



cleanwaterforhaiti.org

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The Beauty of Creativity

We recently had the pleasure of having one of our newest board members join us for a week in Haiti. It was a refreshing and encouraging time for Chris and I as we got to share what we do every day and got feedback from someone with fresh eyes.

During Ralph's visit (you get to hear from him on the backside of this newsletter) I was reminded of just how far we've come in the time that I've been a part of Clean Water for Haiti.

When we opened our doors, the focus was on small business training. Chris soon realized that if our target group was the poorest of the poor, then they couldn't afford to pay full price for a filter. Our filter program as you know it now was born.

Since then we've continually worked at doing what we do better. Aside from improvements to the filter itself, and our program in general, one of the areas where we've seen the most growth is in our staff. While it would be plenty to just focus on what they do within our filter program, it would be only a small part of the picture.

The truth is, our team here in Haiti is incredibly creative and versatile. As I walked through our new guest house construction the other day I thought about the fact that there is very little we can't do. We have welders, an electrician, a plumber, masonry workers, a carpenter, and a mechanic. We have internally designed all of the buildings at our new site and with the exception of the three bosses we've hired to help, we've done all the construction in house. There are very few needs that our staff can't meet.

When you choose to support Clean Water for Haiti with the intention of helping a family get access to clean water, I want you to know that your gifts are so much more far reaching than you can even imagine. Yes, they provide clean water, but they also provide full time employment. That full time employment enables us to teach skills and build into leaders, and is life changing on so many levels.

This summer our guest house will be finished, and we're so excited to finally be able to invite you to come visit us in Haiti on one of our Vision Trips. I hope you'll join us so you can meet our team in person and see how your support is hard at work changing lives.



Leslie Rolling
Administration Director

"I realized that the core value of Clean Water for Haiti is not the manufacture and installation of bio-sand water filters.

What sets Clean Water for Haiti apart from the rest of the pack is their implementation model and the story of life change that happens through what they're doing."

Ralph Wittebolle~

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To read more stories about what we do at Clean Water for Haiti visit our website to check out our blog and sign up for monthly emails.

After many years working as a Project Manager for Manitoba Hydro I knew I wanted to spend my retirement doing something to help others. I joined the Board of Directors for our Canadian branch last fall, and in early February, I went to Haiti for a site visit.



Ralph Wittebolle
Board of Directors

Chris, Leslie, and their wonderful children Olivia and Alex, welcomed me to their home and introduced me to life in Haiti. Without their support and guidance, I would have left Haiti fixated on the abject poverty, poor roads and the hot muggy weather. Instead the Rollings introduced me to a land of friendly, helpful people who were always respectful of a Canadian who didn't speak French.

During our filter delivery day trip, we went to a village composed mainly of mud huts. The poverty in the area was clearly evident. However all the children were going to school wearing clean new-looking uniforms. The girls had brightly coloured bows in their hair. This scene is repeated all over Haiti. It was readily apparent that the parents sacrifice other necessities of life to provide a good education for their children. This attitude towards education is the key to a promising future for Haiti.

Chris and Leslie have built CWH on a solid foundation of integrity. Their workforce is happy, loyal, well trained and readily accepted me (even though I got to sit in the front of the truck!). They have developed leadership skills in many of the staff. This bodes well for the future.

Chris, Leslie, and I spent many hours discussing all aspects of the organization. They were very patient as I directly challenged them on several issues. It was through these discussions that I realized that the core value of Clean Water for Haiti is not the manufacture and installation of bio-sand Filters. What sets Clean Water for Haiti apart from the rest of the pack is their implementation model and the story of life change that happens through what they're doing.

While I may have gone to Haiti with ideas about how best to help, I can honestly say that I came home with a much clearer picture of how to best direct my efforts on our Board of Directors. I'm excited about the plans we have for our team this year, and I'm excited to tell the story of what we're doing in Haiti.

To support the work that Clean Water for Haiti is doing please use the enclosed donation card or visit our website to give online at www.cleanwaterforhaiti.org.

2017 VISION TRIP

OCTOBER 21 - 28

After two years of construction we're very excited to once again invite you to join us on a Vision Trip.

Come spend a week with us! Learn how to build a filter, go on a delivery day, and enjoy a life changing week in Haiti.

For more info or to register visit the Vision Trip page on our website.

1080

Filters installed
in 2016

308

Filters installed
in January &
February of
2017

Goal:

To install 150 filters
per month this year

Funds
Needed

\$250,000