



You Changed the World

In a year of escalating efforts to provide the safe water people need to stay healthy, Lifewater endured: **fear** when the safety of team members in Kenya and Haiti was threatened; **chaos** when Haiti's election took place during the post-earthquake cholera epidemic; and **frustration** when mechanical breakdowns coincided with an utter lack of spare parts.

And yet the teams persevered, completing a record 145 projects! 111 new wells now provide safe water for over **40,000 children** and their families; plus we repaired pumps, built village washrooms and taught health & hygiene in well-attended workshops.

Pretty amazing considering that Lifewater is run by volunteers working from home, and that **this work was funded by donations from ordinary people like you and me!** Companies, churches and foundations gave generously. Children held talent shows and rallied their schools to sponsor wells. Anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, Bat Mitzvahs, funerals, and many other events were occasions used to raise support.

Thanks for making a difference!

Jim Gehrels, President

Haiti Update

Susan and Doug, so moved by Lifewater's work, quit their jobs and relocated their family to Haiti. They are equipping local workers to help themselves. Operating under the Creole name "**Dlo se Lavi**" (De l'eau c'est la vie ... based on Lifewater's slogan: "**Because Water is Life**") they are taking proud ownership of the Haitian organization that your donation dollars continue to build.



Jhon flushing new orphanage well

Assisted by volunteers, a much-needed survey to inventory wells, pump types and water quality began across the Northern Plain. This work continues with trained Haitian workers and over 800 wells have been assessed.

Dlo se Lavi workers repair 4-5 pumps per day, and for the first time in memory there are now districts with no broken pumps!

This critical step helps prevent another cholera outbreak like the one that swept through Haiti following the earthquake.

Well-drilling continues, using supplies generously provided by members of the Ontario Ground Water Association. Instructors from the Fleming College Water Well certification program visited Haiti to help train the new drillers. Overcoming the initial shock of conditions in Haiti, they donated equipment and training to help better monitor and manage fluids. How exciting for the Haitian workers, because this means the difference between boreholes collapsing at 65 feet vs. going down to 110 feet to provide a lifetime supply of safe drinking water! *Thanks so much, Steve!*

The World Health Organization has just predicted that there will be 500,000 cases of cholera in Haiti by the end of the year! The only lasting solution is safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Please consider giving the gift of life this Christmas by partnering with Lifewater to drill wells here to stop this epidemic.

Nigeria News

The Lifewater team in Nigeria was shocked by the unexpected death of their head driller. When Silas and Jonathan stepped-up to fill this void, they completed 31 projects this year! Lifewater will visit Nigeria in 2012 to provide encouragement while upgrading the Nigerian team's drilling skills.

East Africa Drought

By now, most of the world is concerned by the drought hitting East Africa. Lifewater volunteers visited areas where rivers have dried-up and people are digging into the river bed to find water. Despite security concerns, the team drilled several wells here, with more drilling planned for the months ahead.



With your support, Lifewater bought bigger mud pumps and additional drilling rods so that they can drill deeper to make wells that will not go dry despite the drought. We also visited schools with 40 year-old latrines. While students line-up to use the facilities, roofs are rotting, floors are collapsing and waste material is mounded above floor level. We built a new latrine at Uhuru School in Nakuru and your support will help other schools this coming year.

Where Did Your \$ Go?

2010/2011 Total:	\$663,743
Well Construction	48%
Capital Expenses*	24%
Overseas Training	15%
Handpump Repair	6%
Sanitation & Hygiene	4%
Overhead	3%

**Capital" includes trucks, buildings, drills, bits, and other items that strengthen the capacity of local workers to help more.*

Liberia Update

Liberia bustled with activity this past year. Two new Bedford 4x4 diesel 10-ton trucks we received from NATO allowed volunteer drillers to move our drill rig from a trailer to a truck. Now we can drill into rock where necessary. The first three wells entailed a steep learning curve, but ended-up producing a steady supply of clear water in places where the hand-dug and shallow-drilled wells were all going dry!

Our multi-purpose building with office space is fully-functional. Parking sheds now protect vehicles, aside secure storage containers for parts and supplies. As we complete the last of the required worker housing, we intend this compound to allow teams and volunteers to focus on providing safe water in grass hut villages that currently draw water from stagnant swamps and murky slow-moving rivers.



A real affirmation arrived in April from an unexpected source:

A newspaper in Monrovia holds a reader poll every year to select a local "Non-profit Group of the Year." Excitingly, Lifewater Liberia was honoured as this year's recipient of the award. How encouraging...because this award underscores not how we feel as sponsors, but how the nation of Liberia and its people recognize the impact of Lifewater's work.

Courtney's Story...

My 8th birthday party was in Walkerton, Canada in the year 2000. We drank a lot of water, not knowing it was contaminated with *e Coli*. My birthday gifts were kidney failure, heart failure, nausea - you name it.

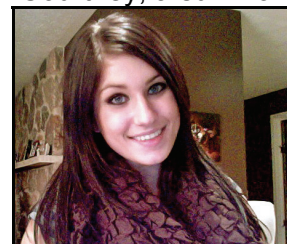
I was immediately airlifted to London Hospital, went straight into surgery and needed dialysis to help my failed kidneys. Blood work, tests and long talks about things a child should never have to hear was my life for a month. I finally went home, but had follow-up treatments for the next 10 years (blood work, pressure etc.).



Instead of releasing all my hate on those who let this happen, I decided to give hope to innocent people who are suffering. That's why my classmates & I at Sacred Heart School raised \$4,200 so Lifewater could drill wells to save Haitians who know the pain we endured 11 short years ago.

I am an 18-year-old girl with a mission - and a story to go with it.

~Courtney, a survivor



What's *your* story? **May you too be inspired to act now to save kids dying from unsafe water!**

Donate at www.Lifewater.ca
307 Euclid Ave., Suite 194,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 5L1
gehrelji@yahoo.com (807) 622-4848