

Safe Water, Safe Homes

Mexico

Lake Forest College

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workers were difficult to find in a short period of time. After communicating with the president of the town we were able to find eight workers who could safely install plumbing systems and filters while staying within the budget plan. We also had to ensure that the water was safe and tested the water multiple times with the help of workers.

H. What were the challenges you encountered in communicating with people?

Working in Alpuyecá was difficult due to residual fear and distrust residents have from being approached by individuals who offer services and aid in exchange for political clout. There were cases in which residents would refuse to speak to project coordinators due to the deep distrust of those outside of the community. It was difficult to convince families that this was a project that was not for profit or any other sort of gain. Residents presented ID cards often and some were in disbelief that we would provide plumbing systems for nothing in exchange. After some time one family accepted and others soon followed. After this initial roadblock the project moved forward and trusting relationships were established.

I. How do you define peace?

Peace begins in the home and within oneself. During this project we were dedicated to restoring peace in the resident's daily environment. Peace cannot coexist with water shortages,

