

Clean water and sanitation access is one of the key goals of Rotary International.

Lake Atitlán, acclaimed as the world's most beautiful lake by most who see it, is also threatened by all the usual problems that come with development.

The great strength of Rotary is the ability to multiply money through the grant process, turning ideas with small beginnings into big ideas with big outcomes.

For example, a club in the US or Canada can donate to a project in Guatemala. Their contribution may be matched by their District, and then matched again by Rotary International with a resulting larger impact.

Rotary E-Club Lake Atitlán works to promote various community projects. We vet these projects ahead of time and then provide on-the-ground supervision to make sure the projects are executed properly.

Our Rotary members work with the executing NGOs, and monitor the progress of the projects. We provide financial accountability in regards to the release of any funds.

We have supported a diverse number of projects, from wheelchairs to a fire engine to a trade school.



Sun Spring Water Filtration at San Lucas Hospital

As a club, we are especially concerned with supporting projects involving providing clean drinking water, sanitation, and any work that will help the water quality of Lake Atitlán.

Some of Our local Projects:



Tul Reforestation

A few years ago, Lake Atitlán experienced an unusually fast increase in water levels that destroyed much of the *tul* forests. This dealt a severe blow to the lake's ability to heal itself from the constant inflow of chemical fertilizers and raw sewage. Tul is a native plant that aids in nutrient removal and water filtration.

Rotary E-club Lake Atitlán and Rotaract Guatemala de la Asuncion participated in "a weekend of direct impact measures" in the ongoing efforts to save Lake Atitlán. We participated in and helped fund the project, which was organized by Lake Atitlán Environmental Interests Group. This was done in conjunction with Sembremos Tul of San Marcos and the government agencies of CONAP and AMSCLAE. By helping to reforest the *tul* along the shores of Lake Atitlan, we help to promote the lake's ability to cope with environmental contaminants, help to

boost the local economies through the handicrafts made by local *tuleros*, and raise awareness for the problems facing Lake Atitlan. The activities made national headlines in the *PrensaLibre* and National TV on Guatevision.

Clean Water Projects

A large capacity commercial filter was installed by Aguas del Pueblo at the San Lucas Tolimán Parroquial Hospital. The primary sponsor of the project was the Santa Clara, CA Rotary Club.

The Pentair nano filter is a non-chlorine system that will supply clean water to the hospital and to the community of San Lucas Tolimán, a village with a population of 22,000. The life of filter is 10 years and the system is powered by solar panels with electricity backup if needed.

The Santa Clara CA Rotary Club is also installing a potable water projects near San Lucas Tolimán in Sanik-Ya, Chitulum, Parroquial Colejio, and Quixaya.

Sanik-ya Potable Water Project: Water is pumped 2.5 km from San Lucas Tolimán to a newly constructed 150,000 liter tank. Purified to a very high quality using a Sunspring nano filter, the water then flows by gravity to the community that is downslope from the tank. People will pay for water on the amount consumed. This is the first water metered system in rural Guatemala.

Rotary E-Club of Lake Atitlán in Panajachel donated special chlorination pills of 90% chloro to the Municipal Water Committee of Agua Escondida, Department of Sololá.



Weekly Meetings Thursday 1:00 PM

Join us for lunch at:

Hotel Cacique Inn
Calle del Embarcadero Zona 2
Panajachel, Guatemala

Or

Join us on-line at:



We stream our meetings every Thursday at 1:00pm local time.

On your computer, go online to our website

<http://www.atitlanrotary.org/>

and follow the instructions in the **GoToMeeting** section.

You will be connected to our stream using your device's microphone and speakers.

Meeting ID: 624-731-301

Note: Meetings are held in both English and/or Spanish.



Participating NGO's and Friends:

Mayan Families

Mayan Families works to educate, feed, shelter, and heal the impoverished populations of Lake Atitlán. They strive to facilitate enduring, sustainable programs that promote community development. They aim to stimulate long-term progress through school sponsorships, health initiatives, vocational training, and microfinance.

Opal House Guatemala Project

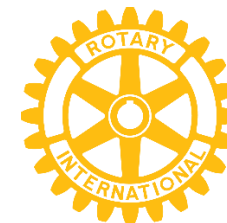
Opal House is a refuge for the impoverished children of Guatemala. Located high in the mountains of Lake Atitlan is a 59-acre farm where peace and love exist. The guests will receive physical, spiritual, and educational nourishment. The children are served in their native culture, customs, and language. Medical and surgical services are provided to the local community. Opal House has received Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary Club volunteers.

Niños del Lago

Niños del Lago has built an inspirational forest camp overlooking Lake Atitlán in the beautiful Guatemalan Highlands. It is a special place that nurtures self-respect, self-awareness, mindfulness, and cultural pride. Children are empowered to carry on positive traditions and learn new ways to help their communities, their country, and the planet.

Panajachel Colegio Internacional

PCI is a Middle and High School that serves the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala by providing a bilingual education — English and Spanish — to a diverse international, regional, and indigenous student body.



Rotary E-Club Lake Atitlan

Panajachel, Guatemala

D-4250

Find us on the internet at:

<http://www.atitlanrotary.org/>

and in Facebook at:

 **Rotary E-Club Lake Atitlan**