



S. Sylvia Hecht, S. Carolyn Anyega, Dr. Andrea Stapleton, Ben Brzeski, S. Jan Gregorcich

Partnerships In Action

On Wednesday, October 15, members from the GPRW Board had the privilege to meet with a member of the General Council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Carolyn Anyega. The General Council is the leadership body for the worldwide congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Members came to the United States for one month to meet with leaders from SSND ministry leaders throughout the Central Pacific Province, which includes part of the United States, Japan, and Guam.

Sister Carolyn was enthused to learn about the work and the impact of Global Partners: Running Waters. We shared stories about our partnerships and friendships across the countries, explained how we implement water systems, and shared stories from folks in Guatemala whose lives have been changed for having access to clean, running water. She remarked that our impact will last for generations to come; not only do these water systems impact the communities who live in the villages at this time, but will be there for generations to come.

Sister Carolyn could relate to the needs of communities without running water. As a farm girl in Kenya, one of fourteen children, she had to walk thirty to sixty minutes one way for water every day, with 20 Liters of water on her head. The return trip after fetching the water was an uphill journey from the valley.

We all thoroughly enjoyed exchanging stories, and we were grateful for her time to learn about our work. We connected so closely around everyone's passion for this work, knowing how fundamental clean water is for people's health, but how access to it transforms lives and communities.

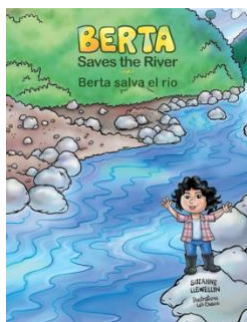
Our Impact

In 2024, GPRW completed 5 water projects, serving 555 families and 3,330 individuals. One additional project was half funded, which will serve 125 families, and 759 individuals once completed. Our other activity was to continue a long-standing education grant in Chinique, Guatemala, benefitting 32 families and 32 children each year. We are committed to prioritize starting projects when funds are available.

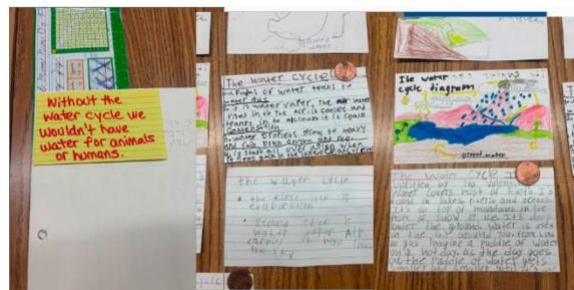
Project Update

The Berta Saves the River book details the struggles of water defenders in Honduras and highlights the life and sacrifice of Berta Cáseres, Honduras's internationally recognized Indigenous human rights leader assassinated in 2016. All profits from these Berta book sales are given to families in Honduras directly affected by the devastation caused by mining and other resource extraction projects that threaten the livelihood of their communities.

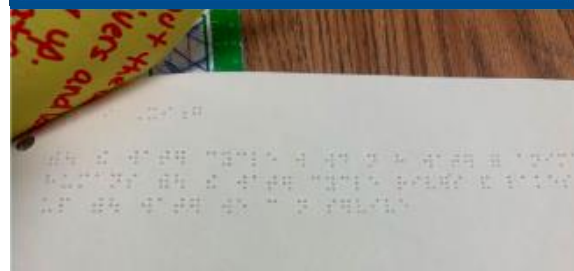
To date, the [Berta Saves The River: Water Drop Conservation Project](#), has collected funds to serve 30 schools in the metro-Milwaukee area with a total distribution of 750 books. This program was designed by educators and intended to support the schools' literacy goals, support ELLs, or Spanish language courses, teach about water protection and conservation, and enrich the learning experience for students. The schools vary in size, demographic makeup, and resource availability, and the presentation of the curriculum guides (public school or private school) have been tailored to meet diverse educational needs and curriculum standards.



A local Catholic school completed the Berta Water Drop project and visited Jones Island Water Reclamation Plant in Milwaukee.



Another school shared their projects with us including a Braille response which prompted the book to be Brailled.



Want to know more about supporting literacy and conservation programming in our schools? Visit our website to donate or get involved:

<https://bit.ly/bertabooks>



Travel to Guatemala!

Global Partners: Running Waters offers a tour of Guatemala March 19 – 30, 2026. The trip includes not only some of the most beautiful tourist spots, but also a look at some out-of-the-way places seldom seen by outsiders (including GPRW water project site visits)!

Some of the highlights of the trip include:

Guatemala City: Visits to the Cathedral and Market

San Lucas Toliman: Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful spots on Earth

Santiago Atitlan: A visit to the site of the murder of Father Stan Rother: American Martyr in Guatemala

Santa Cruz, Quiche: Visits to GPRW water projects and Barbara Ford Peace Center

Chichicastenango: Largest indigenous market in Central America

Antigua: Breakfast at Valhalla Macadamia Farm, the passion of Palm Sunday processions and carpet making, jade factory and last minute shopping for Guatemalan treasures!

Also included will be visits to Mayan ruins, schools and other surprises.

Cost: \$1575/person – double, \$1950/person – single, plus airfare. Includes 2 meals most days



More information available
on our [website](#).

To learn more or reserve
your space, contact:

Perry Nigh
profepp13@gmail.com

SSND Ministry Connection

Global Partners: Running Waters is an affiliated ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Our mission—to build relationships that bring life-giving water—embodies the SSND vision of transforming the world, a vision first embraced by the earliest sisters and one that continues to guide all SSND ministries across the globe.

Each year on October 24, the School Sisters of Notre Dame celebrate Foundation Day, commemorating the founding of the congregation in 1833 by Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger in Bavaria. From its beginning, the order has responded to the needs of those on the margins of society. Today, the School Sisters continue this legacy through ministries that serve the most vulnerable—advancing education, addressing environmental challenges, promoting racial justice, supporting victims of human trafficking, and providing essential food and water resources.

Their work not only meets immediate needs but also advocates for systemic change to ensure lasting impact. As stated in *You Are Sent*, the SSND Constitution:

“A particular concern in all ministries is the establishment of a just society... Working toward the enablement of persons and the promotion of human dignity, we contribute to positive systemic change in society.”

We are honored to share in this transformative mission—one water system at a time. We are deeply grateful to all our partners who make this work possible.

To all School Sisters of Notre Dame, we are honored to share in the celebration of Foundation Day. May your spirit of transformative love and your tireless vision for a more just and compassionate world continue to flourish through the countless lives you’ve touched.

Work with us!

Digital Communications Volunteer or Intern (unpaid)

Global Partners: Running Waters is seeking a Digital Communications Intern to assist with the organization's communication on social media and website.

Time Commitment: 2 hours per week

Duties:

Create and schedule posts for social media platforms, including project updates, donation appeals and special event information.

Address comments and questions posted by users/followers.

Maintain social media platforms to ensure organization information is current.

Interact (comment/follow) with like-minded organizations and individuals within social media platforms to strengthen GPRW's online connections and share its mission with new audiences.

Create and edit written content and images for website.

Work with the Communications Committee of the Board to set priorities and strategy

If interested, contact Dr. Andrea Stapleton at astapleton.gprw@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

GivingTuesday • December 2, 2025

Guatemala Trip • March 19 – 30, 2026

World Water Day • Spring 2026



Our mission is to build relationships through collaboration on water, food, health, and education projects in Latin America.

Contact Information:

c/o Mount Mary University
2900 N Menomonee River Pkwy
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Email: info@gprwaters.org

