

## Episcopal Church of Cuba Water Purification Projects

Clean drinking water is generally a luxury in Cuba, particularly in rural communities. The lack of accessible clean drinking water has a negative impact on the health of the Cuban people, and results in illness and low mortality rates among children.

One of the key initiatives of the Episcopal Church in Cuba has been to install water purification systems in their churches. These spigots of clean drinking water are open to the public from 8am-8pm. In small towns such as Itabo, people travel by horse and cart from miles around to receive free, clean drinking water. Even in Havana, there is a steady stream of people arriving with carts full of 5 gallon jugs to fill with clean water.

Thus far, water purification systems have been installed in about 25 of the 47 Episcopal parishes and communities throughout Cuba. These systems have been funded by churches, organizations and individuals. Water systems cost about \$4000 to install completely. All the critical water system components must be hand carried from the US to Cuba as they are not available for purchase there. Pumps, water tanks and basic plumbing is purchased in Cuba.

There is also a need to maintain these systems properly for effective purification. Filters need to be changed frequently because of how filthy the water is, whether from wells or the public system. Again, these filters come from the US.

How can you help?

1. We have three systems funded and purchased here in the US. We need help in transporting them to Cuba. The Bishop's office has a good relationship with customs in Havana and travelers with religious visas are able to bring the components in as part of their luggage.
2. There is a huge need for replacement filters. Bishop Griselda would like to create a stock of filters to keep all systems running effectively. The filters are lightweight and can easily be packed into regular luggage. The filters cost about \$3 per filter. (3M Aqua Pure- AP124 Universal Filter). They can be ordered in bulk from any number of suppliers. Bishop Griselda has asked if each of the 22 choir members could carry eight filters. If any of the travelers are willing to purchase these filters as a gift to the church, that would be greatly appreciated.