

W.A.T.E.R.

Water in Africa Through Everyday Responsiveness

212 Xanadu Rd, #507 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

www.waterinafrica.org

USA – 608-253-0717



Water In Africa Through Everyday Responsiveness (W.A.T.E.R.) is an NGO which began in 2005 for the purpose of providing water and sanitation to the most rural of African villages. It originated to provide water to Guinea Worm endemic villages in West Africa. Guinea Worm is a water borne disease, which has been targeted for eradication by The Carter Center, The World Health Organization and governments throughout the world. It is likely to be the second disease ever eradicated in the history of mankind. The first was smallpox.

W.A.T.E.R. has provided hand dug wells, drilled boreholes, mechanized boreholes and built rain catchment systems in guinea worm endemic and other villages. In Ghana, much of the work is done through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), who organizes the drilling, works with the communities, etc. Other partners have included UNICEF and World Vision. The partner can vary depending on the location of the problem and what the correct water solution is for that village.

The funds collected on Life Teen's Give It Away Now: Thirst for Change Night are expected to fund drilled boreholes with CRS. It costs about \$12,000 to drill a borehole, install casing, do a water quality test, build a concrete pad, fit it with a handpump and train the community. In the Northern part of Ghana, water is at a premium. According to Community Water and Sanitation in Ghana, 42% of the people in the area W.A.T.E.R. and CRS have worked together do not have access to clean water. One borehole and a handpump provide water for 300 people.

Combining all the contributions from Life Teen parishes around the globe will help provide clean water for multiple communities. Once you collect the money please go to www.waterinafrica.org and click on the Life Teen button to get detailed instructions on how to make your contribution. Please have checks made out to W.A.T.E.R.

As the Global Life Teen family comes together for Give It Away Now: Thirst for Change, thousands of people can be provided water. We at W.A.T.E.R would like to continue our relationship with parishes further. W.A.T.E.R. is a 100% volunteer organization, and so we count on concerned people to volunteer their time and energy. Without it, no money can be raised and no projects can be implemented. **You are the key to success.** We invite you to get involved with W.A.T.E.R. beyond Give It Away Now and it is our sincere hope that each and every one of you reading this will stay involved with W.A.T.E.R. for many years to come. See the reverse side to find out how. If you have questions, send them to JNiquette@aol.com and put "Life Teen Question" in the subject area.

In addition to contributing, during the past 5 years over 40 of our fiends from the USA and Canada have come to visit us in Africa. We hope to see you in Africa one day as well. That journey can start with Give It Away Now and continue with your commitment to care about the world we all share together. It can change your life as well as the lives of others.

Your Parish and W.A.T.E.R. After September 26

W.A.T.E.R. is grateful to have been selected as Life Teen's first international cause for Give It Away Now: Thirst for Change. Our hope is that this is the start of a long term relationship not only with Life Teen, but with your parish as well. Between 2005 and 2009, W.A.T.E.R. raised approximately 80% of its money via individual parishes like yours. This was accomplished via fund raising projects, mainly at the end of the year. Drilling season in West Africa begins in December and runs through May, so funds you raise at the end of the year feed into next year's implementations. The money you raise at the end of 2010 could provide a village with water in 2011. Even following Give It Away Now, we hope that your parish will consider doing a year end event in 2010 and subsequent years. We are counting on the youth at your parish to make this happen.

Below are examples of themes which can help raise money (combine ideas if you like):

- Sponsor a borehole – Make your target \$12,000 and the borehole will be named after your parish. Parishes have sent people to Africa the following year to dedicate the boreholes. Every year W.A.T.E.R. has a 5-10 people who come to Africa during the July / August timeframe.
- Turn Wine into W.A.T.E.R. – A wine tasting party intended to attract parents at which each youth brings a parent (or other adult). If each member of Life Teen brings at least one adult and generates at least one check, you can imagine how much you could raise. Note: If such an event is sponsored at a parishioner's house, the costs are tax deductible.
- Make a donation in Lieu of a Christmas gift – Let someone know you are giving up your gift if they make a donation. Hold a gathering in December at your church, collect the money and honor both the donors and the person giving up the gift. Note: Donations are tax deductible but Christmas gifts are not. So the donation costs the donor less than your Christmas gift would.

We want to be partners for many years to come with both you and your parish. W.A.T.E.R. has no paid employees, this means that 90% of donations can arrive directly in the villages in Africa. But it also means that we need your volunteer help to raise money. **We are all volunteers, so we are all in this together.**

Please note the following with regard to any additional events you may choose to do:

- Send an e-mail to Jim Niquette at JNiquette@aol.com to let us know you intend to have an event and when. Put "Life Teen Event" in the subject line and tell us more.
- When you hold the event, make checks payable to W.A.T.E.R. Collect them and mail them to 212 Xanadu, #507, Wisconsin Dells, WI, 53965
- Make sure the donor's check has their name and address on it, so they can receive the proper tax deduction. If people give cash and want the deduction, please include a listing which includes their name, address and e-mail.
- We want this to be a long term relationship. There are 10,000,000 people in Ghana alone without access to clean water. We have a lot of work to do.

Plan your next event today! God bless us all.

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