



HAITI

Pillatre Community

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF
WEST LAFAYETTE**

PILLATRE COMMUNITY

L'ACUL-DU-NORD, NORD, HAITI

LATITUDE: 19.703658, LONGITUDE: -72.333988

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Water access was fraught with difficulties for the 252 members of the Pillatre community. The residents had a shallow hand-dug well, but the water was contaminated and unsafe for drinking. Instead, the community members would climb to a remote mountain spring, a one-hour trek each way. The path was treacherous and especially dangerous for the women and children who collected water each day—the journey to the isolated spring left them vulnerable to both injury and violence.

Sometimes the residents would have no choice but to drink the water from the hand-dug well, and this resulted in frequent bouts of diarrhea, dysentery, worms and parasites, and typhoid. Even the spring water wasn't safe; mosquitoes nested in the water and malaria was common. These illnesses took a toll on the residents' health and robbed them of time better spent at work or school.

The Pillatre residents knew that the water crisis was preventing them from moving forward as a community. They also wanted better for their children, to give them the readily available safe water that the community so desperately needed. However, the community members were unsure of how to effect this change on their own. When they heard of Living Water International's work in the region, the Pillatre residents felt a flicker of hope. They contacted Living Water Haiti and described their current situation.

Living Water visited the Pillatre community to assess the situation in person. The staff found that the community was in great need of safe water. The community members were also willing to be good stewards of a new well. The residents were overjoyed when they learned



Pillatre residents collect water from a mountain spring.



Pillatre is largely an agricultural community. The residents grow plantains, cassava, and sweet potatoes.

that they would be getting a well in their community thanks to your kind generosity, Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette.

Because of your funding, the Living Water staff and the Trips team from your church soon returned to Pillatre to begin drilling the new well. They drilled 30 meters into the earth to access an aquifer of safe water and then flushed the borehole to remove any sedimentary debris. They installed PVC piping, a gravel pack, and a sanitary seal. The well was treated with a shock chlorination, and the water was tested and proved to be safe for

WATER USERS	252
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS	women and children
TERRAIN	rural

drinking. The team then capped the well with a hand pump and poured a concrete base with a drainage channel to prevent mosquitoes from nesting near the well site. The Pillatre residents pitched in alongside the Trips team, and the well was soon complete. The Pillatre water crisis was defeated because of your generosity.



The team flushes the borehole for the well.



Your Trips team was instrumental in the success of this project.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ALTITUDE **48 m**

DEPTH DRILLED **30 m**

STATIC LEVEL **13 m**

CASING MATERIAL **PVC**

CASING EXTERNAL DIAMETER **100 mm**

PUMP TYPE **HAND PUMP**

SANITARY SEAL DEPTH **6 m**

GRAVEL PACK DEPTH **18 m**

SHOCK CHLORINATION **YES**

PLATFORM MATERIAL **CONCRETE**

WATER QUALITY TESTS

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS **196 ppm**

PH **7**

HARDNESS **250 ppm**

COLIFORM BACTERIA **ABSENT**



Safe water is now readily available in the center of the community.

SUSTAINABILITY

To equip the Pillatre community for a future of safe water management, the Living Water staff guided the residents in several sustainability methods, including choosing a water committee. The committee will oversee the maintenance of the well and collect a small, agreed-upon fee per household for water usage. This fee will be saved and used to cover any future repairs or replacement parts the well might need. The Living Water staff also helped the committee set up a maintenance schedule and an operating budget that will help keep the well in working order. The committee will stay in contact with Living Water Haiti about the functionality of the pump. Thanks to your gift, the Pillatre residents are ready to be good stewards of the well.

"The situation was very difficult. We had [an old] well, but the water wasn't safe. Some people used to drink from it. This resulted in a lot of diseases like typhoid, diarrhea, and other illnesses in the community. We had to climb a mountain for one hour to get drinking water from a spring.

We expect the situation will change for the better because we now have a new well, which was drilled very deep. We expect to have safe water. We will not have as many [water-related] diseases now."

— *Ambroise Renald, 36-year-old teacher*



These six community members will serve on the Pillatre water committee.



Ambroise Renald (right) explains how safe water access will transform his community.

SANITATION & HYGIENE

During their time in Pillatre, the Living Water staff and your Trips team provided a sanitation and hygiene training for 80 members of the community. The training, which consisted of a series of interactive lessons, used visual aids, demonstration, and discussion to better help the participants understand how to use the safe water you gave them as a means of improving their health.

The Living Water team used visual aids to show the participants how harmful bacteria and other germs enter the human body. The best defense against this, they explained, was proper handwashing, especially at key times. The Trips team then demonstrated thorough handwashing technique, and the participants were given the opportunity to practice and hone their technique. The community members were also shown how to implement good dental hygiene into their daily lives through a demonstration using an oversized set of plastic teeth and a large toothbrush.

In a more prescriptive lesson, the Living Water team used a specialized doll to illustrate the dangerous effects of diarrhea and dehydration on the human body. The participants were shown how to make an oral rehydration solution, a mixture of safe water, sugar, and salt. The team distributed 27 spoons designed to measure the ratios in this mixture.

The residents also discussed healthy versus unhealthy foods and what habits they could adopt on a personal level that would benefit the health of their community at large. Lastly, the residents were shown how to care for the new well and pump and how to safely store the water. The community members finished the training ready to implement all they had learned.



A young girl uses a set of plastic teeth to demonstrate proper brushing technique during the sanitation and hygiene training.



Participants mix an oral rehydration solution.

IN JESUS' NAME

As an extension of your gift of safe water, your Trips team shared God's love with the Pillatre community through an outpouring of *living water*. The team shared stories from the Bible such as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" and "The Samaritan Woman at the Well." The residents were invited to make "salvation bracelets" and "wordless books," crafts that use symbolic colors to explain God's plan for salvation.

Through these stories and activities, the residents learned that God loves them and that his words to the Samaritan Woman in John 4:13-14 (NIV) were also for them: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

At the conclusion of the water project, the Living Water team held a well dedication service. The service was a special time of prayer and thanksgiving during which the staff and your Trips team led the residents in dedicating the well to God and his Kingdom purposes. One hundred and fifty people heard the gospel, and 25 pieces of gospel literature, including Bibles, were distributed.

Because of your gift and the time your team invested in this community, the residents experienced an outpouring of the *living water* of Christ available to all.



The Living Water staff, Trips team, and Pillatre residents pray over the new well.



Children of the community celebrate their new safe water source at the well dedication service.

YOUR IMPACT

Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette, thank you for ending the water crisis in Pillatre! By providing the residents with safe water, you've been instrumental in transforming the community. The Pillatre residents no longer have to rely on distant or unreliable water sources. Nor will they suffer from water-related diseases. Thanks to your generosity with both time and resources, they have continuous access to safe water. They can turn to other, more meaningful pursuits and can finally envision a future that isn't marred by scarcity, danger, and illness.

Even as you sought to meet the physical needs of the residents of Pillatre, you have also given them the gift of *living water* that only Christ offers. Because of your gift, the residents now understand the promise of Isaiah 12:3 (NIV): "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name.



Thank you, Calvary Baptist Church!