CLEAN WATER isn’t a luxury.

It’s life.

Children at an elementary school in Pahuit, Guatemala, wash their hands at a new hand washing station before eating lunch. With access to safe water, communities can practice good hygiene to improve health.

If you’re reading this page, you probably enjoy safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. But in other parts of the world, many people are not that fortunate. Unsafe drinking water and unsanitary conditions cause 80% of the sickness in the developing world and kill 4,500 children each day.

Thanks to increasing funding and awareness, progress is being made. You can build on this momentum:

• Sponsor a safe drinking water project through your civic, religious or educational organization. For example, Rotary International’s President has asked all 32,000 Rotary clubs worldwide to undertake water projects. See www.rotary.org/jump/water.

• Thank Congress for passing the landmark Water for the Poor Act of 2005 that makes access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation a centerpiece of U.S. foreign aid strategy. Ask public officials to increase their support for water & sanitation and other effective foreign aid.

• Help girls attend school rather than haul water. Recognizing that half the world’s schools lack water and sanitation, the UN Foundation’s Better World Fund is launching the Global Water Challenge. See www.globalwaterchallenge.org.

• Involve your local faith community through prayer and advocacy. Christian, Jewish and Muslim development organizations recently assembled for the first time to expand their safe drinking water programs worldwide.

• Support nonprofit drinking water organizations. In an unprecedented collaboration of leading U.S. water groups, the Millennium Water Alliance is working to expand the number of well-designed projects for water, sanitation and hygiene. See www.mwawater.org.

Help reduce the catastrophic toll from water-related diseases. For more information, and for a partial list of U.S.-based organizations involved with drinking water and sanitation projects around the world, see www.wateradvocates.org.

Paid for by Water Advocates, a U.S. nonprofit supporting Waterlines and dedicated to increasing American support for worldwide access to safe, affordable and sustainable supplies of drinking water and adequate sanitation. www.wateradvocates.org