The students traveled there in May to plan the gravity-powered system. They will return in January to get the project started, and will go back again in March to help with the final touches.

Today, they’re getting help to turn their plans into reality.

The Toledo Rotary Foundation is giving the students $10,000 to aid their effort to raise $25,000 for travel and project costs.

“We thought it was a great project,” said Joe Tafelski, executive director of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality and the chairman of Toledo Rotary’s international service committee.

“The students at the university had done significant assessments and work on the project when they brought it to us, so this wasn’t just a vision or an idea they [had] come up with,” he said.

Mr. Tafelski said the Rotary interviewed the students and was “totally impressed” by their knowledge and commitment.

The students will be given the grant check today at the weekly Rotary meeting.

The village of Los Sanchez, located in the Department of Choluteca, gets water from a small stream about a half-mile away.

The stream is used for both cleaning and drinking water. After an initial trip to Honduras in May, UT students with Engineers Without Borders will return in January to help the water project get started and is not a pure source because it’s crossed by people and animals traveling to the village, said Ben Hoff, president of the UT chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

The village has about 180 residents, most of them children, who take their clothes to the stream or carry the water back.

The villagers had been trying to get cleaner water from a spring a little over a mile away. They saved money and purchased land to access the new water source, which is cleaner in May to Honduras, and the gift from the Rotary Club will help pay for the return trips, Mr. Hoff said.

“You can take a pretty big sigh when you take out such a large part of the fund-raising,” he said.

Engineering Dean Nage Naganathan said the students are passionate about their work and it is a huge benefit for them to learn first-hand how to do such a project and work with other cultures in a global economy.

“We know that a full educational experience is more than classroom education and career preparation,” he said.

“We want them to realize their impact on the community at large.”

Mr. Jones said he is excited he will be able to continue the hands-on work in Honduras when he and other students return to the country next month.

“It will definitely be interesting to see the climate change the village and the community and see how they are doing,” he said.

“And to actually see the project starting, I’m looking forward to it.”