

## **Potable Water System for Quisayá, San José Poaquil, Guatemala**

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### **Executive Summary**

The proposed water project responds to a request made to PAVA from the agricultural community of Quisayá in the municipality of San José Poaquil, Guatemala. This project will provide potable water to 66 families (396 beneficiaries) and to a school from a preexisting spring located about three hundred meters distance from the community, enabling beneficiary families to share in the health benefits of non-contaminated water for drinking, cooking and hygiene.

PAVA (Programa de Ayuda a los Vecinos del Altiplano/Aid Program for Highland Communities) has a 24-year history of partnerships with small communities in the Guatemalan highlands. PAVA undertakes projects that are proposed by communities in the Department of Chimaltenango, working in collaboration with local and municipal resources. PAVA strives to be responsive to the requested needs of these communities rather than mandate particular types of development projects.

Since the 1990's, PAVA Foundation has worked with the village of Quisayá, most recently by supporting the introduction of Onil stoves, beehives, and tilapia fish tanks. In order to implement and oversee this proposed potable water project, the community has established a local committee. Local residents will donate manual labor for the project, meals and housing for a skilled labor crew, and some materials. The Municipality of Poaquil will provide transport of construction materials, sand and gravel for construction, all funds for skilled labor, and donations of expertise from their office of municipal planning. In addition to project oversight by local PAVA Guatemala staff, U.S. engineers volunteering on behalf of PAVA will donate their design and support expertise. U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers have assisted with successful potable water projects for PAVA for the past nine years and will continue to provide assistance and supervision toward completion of this project.

PAVA requests \$12,000 from the Ann Campana Judge Foundation to cover costs not met by unrestricted funds of the PAVA Foundation. The cost of materials for the complete system will total about \$26,00,000. The value of donated materials, and volunteer and paid labor of the local community is estimated at \$5,333 (a valuation which reflects the low prevailing wages of rural Guatemalan *campesinos*, and which the town itself establishes). The value of materials and transport provided by the municipality are estimated by the municipality at \$4,667. This project will provide a key means to vastly improve health and hygiene for the residents of this poor, agricultural community. Potable water delivery, in combination with focus on hygiene and sanitation, has the potential to significantly decrease the infant mortality rate, the incidence of illness, and increase the life expectancy of the residents of this Guatemalan highlands village.