

## Mission Volunteer Journey - update #4

Agua Viva Serves (www.avs.ngo), Los Chiles, Costa Rica

15 November 2018

**Buenos Dias!** The past 4 weeks have really been rich with encounters that build new connections and deepen relationships with humanity and nature. Being open to the unexpected is a helpful practice...though way too often the 'default setting' kicks in : )

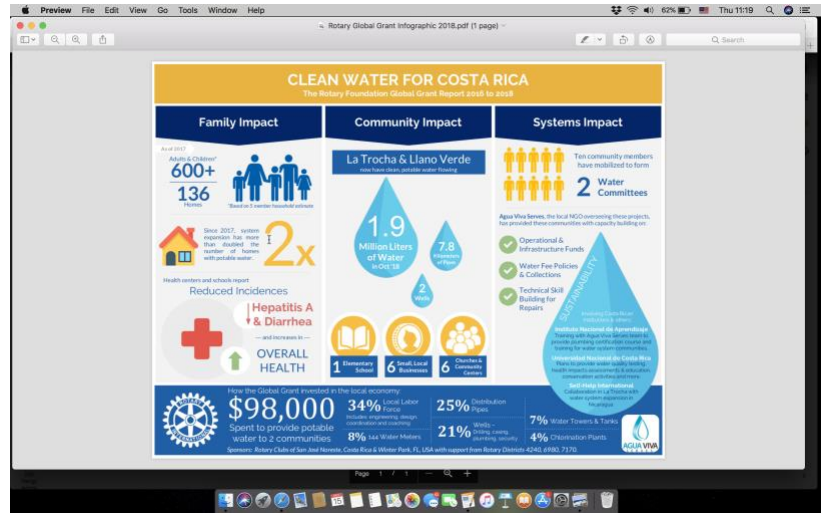
**Rain or Shine!** Yesterday, the community of La Guaria gathered at the well site to celebrate their new potable water system. As the rain started the umbrellas and plastic tarps opened up and people offered a bit of space underneath to those of us who didn't have cover. As the AVS team leader talked about the system



and the community's role in sustaining it, I anticipated that he would shorten his comments due to the downpour. I chuckled *at* myself as the hour in the rain seemed just so normal for everyone else and why not: we didn't have to stand in the rain for the BBQ afterward. Words of wisdom: *timing is situational* and *always take an umbrella!*



¡por fin! Here's an infographic, thanks to the creative and technical



skills of Taylor the local Peace Corps Volunteer, about the impacts of The Rotary Foundation Global Grant we've been shepherding for the past 2 years.

While having water flowing to homes was an immediate outcome, other 'systems impacts' have been emerging from site visits for monitoring, capacity building, and evaluation. Please spread the word! **Community issues are global.** The more we engage with the communities, the more we see that the cycle of creativity and energy to envision and accomplish our collective goals is essentially the same everywhere. The visits to the 2 Global Grant communities and a workshop/dialog on Diversity & Discrimination for the Red Cross Youth Corps were fine examples this past week of accomplishments, frustrations, challenging our assumptions about others, and stepping up to new roles.

**The ebbs and flows\*** of volunteers' perspectives, capacities, and circumstances affects the dynamics of the group and we all can get a little bit (or more) disgruntled when things don't go as we had hoped. We can get judgmental and our egos say 'shoulda, coulda, woulda'...and we all know that can be hurtful. Keeping our eyes, and hearts, on the prize is key...what is the 'BIG' goal in life? In our lives? Today's Richard Rohr meditation *Becoming Who You Are* offers this insight: ***It is love becoming love in this unique form called "me."***

We hear that there's a snow storm brewing at home...take care of each other!

**Abrazos y bendiciones, n & G**