

“CHILDREN’S SAFE WATER TESIMONIAL”

It is staggering to think that the clean water we use to wash our cars in the United States is a precious commodity that two thirds of the world's population will never have access to. As we embarked on the Hispaniola Children’s Safe Water Project it was our intention to give a little relief to the problem. As the project has evolved we have envisioned that solutions are actually possible. The technologies are available and some are actually feasible.

In the Dominican Republic one such technology has been widely accepted and demonstrated exceptional sustainability. There are more than 25,000 Dominicans currently using the Bio-Sand water filters, and hundreds of thousands more in Asia, Africa and the rest of South America.

One early testimonial came from a dear friend who lives in Playa Oeste, a poor barrio in Puerto Plata. Mary’s little girl, Marisol was infected with dengue fever and subsequently contracted the HIV virus from a blood transfusion at the age of 3. Marisol suffers chronic infections due to her weakened immune system. Mary’s neighbor received a bio-sand filter almost three years ago, and as is customary with Dominican generosity she shared the water filter with her friend Mary. It was not long after using the filtered water that Mary noticed her child rarely suffered intestinal infections which she had previously been plagued with. Marisol’s life improved and she does not suffer quite as much as before.

Mary became a true advocate of the bio-sand filter and last year she coordinated a project for her barrio. She saw that another 35 neighborhood families received the same gift of potable water. So from one little seed Mary grew a small orchard, nourishing hundreds with clean water.

When we see that fifty dollars can empower a family to solve their own basic human need for fifty years, we have to ask a simple question; **What are we waiting for? The Marisol’s of the world don’t have that much time!**

Robert Hildreth

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