

# El Proyecto de Agua Pura/The Clean Water Project: An International Partnership

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## Background

- 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

## Timeline & Methods

- 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

## Community Engagement



## Implications

- 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

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