In March 2018, Professionals Without Borders staff and student members travelled to Ladyville, Belize for our annual volunteer service efforts at Liberty Children’s Home. This was PWOB’s 7th trip to Liberty. Our group consisted of students, Laura Mummery and Taura Vastakas, returning for the 3rd time, Ashley Abel, returning for the 2nd time, Jenny Plummer, Dominique Mohler, and Bailey Raduk, SU staff members Dawn Madore (Team Leader), Brian Schimke and Mike Mullen (Project Leader) from Facilities, and Erin Beary Andersen (Student Advocate) from Mission and Ministry.

Our main focus for this trip was to repair the gray water system that we had installed six years ago and to paint and reseal the dome with elastomeric roof coating as the roof and walls of the dining hall were continually leaking, causing shorts in the electrical system, and potentially also creating a mold hazard. Upon inspection of the water lines we were surprised to discover that the septic system pump was either no longer functional or there was a major blockage in the system.

PWOB hired a local contractor to come out and pump out the 7 septic tanks located throughout the Liberty campus. The vacuum truck made 13 trips to the disposal field to adequately pump out the
system. According to records at Liberty, the system had not been pumped out since 2009.

Additionally, PWOB hired a contractor to prep and re-seal the roof on the dining hall. Mr Garrett and his team power washed the building and grouted and sealed the cracks before applying Snow Coat Reflective Sealant over the entire roof.

Since we were not able to work on the gray water system as planned, PWOB decided there was enough time to paint the residential domes as well as the dining hall. Mr Garrett and his team power washed all the buildings so we could begin painting. The domes had not been painted in over 5 years but should be painted every 2 years which aids in protecting them against mold and weather related damage. We were able to finish painting all 6 of the domes on the property.

In addition to these projects, PWOB worked on electrical maintenance in the dining hall, tiling of the floors in two of the boy’s shower stalls, organization of the donation closet, and as always, spent time fostering our relationship with Liberty Children’s Home by playing and interacting with the 38 amazing children who live at Liberty.
The total cost for the 2015 project was approximately $15,000.00

We are currently strategizing our project work for 2019, which includes further repair on the gray water system, a potential rain water catch system and their remaining gardening assistance needs.