

CAN YOU HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

“The human right to water is indispensable for living a life with dignity.” (United Nations 1992)

- **In the entire world, only 2.5% of the water is drinkable.**
- **12% of the world’s population uses 85% of the total drinking water.**
- **70% of the world’s population will not have enough water in 20 years.**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“Our fundamental belief is to provide water to whoever needs it most.”

At the end of 2004, after a Cherry Tree management meeting, we asked about the possibility of helping a Third World community. After much thought and discussion, we decided we would like to help raise money for safe, clean water somewhere. We chose Bolivia as it has the highest level of rural poverty in the world.

In five years we think we have done the impossible. We have raised over £30,000 and have supplied five communities with safe, clean water.

We have done this in a variety of ways. We run stalls at our plant sales selling books, CDs, DVDs and home made cakes, and also hold raffles and tombolas. We organised a special sponsored walk to fetch water as they do in Bolivia. Bournemouth seafront from Boscombe to Branksome is a similar distance to that walked daily by Bolivian women just for the few litres they survive on each day.

This was good both as a fundraiser and as an experience for us all. Many of us live on benefits, but we still realise that we have more than many, many people. Children can now go to school, and lives are being saved every day, because families are no longer forced to drink contaminated water. They also have no more need to walk many miles to collect their water.

We are a group of volunteers with severe and enduring mental illness and have found it enlightening to look outside ourselves and give to even needier people, which in turn helps us towards our recovery.

This has been an amazing experience for all of us and have opened our eyes to the daily importance of water and its literally vital necessity. Water is a basic human right, and we were astonished to learn that people in the world who lack clean running water outnumber those of us who have it and take it for granted.

“Man has been known to live without love, never with water.” (W.H.Auden)

We have just completed raising money for a water supply to be installed in a poor community of 160 people in Ecuador

Our next project will cost around £10,000. We are all very eager to begin the task of raising this money, but realise it will take us quite sometime to complete it. So we ask you kindly:

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One method that has been very successful is collecting 20p coins in a Smartie tube. Each full tube contains £15! Could you fill a Smartie tube for us, or do you have any great fund-raising ideas?

“We all have a right to life and health. The right to life and the right to health without water is contradictory.” (Abel Mamani, Bolivian Water Minister)

WE CANNOT BEGIN TO TELL YOU WHAT A HUGE DIFFERENCE THIS WILL MAKE TO THOSE IN SEVERE NEED: IT IS LITERALLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

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