

## **Are you ready for the big November Holiday?**

No, I don't mean Thanksgiving. I am referring to World Toilet Day on Tuesday, November 19!

Why is World Toilet Day necessary? Because we need to raise awareness for nearly half of the world's population, who don't have access to proper sanitation.

### ***Did you Know?***

- 2.5 billion people worldwide are without access to toilet facilities (defined as anything from a pit latrine on up)?
- This lack of access to proper sanitation risks their health, strips their dignity and kills 1.8 million people, mostly children, each year.
- Globally, diarrhea is the leading cause of illness and death and poor sanitation is the main cause.
- Diarrheal diseases kill 5 times as many children in the developing world as HIV/AIDS. That's 5,000 children dying every single day.
- Diarrhea kills more children than either malaria or AIDS, stunts growth, and forces millions, adults and children alike, to spend weeks at a time off from work or school, which affects a country's economy and its citizens' chances of a better future.
- The lack of safe water and sanitation is the world's single largest cause of illness. One in six people have no access to safe water, and 42% of households have no toilets.
- Clean water reduces the spread of diarrheal diseases that kill up to 5,000 children a day.

While the problems are enormous, the situation is far from hopeless. Watch for more information in the coming weeks as to how you too may be part of the solution.

Tom Waldoch, Social Ministry Team