



Annual Meeting - February 21, 2026

## Annual Meeting

On February 21, the GPRW Board gathered for our annual meeting. This two-hour meeting is a public meeting and reports on our previous year. Moreover, what we share as part of our year in review is meant to tell our ongoing story. We begin each year with S. Jan recounting the founding of Global Partners: Running Waters in the late 1990s with her partner, Dianne Henke.

Since our founding, Global Partners: Running Waters has completed, along with our partners, 187 water projects! For over a generation, GPRW has provided clean, accessible water to families that has impacted not only the people in that moment, but communities for generations to come! This past year was a milestone year for GPRW. Key accomplishments include:

- Hosted our second annual fundraising event for World Water Day (March 2025)
- Achieved record fundraising
- Welcomed new student volunteers and interns
- Secured multiple successful grant applications
- Reviewed and rewrote the organization's strategic plan
- Launched a bi-monthly newsletter to keep supporters informed

## GPRW in Guatemala

### March 19-30

We have 16 travelers in Guatemala this March! We are wishing them a safe and transformative trip. In just a few days, our group has visited a few cities and a reforestation site, explored the Iximche Mayan Ruins, crossed Lake Atitlan by boat, learned how to make tortillas, and more.



# Annual Meeting Report

In 2025, GPRW funded four major water projects in Guatemala, bringing clean running water directly to families and communities:

Project	Amount Funded
Chicobracon / Choacaman	\$55,000
Xeabaj Centro, Joyabaj	\$50,000
Parlache	\$49,730
Santa Maria Chiquimula	\$48,933

These projects provide households with direct water connections — transforming daily life for families who previously collected water by hand. Research shows that clean water access saves rural households an average of more than four hours per week, allowing more time for paid work and family.

The Berta Saves the River literacy and conservation project launched in the 2024/25 school year and has reached full engagement across all partner schools in 2025/26. Highlights include:

- 31 schools served across Southeastern Wisconsin
- 775 total students reached
- Over \$11,625 raised for families in Honduras
- 2 grants received in support of the project

GPRW had an exceptional financial year in 2025, significantly exceeding our budgeted targets:

	2025 Budget	2025 Final	2024 Final
Operating Expense Ratio	3.26%	1.59%	2.73%

Our donor base continues to grow, with 146 unique donors in 2025 — up from 100 in 2024. The operating expense ratio of 1.59% reflects our strong commitment to directing resources directly to mission-critical water projects.

The GPRW Development Committee continued to expand our fundraising and outreach efforts in 2025:

- Launched peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns, including a Giving Tuesday campaign (December 2025)
- Strengthened relationships with SSND-sponsored and affiliated ministries through events like World Water Day outreach (March 2025)
- Improved donor communications, including a New Year donor thank-you message (January 2026)

Our social media presence also grew significantly:

- Facebook followers up 110% in 2025 (44 net new followers; 6,330 total views)
- Instagram engagement up 100% in 2025 (55 follows; 19 interactions)

GPRW is energized for another impactful year. Our key dates and goals for 2026 include:

## Key Dates

Guatemala Trip: March 19–30, 2026

World Water Day Fundraiser: April 18, 2026

## Goals for 2026

- Develop and finalize a new strategic plan
- Add three new volunteers to committee work
- Fund five new water projects
- Increase digital communications and expand community partnerships

# Upcoming Events

**Bingo Night - March 26 at 7 PM**, POP Milwaukee will be donating portion of their sales at bingo night on March 26. Come support GPRW and have a little fun at bingo night. President Dr. Andrea Stapleton will be handing out some cool prizes!

124 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI

<https://www.popwalkerspoint.com/bingo>

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## World Water Day - April 18, 2026

### Tickets on sale NOW through March 31!

You're invited! This World Water Day we invite you to spend an evening sharing wine, cheese, and fellowship!

All profits will benefit the water project in the village of Chunima Sector Bajo, Chichicastenango, Guatemala.

Tickets available for purchase online now!

<https://bit.ly/WWD26Tickets> (Or visit our website [globalpartnersrunningwaters.org/world-water-day/](https://globalpartnersrunningwaters.org/world-water-day/))

April 18, 2026 5:00 PM

Mount Mary University Alumnae Dining Hall  
2900 Menomonee River Pkwy  
Milwaukee WI, 53222



## How Can You Help?

### Interested in serving on our Board or a committee?

Board members meet once a month, serve on a committee, and volunteer about five hours per month—helping us direct more of our funds to our mission.

Committee members support a specific area of GPRW's work without attending board meetings. Current committees include Finance, Development, Communications, World Water Day, and Trips.

We are deeply grateful for all our board members and volunteers, past and present, who continue to be ambassadors for our work and champions for equitable water access and education worldwide.

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

### Contact Information:

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