

How to Build a Water Plant

First, you start with a village of about 200 people who live in the Amazon rainforest where they've been bathing, washing clothes and drinking water straight from the river for all their lives. Next, you find a donor, or group of donors, who understand the need for clean drinking water for all human beings as a basic human right. These donors are then willing to cover or contribute to the \$4,000 cost to build a water plant. Through CONAPAC, you organize the materials, make purchases, arrange deliveries and gather the community leaders together for detailed discussions and agreements. You then set a date to begin!

Along the way you find a group of willing volunteers to come from other countries—folks willing to spend their time and money to travel great distances to assist in the construction, the camaraderie and the fun! Next you gather up the children of the community and work with them on art projects which are fun and full of important messages about drinking clean water.

After four days of hard work, shared laughs, hugs and smiles, you pump the first of the dirty river water to an upper tank. Once the separation chemicals are added, wait two hours and open the spigot. Out comes clean, clear, odorless and tasteless water for all to enjoy. When everything is complete, you smile, hug, say your goodbyes and remember fondly the experience through photos and shared stories. Then you ask yourself, when can I do this again?

For more information about any of the Detroit Zoo and CONAPAC volunteer expeditions, please check out the website at www.detroitzoo.org or contact Claire Lannoye at clannoye@dzs.org

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2010 Expeditions

The 2010 delivery of school supplies was an amazing experience for all involved. Over the course of two weeks, supplies were delivered to 75 river communities, providing close to 5,000 children with the necessary tools to achieve a basic education based on conservation and sustainable lifestyles.

The Detroit Zoo returned to its roots in visiting the Amazon rainforest by initiating an amphibian research and conservation project in the area. The Curator of Amphibians, Marcy Sieggreen, traveled down with the first-trip participants and worked tirelessly morning, day and night, to look for amphibians. As the project progresses, communities will be involved to help protect these amazing species so vital to the health of the rain forest and world.

The second-trip participants worked in the village of Ramon Castilla to build a water purification plant and to give all the community's buildings a fresh coat of paint.

The April trip was my fourth time visiting the rainforest with the Adopt-A-School program. It remains the best part of my job responsibilities at the Zoo and I'm already looking forward to the 2011 trip.

We had an amazing group of volunteers. Several were returning with many years of participation, some were long time supporters of the program whom I had hoped to meet in person since I inherited the project in 2007. I can't thank everyone enough for all their help, ideas and enthusiasm. It was an absolute pleasure working with all of you.

We are preparing for another delivery in April 2011. If you have ever considered joining us for the supply delivery, please contact me for more information. Our trip volunteers are vital to the success of the program and the experience has been defined as life-changing and amazing.

The first trip will focus on delivering school supplies. Each day, the group will split into five teams and

visit three communities each. The second trip will finish any remaining school deliveries and participate in a conservation project in a single community, similar to the water purification tower project. The 2011 trip dates are:

April 2-11, with a day of travel prior and after.
April 9-18, with a day of travel prior and after.

Please contact me for information about either trip or to sign up!

We've already starting seeing donations for the purchase of school supplies and conservation projects in 2011. I can't express how appreciative we are for all of the continued support. You are making a difference in the preservation of the Amazon rainforest! To donate online, please visit

http://www.detroitzoo.org/Saving_Wildlife/Saving_Wildlife/Adopt-A-School/

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Current Funding Progress for the 2011 Adopt-A-School Delivery

In 2010, the Adopt-A-School program received \$112,000 from generous supporters, like you, and organizations to purchase and deliver school supplies to the rural villages along the Amazon and Napo Rivers. We're looking forward to another successful year with your continued help!

