



We, Sisters of Charity,
resolve to pray, study
and act to assure the
just sharing of water
for life on earth.

- Excerpt from our Corporate Stance on Water, adopted 2005

Our cup runneth over...

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your continued support of our Water Projects. You have helped us bring water, hygiene education and sanitation services to hundreds of people in Peru and the Dominican Republic. Your support has been literally life changing.

An essential requirement of all of our Water Projects is the involvement of the women in the community. We insist they have a spot on the local Water Committees. As the procurement of water often falls to women and children, giving them a voice in decision-making and the future security of the water system is crucial.

Though we have had successes, there are so many who still struggle with access to this basic human need. Even here in North America, some people remain without a consistent source of potable water, including over 100 First Nations in Canada. We continue to explore and pray for partnerships that allow us to also be part of the solution closer to home.

In the meantime, we are very excited to share with you the news of our latest project, this time in El Salvador. Please take a few minutes to read about it, and consider joining us on this journey.

Blessings,

Sister Joan O'Keefe
Congregational Leader



...but so many remain dry.

BIENVENIDAS

HERMANAS DE LA CARIDAD DE HALIFAX

In March, Sisters Maryanne Ruzzo and Cecilia Hudec traveled to El Salvador to meet with the communities and learn more about the Water Project.



For years the communities of Las Lomas, Las Minas, El Cablote and Los Alas have been borrowing water from neighbouring communities to survive. But with those water sources under strain, their access to that water is in jeopardy.

In 2010 the four communities came together to form a water committee. They were successful in finding and purchasing land with a water source that could sustain the four communities into the future. But the source is located in very rough terrain, uphill, so building tanks, filtration and running pipes to homes is no easy task. It has been a heartbreaking 10 years filled with failed funding promises. But they persisted.

We are so pleased to report that we have partnered with SHARE El Salvador and The Association of Communities for the Development of Chalatenango (CCR), and now this project is finally underway. Once completed, this project will secure safe, reliable water to 245 families across the four communities.



Our current Water Project helps to fulfill a decade long dream for four communities in the Chalatenango region of El Salvador.

Sisters Maryanne Ruzzo and Cecilia Hudec met with the team who is working with SHARE El Salvador in the development of the project to bring water to 4 communities.

Sister Cecilia was particularly impressed by how organized the group is, and with the level of respect for women as partners and entrepreneurs in the communities.

"The joy and gratitude with which the communities received us was at times overwhelming... Each community already has committees including one for water, women and youth which are well organized and keeps the communities unified and knowledgeable about what is happening in each."

Sister Maryanne Ruzzo was struck by the immense challenge of the environment around the water source, and by the eagerness of the members of the community to do the work themselves.

"In most locations the building material and equipment will have to be carried by hand up the mountainside through rough terrain until they get to the site. Then they will have to dig the trench for the piping all the way back down the mountainside to the four communities. As I stand with these men and women, young and old, I can't fathom what that work will be like. It was hard enough for Cecilia and me to get around on the 'easier' terrain! The only image I keep seeing is Jesus carrying the cross on the stony roads of Jerusalem pondering that what was happening would be for a greater good. These incredible communities are working together for the sake of the whole, for a human right, for the necessity of water and we, the Sisters of Charity are a part of this endeavor."





Some of our past successful Water Projects:

- Provided greater water access to 750 people in Los Corocitos, Dominican Republic;
- Created a dependable supply of clean water to hundreds of students at the Misión Tú Puedes school in Najayo, San Cristobal, Dominican Republic;
- Installed private water taps in 45 homes in Comedero Ballo, Dominican Republic;
- Built a potable water system serving 20 families in La Guama, Dominican Republic.

Sample costs from our Water Projects:

- Drilling 5 feet of a new well: \$32
- Connection to a sewage system: \$75
- Health and Sanitation Education Sessions for 25 families: \$106
- 20 bags of concrete: \$178
- **Complete cost to provide safe, reliable in-home water access to one family in El Salvador: \$298**

As we support this new project in El Salvador, and look ahead to future opportunities, we ask you to consider making a donation in support of this work.



For more information or to contact the Sisters of Charity – Halifax

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