2.5 hrs away).



Minga is Quechua for **barn raising**

Front: classroom Back center: Shower
Back left: 2 bedrooms Back right: kitchen/lv room



Sep. 2004 Inauguration of our Colegio (secondary school) with 31 students in '8th grade'. The people were SO proud!

Unfortunately our **shower** didn't work. The water pressure wasn't consistent for proper functioning of the flash heater and the shower occupant often got scalded.



Apr, 2005 We build a two-holer composting toilet with passive solar features and a mini-greenhouse. (Note: doesn't need water to work.)
 Nov, 2005 Meanwhile, we are trying to solve the shower problem. All the while, we are losing our teachers who are used to a more comfortable environment as they live in the county seat..



Apr, 2006 All of my volunteers are getting sick while in Malingua Pamba; also I see that the children don't look really healthy. I decide to get some help on addressing clean water plus fixing our **shower**. I applied to: Wright Water Engineering, Water for People and Engineers Without Borders (EWB)

Jun., 2006 The newly formed Denver Professional Chapter of EWB agreed to take on the "shower project" and more.



Nov, 2006



The first EWB team arrived in Malingua Pamba. We slept in the top floor of the newly finished second story of our colegio. They interviewed the community, observed the existing springs up in the 'loma' (mountain) and rudimentary water system. EWB was also 'captured' by the Quechua spirit.



In the Second Story of "Colegio La Minga": 2 classrooms, First Library and Computer Lab (no internet).



Apr, 2007

Two instrumental EWBers – a doer and an organizer. Brad Davidson and Debbie Hathaway. Spearheading semi-annual visits of EWB with incredible results!





Teaching plumbing lessons. Training teenages in GPS & water gauge measurements.

Nov, 2007

Continuing the work on the Potable Water System for 7 communities.
A "trenching minga" for burying PVC and a lesson from Mark Richards, EWB.



Result of the delivery of donated sewing machines & fabric; lessons in making simple backpacks AND the first micro empresa.



Apr., 2008

Brad designs a re-usable tank form (for pressure reduction and sediment removal). Airline Ambassadors transports it from Colorado to Ecuador - gratis. The people are enamored with this tank form and in 3 days prepare & pour tank #1. The Quechua transport the forms to the next location – gratis. ;-)



On the 4th visit of EWB, we now have potable water to the school “campus”. These kids can brush their teeth after lunch; these boys were delighted to take a hot shower;



Nov, 2008



A present for La Pamelita: The students painted the colegio and the newly poured bleachers.

First puzzle they ever saw. No one would leave until it was completed – 4.5 hrs later!



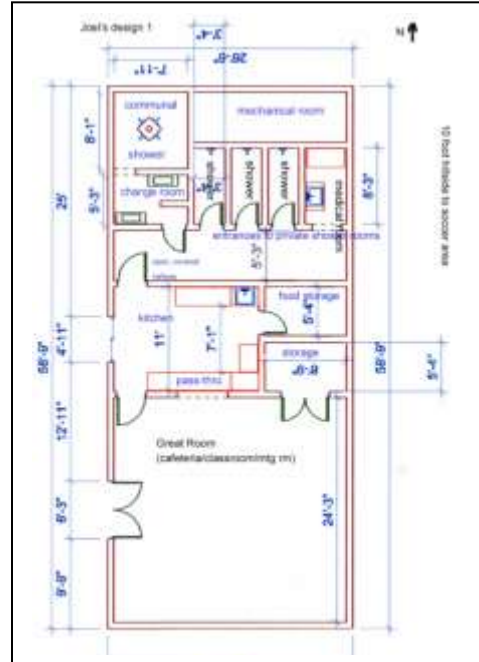


They are so grateful for water that they made up a special "Water Dance".



Apr, 2009

"THE COMPLEX" –
Educational & Community Building
Everyone is keen to help from these 5 yr old children moving rebar to older folk moving dirt.



Oct, 2009

In just 5 months, and many *mingas* later, this 25' x 80' building had a foundation, a roof and walls. INCREDIBLE! They are very excited about this building and very proud of their work!



July –
Oct 09

Rotary International Matching Grant bought the material for the 1st Irrigation Team of EWB began the immense task of building tanks, etc. The people moved 20 tons of material – sacks of cement, sand, and gravel - on their backs to the 2 – 5000 gallon tank sites. Then they buried PVC from the source at 13,000 ft to Tunguiche at 9,000 ft. La Directiva, the board of irrigation, reporting that people are VERY pleased as are the potatoes!



Please feel free to share your reactions, ideas, networking, and suggestions.

Your tax-deductible donations would be greatly appreciated:

- \$10 buys a reader for the library
- \$25 buys a desk for the new classroom.
- \$60/student pays for their education for a school year & you will receive a photo of your 'guagua' – your student.
- \$150/post graduate of our colegio pays for their education in the county seat for a year.
- **Any amount of donation will be put to good use.**

100% of all donations go to the projects. There are no administrative salaries. All labor – the Quechua, Engineers Without Borders, and other volunteers - is without compensation.

Abracitos – little hugs ;-),

pam gilbert, CEO/Founder of
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For more info call me at:
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or
www.escuelaminga.org
including all newsletters,
testimonials from volunteers, and
the story of how
"in getting lost, I found myself"

