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## Solutions for safe drinking water

We are so fortunate to live in this great country of ours. There are many blessings available to us every day and they can be so common that we never even think about them. One of these is having pure, safe water available by just turning on a spigot.

This is not true in many parts of the world, where clean, safe drinking water is just not available. Rotary International has been addressing this problem around the globe. Many countries around the world have clean drinking water because of this organization.

Today we have a major problem in Haiti. Children and adults are dying of disease borne by unsanitary water. It is estimated that 3.5 million people die every year. If your concern is the children of the world, 4,000 of them die every day from water-borne illnesses. Many of these are in Haiti.

Solutions in the past have been to drill wells and put in water purification systems in communities.



**Dave Powell**

Unfortunately in Haiti, the political climate causes a lot of charitable works to go astray and prevents donations of supplies and money from reaching those for whom it was intended.

Our Rotary Club was shown an alternative that can help people on a small scale to have safe drinking water. One is an individual and personal solution and that is a drinking

straw that is called Pure Sip. Our military has been using the product since 1998. By using it you, can drink from any fresh or brackish water source and have safe, good tasting water. These cost \$7.50 and can produce from 10-50 gallons of clean water and will last up to 3 years.

A little larger solution comes in the form of a wagon with a purifier and is solar powered. It can provide pure water for a school or a clinic or a small community. The price of this unit complete with the necessary replacement media is available for \$12,000.

The cost of high quality drinking water is a penny per gallon. Rotary has over the last 25 years practically eliminated polio from our vocabulary. It is time that we applied this type of worldwide action to prevent disease and death because of unclean water.

*For more information, email: [info@WaterOneWorldSolutions.com](mailto:info@WaterOneWorldSolutions.com) or go to [www.WaterOneWorldSolutions.com](http://www.WaterOneWorldSolutions.com).*