**What is John Carroll University’s mission? Sociedad Amigos de Los Ninos: Improve the quality of lives of children, adolescents, mothers, families and communities according to their specific needs, implementing programs that provide protection, education, health, training, financing, spiritual orientation, and housing, involving them in achieving their own development. Enable our supporters and volunteers to join this labor of love where they have the opportunity to fulfill their own dreams in favor of the less fortunate.**

**John Carroll University: John Carroll University, founded in 1886, is a private, coeducational, Catholic, and Jesuit university. It provides programs in the liberal arts, sciences, education, and business at the undergraduate level, and in selected areas at the master's level. The University also offers its facilities and personnel to the Greater Cleveland community.**

**As a university, John Carroll is committed to the transmission and enrichment of the treasury of human knowledge with the autonomy and freedom appropriate to a university. As a Catholic university, it is further committed to seek and synthesize all knowledge, including the wisdom of Christian revelation. In the pursuit of this integration of knowledge, the University community is enriched by scholarship representing the pluralistic society in which we live. All can participate freely in the intellectual, moral, and spiritual dialog necessary to this pursuit. Within this dialog, in which theological and philosophical questions play a crucial role, students have the opportunity to develop, synthesize, and live a value system based on respect for and critical evaluation of facts; on intellectual, moral, and spiritual principles which enable them to cope with new problems; and on the sensitivity and judgment that prepare them to engage in responsible social action.**

**In a Jesuit university, the presence of Jesuits and colleagues who are inspired by the vision of Saint Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus in 1540, is of paramount importance. This vision, which reflects the value system of the Gospels, is expressed in the Spiritual Exercises, the source of Jesuit life and mission. To education the Jesuit spirit brings a rationality appropriately balanced by human affection, an esteem for the individual as a unique person, training in discerning choice, openness to change, and a quest for God's greater glory in the use of this world's goods. Commitment to the values that inspired the Spiritual Exercises promotes justice by affirming the equal dignity of all persons and seeks balance between reliance on divine assistance and natural capacities. The effort to combine faith and culture takes on different forms at different times in Jesuit colleges and universities. Innovation, experiment, and training for social leadership are essential to the Jesuit tradition.**

**At the same time, John Carroll University welcomes students and faculty from different religious backgrounds and philosophies. Dedicated to the total development of the human, the University offers an environment in which every student, faculty, and staff person may feel welcomed. Within this environment there is concern for the human and spiritual developmental needs of the students and a deep respect for the freedom and dignity of the human person. A faculty not only professionally qualified, but also student oriented, considers excellence in interpersonal relationships as well as academic achievement among its primary goals.**

**The University places primary emphasis on instructional excellence. It recognizes the importance of research in teaching as well as in the development of the teacher. In keeping with its mission, the University especially encourages research that assists the various disciplines in offering solutions to the problems of faith in the modern world, social inequities, and human needs.**

**The commitment to excellence at John Carroll University does not imply limiting admissions to the extremely talented student only. Admission is open to all students who desire and have the potential to profit from an education suited to the student's needs as a person and talents as a member of society.**

**The educational experience at John Carroll University provides opportunities for the students to develop as total human persons. They should be well grounded in liberalizing, humanizing arts and sciences; proficient in the skills that lead to clear, persuasive expression; trained in the intellectual discipline necessary to pursue a subject in depth; aware of the interrelationship of all knowledge and the need for integration and synthesis; able to make a commitment to a tested scale of values and to demonstrate the self-discipline necessary to live by those values; alert to learning as a life-long process; open to change as they mature; respectful of their own culture and that of others; aware of the interdependence of all humanity; and sensitive to the need for social justice in response to current social pressures and problems.**

**How do you know your programs will work?**

**In interviewing dozens of leaders over the past five years, we have learned that there is significant variation in water systems and water cleanliness in rural Honduras. Some villages have recently installed new water tanks with chlorination systems. Others have old water tanks and are unable to afford chlorine. Still others lack a community-wide system and rely on a variety of water sources. One example of a village without a decent water system is Valle Arriba, a small agricultural village in the Moroceli Valley in south central Honduras that we have visited twice for medical brigades. With roughly 70 homes and a population of 350 people, Valle Arriba lacks a reliable water system. Many villagers get their water from a small, dirty stream and are unable to filter out parasite-causing bacteria. The funding that we are looking to receive will be spent on water filters. The filters will be bought from our contact at Filter of Hope. Our goal is to provide water filters to each household in Valle Arriba, a small village in the Department of El Paraiso; implement a training program that makes this project sustainable for 10 years; and study the impact of clean water on the rate of parasites and infectious diseases in this community. To complete this important project, we are asking for a total $4,000 (85 filters at $40 each, plus 85 5-gallon buckets at $5.75 each, plus sales tax).**

**Implementation is another area that we know will work. The implementation of this project will be straightforward yet impactful. Patients go through our brigades as a family - typically a mother and her children. After they see an attending physician they go to our pharmacy. Each household will receive a water filter and bucket when they receive their prescriptions, after which they will learn about how to setup, use, and maintain their filter. This instruction will be conducted in small groups (2-3 families each) and in Spanish. During this time, we will also discuss the direct benefit of using the filter: a reduced likelihood of contracting waterborne illnesses.**

**Setup, usage, and maintenance of the filters are easier than the instructions we give when instructing patients on how to manage their diabetes. Each filter comes with the following main components:**

**The filter (filter, tube, and gasket),**

**Manual drill set, and**

**Filter cleaning syringe**

**Culminating, the long term impacts of this project will be immensely beneficial and known to work.**

*Summary:*

Lack of clean water and access to healthcare are problems associated with a multitude of health issues. We have increased healthcare access for 5,146 patients over the past 5 years on our medical brigades to small, rural villages in the south central region of Honduras. Our medical brigades consist of a comprehensive vitals test as well as a patient diagnosis from our trained health care professionals and students. The final aspect includes distributing medications and vitamins as per the diagnoses to create a healthier population. Our goal is to increase our effort for preventative care in the form of providing access to clean water, and meeting the immediate needs by funding for vitamins and medications for a rural Honduran village.

*Challenge:*

Globally, 844 million people do not have access to clean water, resulting in the death of one child every two minutes. In Latin America, 77 million people lack access to clean drinking water, of which 51 million reside in rural areas. A major public health problem directly related to a lack of clean water is parasitic infections as over 19 million people are affected by roundworm and whipworm (parasitic infections) alone. Clean water is a significant problem in Honduras: over 630,000 people lack access to clean water, and 2.5 million children are at risk for parasites. This includes parasites ingested by drinking unclean water such as well as Soil-Transmitted Helminth infections (STH), which can enter the body when people eat food that is not properly cleaned. Over one million children are treated for STH in Honduras every year. Naturally, there is a need for the betterment of 100 households which will translate into generations of cleaner and healthier youths.

In interviewing dozens of leaders over the past five years, we have learned that there is significant variation in water systems and water cleanliness in rural Honduras. Some villages have recently installed new water tanks with chlorination systems. Others have old water tanks and are unable to afford chlorine. Still others lack a community-wide system and rely on a variety of water sources. One example of a village without a decent water system is Valle Arriba, a small agricultural village in the Moroceli Valley in south central Honduras that we have visited twice for medical brigades. With roughly 70 homes and a population of 350 people, Valle Arriba lacks a reliable water system. Many villagers get their water from a small, dirty stream and are unable to filter out parasite-causing bacteria.

*Solution:*

Usually. patients go through our brigades as a family - typically a mother and her children. After they see an attending physician they go to our pharmacy for our medication and related health care devices. Each household will receive a water filter and bucket when they receive their prescriptions, after which they will learn about how to setup, use, and maintain their filter. During this time, we will also discuss the direct benefit of using the filter: reduced waterborne illnesses.

Setup, usage, and maintenance of the filters are easier than the instructions we give when instructing patients on how to manage their diabetes. Each filter comes with the following main components:

* The filter (filter, tube, and gasket),
* Manual drill set, and
* Filter cleaning syringe

*Long Term Impact:*

As members of a nonprofit Jesuit institution, we are committed to providing education and skills training to community leaders in rural Honduras. Our goal is to provide water filters to each household in Valle Arriba, a small village in the Department of El Paraiso; implement a training program that makes this project sustainable for 10 years; and study the impact of clean water on the rate of parasites and infectious diseases in this community. To complete this important project, we are in need of $4,600 (100 filters at $40 each, plus 100 5-gallon buckets at $5.75 each, plus sales tax). It is part of a long-term project that we at John Carroll University have been working on for seven years to improve public health in small, rural Honduran villages. It is our firm belief that clean water will tangibly impact the lives of those living in Valle Arriba. Furthermore, these filters are designed to not only meet the immediate water needs of a household but last for 10 years. Because this project focuses on both training and education, we are confident that its benefits will be long-lasting.