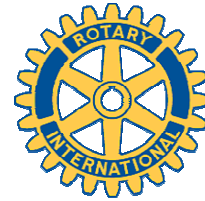


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Nashua Rotary Club Launches Pure Water Project in Honduras

Responding to the challenge from Rotary International for local clubs to join the new global pure water initiative, the Rotary Club of Nashua has raised over \$15,000 to provide reliable, clean drinking water to families in developing countries, thus helping them live healthier, more productive lives. To achieve their goal, Rotary has formed an alliance with Pure Water for the World, a non-profit NGO based in Rutland, Vermont that focuses on water issues, mainly in Honduras.

The project goal is to provide one in-the-dwelling water filter to as many effected families as possible in Honduras. These simple and effective water filters have no moving parts, use no external power and are designed to last for generations, producing up to 50 gallons of clean drinking water per day, enough to meet the needs of a family of four to seven.

These "Slow-sand" filters are low cost ...only about \$75 each... yet are incredibly effective, removing...

- 100% of words and parasites
- 100% of giardia
- 99.8% of cryptosporidium
- 92% of fecal coliform

While this is a worldwide problem, Honduras was targeted because:

- More than 26% of Hondurans lack access to effective water sanitation.
- Over 50,000 children under the age of five die each year in Honduras from unsafe drinking water.
- Eighty percent of the illness detected in the country originates from contaminated water sources.
- 78% of the population depends on impure surface water for their water supply,

The Nashua Rotary Club forms partnerships with Rotary clubs in Honduras and use Rotary International grants that multiply raised funds by a factor of 3.4. Pure Water for the World has established the infrastructure to produce and deliver the slow-sand water filters.

The filters are produced in country, creating much-needed local jobs, and are distributed with the supervision and oversight of local Honduran Rotary Clubs, using the funding aid from various Rotary clubs in the United States.

In early this year Jim McCormick and Rick Manganello from the Nashua Rotary Club made individual one week trips to view the in-county operations of Rotary/Pure Water for the World in Honduras where currently about 8 thousand units are installed in homes in remote villages. Particularly important is the degree to which the local Rotary clubs in Honduras are involved in the day-to-day PWW activities they are involved in. These include educating the local village the people about the filters, manufacturing and installing the filters and then doing the ongoing

follow-up to make sure that all the filters are being maintained properly and producing water well within the target purity specifications.

One day Jim attended an introductory meeting in a village about an hours drive from the city of Chulateca (on the Pacific coast) at which the details were discussed with the villagers and their questions were addressed. Below are two photos of this village meeting. A second day Jim accompanied PWW workers in assisting in the installation of filters in several houses.

Starting in areas having the greatest need, community leaders are asked to host an informational meeting where residents can ask questions and have their concerns addressed.



Teaching the villagers about the filters



Instruction is done with easy to follow pictures

At the end of the meeting, a filter is set up and installed while the community members watch; the filter is left in place, so local children and adults benefit immediately from the program, and other residents can learn proper filter usage and care.



Here is what the filters look like.



The factory where the filters are made

Filters are delivered to the community in bulk, and residents help with the distribution into the homes, and the PWW crews do the actual installations. After ten to fifteen days, the water coming out of the filter is fresh and drinkable.

The Rotary Club of Nashua is a chartered club of Rotary International. Members of a Rotary club are part of a diverse group of professional leaders working to address various community and international service needs and to promote peace and understanding throughout the world. To learn more about The Nashua Rotary Club contact Deepak Gursahaney at membership@nashuarotary.org or at 889-3925.