

## WATER BRIGADES UPDATE: BUENA VISTA PROGRESS IN PICTURES

AUGUST 24 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2012



Water Brigades Program Technician, Joel Cruz, trains the two community plumbers and a member of the Water Council how to properly install PVC piping in the system.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 39 students from a Medical Brigade from Wake Forest University and University of Maryland worked on the water system in Buena Vista and dug about 100 meters of trench on one of the distribution lines!



Representatives from Portland Global Initiatives, who gave a grant to Water Brigades that made the Buena Vista project possible, visited the community at the end of August. In between talking to families and working on the project, they took time to try a cup of coffee straight from the source!

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Water Brigades had its first Brigade day working with Honduran professionals! About 20 employees from DHL Honduras worked on the system, and they hope to schedule more days working with Water Brigades in the future.





Construction has begun on the new, 10,000-gallon tank which will serve for centrally treating and storing the water for distribution to the community. The foreman works alongside local masons from Buena Vista to build the watertight structure from bricks, rebar, and cement.



The 5,000-gallon tank has been repaired and is ready to use as the cistern for the pump. They have also finished constructing the cement box which will safely house the pump's control panel (pictured to the left of the tank). A pump technician has reviewed the structures and provided final recommendations to prepare for pump installation in the near future.

Isidoro Fonseca, age 82, and his wife, Katalina de Jesus Colindres Gutierrez, age 70, have lived in Buena Vista their entire lives. Their home, residing in the central sector of the community, sits right next to a 1,000-gallon tank that was built in 1987. Due to poor initial design and insufficient size, this tank does not provide a consistent source of water as it is often dry, forcing residents like Isidoro and Katalina to walk further away so they can access water from a larger 5,000-gallon storage tank. Water is not treated at either of the tanks, meaning that community members either have to treat their water themselves or risk consuming contaminated water. Collecting water from the larger tank can take more than a few hours out of their day. Isidoro and Katalina shared that the community has suffered for years due to this complicated and defunct water system. Their son, Roberto Antonio Fonseca, is part of the Buena Vista community team working with Global Brigades to implement the new, sustainable water system that will bring a clean and sufficient supply of water directly to their home. "We are extremely happy," Katalina said when asked how she felt about the new system. "Things are going to be better."

