

The 2015 Walk for Water
By Maura O'Connor

In November of 2014, I traveled to a rural village in Guatemala with a Catholic organization called Helping Hands Medical Mission.

In five days, we treated over 1,690 patients! Among other maladies, our doctors frequently saw **diarrhea and gastrointestinal problems**. These **symptoms are directly related to infection caused by a host of bacterial, viral and parasitic organisms that are spread by contaminated water**.

In 2014, donations from Saint Mary's Parish enabled our mission team to purchase 180 water filters for the village of Santa Maria de Jesus. We educated local families on the importance of clean drinking water and emphasized the proper use and care of these new filters to maximize their longevity. As the average household in this village has approximately ten people, we estimate that over 1,800 lives were impacted by your generosity.

Still, it was heartbreaking to turn mothers away because of our limited resources. For this reason, our **2015 goal** is to acquire and distribute a minimum of **500 filters** in Santa Maria de Jesus. With a bulk rate of \$50 dollars per filter, our fundraising goal is \$25,000.

We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 16th on the Walk for Water.