Unsafe drinking water is a significant but treatable problem in Guatemala. Since 2008, ECU College of Nursing and La Unión Centro Lingüístico have collaborated on international community health projects in Guatemala. Students live with host Guatemalan families and study Spanish daily. Projects focus on health promotion using WHO principles. In 2014, The College of Nursing, La Union & Soluciones Comunitarias collaborated to bring table-top water filtration systems to Mayan families living without a source of potable water.

### Purpose
- Develop an understanding of the connection between water and health
- Improve access to potable water in one remote Guatemalan village
- Increase use of water filtration systems
- Eliminate infectious disease that results from contaminated water

### Background

- Conducted fund-raising campaign (2013-2014):
  - Beta Nu Chapter of STTI
  - St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Goldsboro, NC
  - Friends of the College of Nursing
- May - June 2014:
  - Nursing students developed and enacted sociodrama with Mayan families depicting use of contaminated water and cost of illness
  - Distributed, instructed & installed water filters to 71 families
- May – June 2015:
  - Follow-up with families – satisfaction/health status

### Timeline & Methods

- Build capacity for community-based participatory research in Guatemala:
  - ECU College of Nursing
  - La Union
  - Soluciones Comunitarias
- Seek IRB approval
- Conduct research training with partners
- Collect & analyze data; interpret results
- Disseminate findings at professional meetings and community forums
- Identify and work with other high-risk Guatemalan communities

### Implications

- El Projecto de Agua Pura/The Clean Water Project: An International Partnership

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