Our mission is to provide safe, filtered water and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) education to the students and communities at each of our project schools in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Welcome Carli!

We would like to announce our newest member of the World Water Relief team. Carli Barnum is a Las Vegas native, but her heart lives in the Pacific Northwest. In 2014, she earned her Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Oregon in Family and Human Services with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Later serving with the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic for 27 months on the Southern border, she thankfully found her way to World Water Relief. Her passion is to be of service and her energy is infectious!! She hopes to eventually earn her Masters in Public Administration and intends to be in the public sector for the extent of her career. Carli plans to be with WWR for an extended period of time, and is looking forward to connecting with each one of you. In her free time she enjoys reading in hammocks, playing with babies, listening to podcasts, hiking, doing craft projects with children, making mosaics, and swimming at the beach. If you have any questions, or just want to talk about how things are going in the field, please feel free to contact her at CarliRB@worldwaterrelief.org.

Haitian peasants have a proverb: “Bondye konn bay, men li pa konn separe,” in literal translation, “God gives but doesn’t share.” This meant... God gives us humans everything we need to flourish, but he’s not the one who’s supposed to divvy up the loot. That charge is laid upon us.

Tracy Kidder
Mountains Beyond Mountains
News from the Field

World Water Relief has been going through a whirlwind of changes lately. With new team members, we’ve freshened our approach to WASH education. We’ve improved the function of Club Agua by incorporating a “train the trainer” philosophy further utilizing student leaders, we’ve increased our involvement with parent committees, and we are getting school administrators together. These people, working together, are the secret to our success!

In addition to a summer camp, Club Agua is now an extracurricular activity during the school year with weekly club meetings. By mentoring strong student leaders in WASH education and developing their public speaking skills and confidence, these young people become teachers and model the mission of WWR for their peers.

Reinforcement of the WASH curriculum is needed at home if we hope to have success in the day to day implementation. With the help of our Parent Committee leaders, we give educational presentations to the community adults making the experience come full circle. This holistic approach is what brings the lessons out of the classrooms and into practical use. In the end, involving the parents helps us maintain a strong presence in the schools and in the community. These adults are the leaders of the homes and the conduits to eventual behavior changes for safer health practices.

This January, during the annual board trip, guests were able to participate in a one of a kind luncheon. Administrators from each of our schools were able to come together, listen, and participate in a presentation by our staff. Our administrators are the buck stoppers in the schools, and ultimately are responsible for taking care of the WWR systems between visits.

World Water Relief is thriving! In the coming months, Carli will partner with WWR Board Member and former Program Director, Steffani Fields, to develop a more enthralling WASH curriculum for our students, we await the arrival of an intern from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health to develop a plan to better monitor and evaluate our ripple effect and we excitedly announce a new “Sister School” networking platform. Expanding our networks is so important. Together, we can do so much! Together, we are building a sustainable, community-centered, healthy future for the people of Hispaniola.

Shout out to Eva Cuevas Vasquez, WWR Hygiene Education Assistant, who graduated from the University of Barahona in March with a degree in education!

WR Sister School Program Launches in 2018-2019 Academic Year

By partnering with US based schools and matching them with a WWR project site, we will not only fund the annual maintenance of that system, but provide an opportunity for batey students to reach WAY beyond the classroom and connect with peers and share experiences.

Each US school will be able to follow their sister on our website where photos, letters, blog entries and more will be uploaded. Batey students are excited to compete in competitions with their sister school and participate in shared projects bridging the gap between cultures.

Our first partnership is a joint effort between St Simons Elementary and Oglethorpe Point Elementary School located on St Simons Island, Ga with the San Rafael school located outside of Barahona, DR. If you have a school that you would like to partner with WWR, please contact Jennifer.Fussell@worldwaterrelief.org.

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For information on how to donate to WWR through stock transfer, please contact Jennifer.Fussell@worldwaterrelief.org.
As I headed to Atlanta as a guest of the annual board trip, I had no idea what experience awaited. Arriving in Santo Domingo, we met the In-Country Team, who immediately became my friends and were greeted with hugs.

We left for Barahona, about a 4-hour drive from the capital. There was a lot of horn honking - not road rage, but letting others know we were there or passing. Mapeds were carrying 3 to 4 people or vegetables, groceries, and supplies stacked high. We passed colorful houses and businesses with fruit, sugarcane, and fresh skinned meats hanging in the open air. With it being Sunday, most businesses were closed and people were out socializing – there was lots of noise and loud music, but everyone was happy! So much to take in!

Monday was a packed day! After breakfast, we headed to Batey 7 to visit the primary school, World Water Relief’s very first installation in 2007. And then afterwards, we went on to visit 6 other project sites. Lunch was provided by a local family in their home. Even though I did not speak their language, love and food are universal. Chicken, rice, beans, and plantains - a truly authentic batey meal. I was amazed at how this lunch had been prepared with so little resources.

The schools are well attended by the batey children, some coming in shifts and sharing uniforms since there are not enough for everyone. They lit up as we entered their classrooms - curious, big smiles and all so well-behaved. With no real playground equipment, they made up games, sang and played follow the leader or baseball. Lunch was prepared outside in big pots over an open fire; beans, rice, noodles and steamed fish.

As I looked around the school yard, I noticed other small children in the compound. I was told they come to school with their siblings who help look out for them. It truly takes a village. As a mother, I wondered what the future holds for these children. As we drove through the communities, the living conditions were beyond what we think of as poor. Many people living in small homes held together with guard rails “borrowed” from the roadside and whatever else they can find. Open spaces and light seen between the boards. Most individual homes have no running water. No inside toilets – only outside latrines. Extension cords reach to power poles for electricity, which is only available for about 4 hours a day. Pigs, goats, chickens, and cows wander the streets among the families, going in and out of homes.

We passed fields of sugarcane, pineapples and banana trees, and I wondered how such deprivation could exist amidst this abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. The primary food I saw the children eat at the schools was beans and rice...where was all that fresh fruit going?

Tuesday was an exciting day as all the school directors of WWR project sites came together for the very first time. WWR teachers, Yesenia and Eva, spoke with the group about the importance of hand-washing and hygiene. Having been raised in bateys, the girls know the importance of these habits and they are an invaluable part of the team. The directors were very engaged and shared ideas, further discussing ways they can support each other. They laughed and enjoyed being together and you could feel the energy in the collaboration.

What a wonderful trip and the experience of a lifetime. After seeing the difference that a water filtration system makes for the people in the bateys, I can whole-heartily say that donors to World Water Relief should be proud of the work that has been done in these communities. No one person alone could do all this for the children and families in the bateys. It takes everyone (WWR staff, donors, teachers, communities) working together to make a difference.

I had the privilege to witness first-hand, “Water is Life!”
CJ’s pizza is adding a specialty pizza to its house menu. Southern Soul™ pulled pork, pineapple and mozzarella cheese with a homemade CJ’s/Southern Soul™ BBQ sauce marinara. 5% of each pizza will be donated to World Water Relief!!! Thank you CJ’s!!!