

**SUN LAKES ROTARY CLUB #23631 - ARIZONA ROTARY DISTRICT 5495 USA**

[www.sunlakesrotary.com](http://www.sunlakesrotary.com)

**NAVAJO WATER PROJECT STRATEGIC PLAN: Rotary Foundation Grant #GG1875037**

**Organization Mission Statement:**

Navajo are 67 times more likely than other Americans to live without running water or a toilet. That's an injustice. Many Natives can't get enough clean water, creating a cycle of poverty that limits health, happiness, educational opportunity, and economic security.

***Together we can help fix this!***

**What We Propose:**

The Navajo Water Project seeks funding to continue existing and on-going efforts by St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School and DigDeep, both non-profit organizations, to provide clean, running water to approximately 205 Navajo American families living within the Smith Lake Chapter in New Mexico. St. Bonaventure Mission was the original water supplier and has been delivering water by water truck for the past thirty years. DigDeep has helped provide a second delivery water truck and will begin digging next spring to provide a 2,000-foot-deep well to assure a reliable ongoing water source. In the meantime, *Phase Four* of the Project involves construction of individual water systems to Navajo homes, including 1,200-gallon underground cisterns and the necessary equipment to make home delivery more efficient for Navajo families. A solar panel, battery and electrical connections are included for families which do not have electrical service to operate the pump.

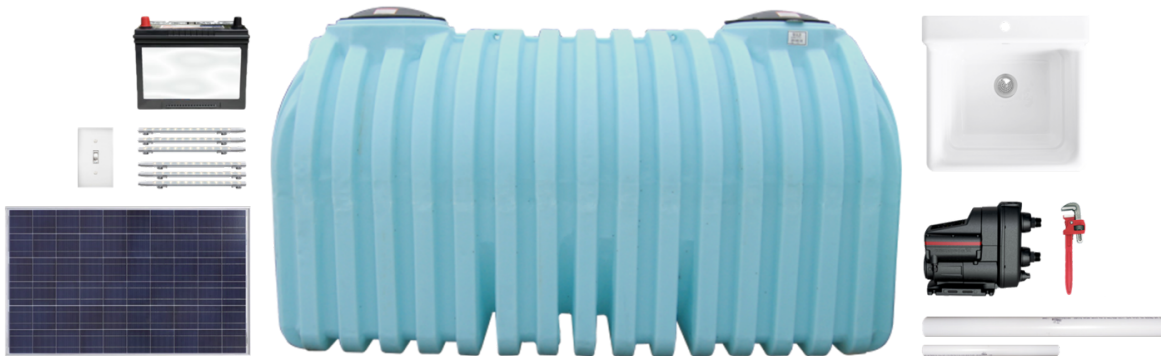


Figure 1 Running Water and Solar Power for \$4,500 “Installed”

**How It Works:**

Construction of each home water system is performed by employees of St. Bonaventure Indian Mission at a cost of \$4,500, including installation, materials, solar equipment and home training to operate. Construction work has begun with existing customers' homes nearest the existing water source. It will expand outward to more distant customers at a rate of approximately 2 systems completed each week. The work pace will slow down somewhat as the homes become more distant. Committed funding will allow construction to continue for approximately six months, at which time about 75 homes will have received water systems. Additional funding is needed to continue the water system installation program (*Phase Four*) beyond that point. It will require approximately \$585,000 to complete the 130 unfunded home system installations. The Sun Lakes Rotary Club is seeking other Rotary Clubs in

Arizona, the USA and International Rotary Clubs along with their Rotary Districts and The Rotary Foundation grant matching funds to provide as much of the needed funds as possible.

A variety of small, local fund-raisers have been used to begin this project, and St. Bonaventure Mission and DigDeep continue to seek outside sources of funding. Their websites each provide detailed information concerning the sources of existing funding. 100 per cent of the solicited funds will go toward construction of the individual home water systems and not to program administration of either agency.

### **What We Seek:**

Sun Lakes Rotary Club is seeking Rotary Club partners in Arizona, USA, and International clubs matching funds, and from their respective Rotary Districts (DDF) and The Rotary Foundation, to raise funds to pay as much of the remaining cost of *Phase Four* as possible.

**This global grant is for: 25 units x \$4,500 = \$112,500**

This project meets the Rotary objectives of serving a dire community need, with international assistance for the benefit of Navajo families, including their children.

The Navajo Water Project is sustainable by the ongoing support of St. Bonaventure Mission and DigDeep using durable and reliable home water systems. The efficiency of the existing home water delivery system will be improved by increasing the capacity and ease of each delivery. The Navajo families will have a more adequate supply of clean water to sustain them between deliveries. By setting an example, Rotary will allow St. Bonaventure Mission and DigDeep to attract other donors to its existing projects.

This is a “shovel-ready” project. Rotary will not be involved in any construction issues and the selection of the families which will receive systems was done on a basis determined by St. Bonaventure and DigDeep, with the blessing of the tribal authority. A certificate of completion will be provided to Rotary within two weeks of each installation, verifying use of the Rotary funds and identifying the specific beneficiaries. Opportunities will exist for publicity as deemed appropriate.

For a Rotarian, Rotary Club and District wanting to participate, send an email to Past District Governor, Gary Whiting indicating your club and district information along with your US dollar pledge. Later in 2018 you will be contacted to collect your pledge and added to the grant. [Glw602bmw@wbhsi.com](mailto:Glw602bmw@wbhsi.com)

Additional materials can be found at the following websites:

- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-off-the-grid-navajo-residents-are-getting-running-water>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-water-lady-a-savior-among-the-navajo/>
- <http://www.navajowaterproject.org/>

