

Fall 2006 News Update

A Donor Letter Worth Sharing

Mr. Jim Hicks
President and CEO
Thirst Relief International

Dear Jim,

I wanted to thank you and your volunteer team for the great progress you've made during the last year. Your commitment to thirst relief is very obvious and your cause is one that really resonates well with me. I admire what you all have done and your News Updates truly convey the successes of your hard work.

I first found out about your organization through my son, David Young, who once worked with Brent Westermeyer. Once Dave told me about Brent's commitment to thirst relief, I went ahead and learned more about what your organization is trying to accomplish. I became convinced it is a very focused, practical, and humanitarian effort....an effort that I am proud to support.

Just a short time ago our family was impacted by a tragic loss. David and his wife, Lori, recently had twin baby boys, one of whom did not survive beyond the first day. His name was Philip. We think of him as our family's guardian angel now.

I mention this because, on behalf of Philip, I am enclosing the attached check for \$1,000. Having just endured the pain of losing a grandchild, I find myself wanting to make sure I help organizations like yours get the resources you need to help others around the world. If this money can in any way help prevent illness and encourage healthier living, then it is money well invested.

On behalf of Dave, Lori and their family, please accept this check with our love and thanks.

Sincerely, *Jim Young*

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As we draw to the close of Thirst Relief's first full fiscal year of existence, we have much to celebrate. Since our launch to the general public on March 1, 2006, over 6000 people have received the gift of safe, clean drinking water! In the Brazilian Amazon, more than 300 concrete bio-sand water filters were constructed and distributed for use by the "forgotten river people" living deep in the Amazon Basin. In sub-Saharan Africa's country of Zambia, Thirst Relief funded the construction and distribution of more than 200 concrete bio-sand filters, 3 filter molds, and one well hand pump repair. With your continued help, we can put an end to the worldwide water crisis and the 2 million needless deaths that occur annually. Thanks to all who have given of their time, talent, and financial resources to make Thirst Relief a viable humanitarian relief organization.

Year-end Giving: 4 Reasons To Make Thirst Relief Your Charity of Choice

Are you considering a year-end charitable donation for tax deduction purposes? With so many worthy causes out there that could benefit from your financial support, the choice of where to give your money can be a difficult one. Here are four compelling reasons to make Thirst Relief your charity of choice for year-end giving.

Reason 1: The Credibility of the Cause

In this day and age, the statistics are seemingly unbelievable – 1.1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and nearly 2 million people die each year due to waterborne disease (90% of which are children under the age of 5). As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a worldwide water crisis among the world's poorest people. Further, the UN has declared 2005–2015 “Water for Life: The International Decade for Action”.

“Every week, diarrhoeal disease due to easily preventable causes claims the lives of 30,000 people, most of them young children. This is a silent humanitarian crisis that thwarts progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs). The consequences of our collective failure to tackle this problem are the dimmed prospects for the billions of people locked in a cycle of poverty and disease... I urge everyone to look at World Water Day as another occasion to renew their commitment to providing clean, safe water to all who need it.

– Statement of Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-Wook to mark the International Decade for Action: Water for Life 2005-2015, 3/21/2005



A bio-sand water filter providing safe, clean drinking water

Reason 2: The Simplicity of the Solution

In most third-world applications, the solution to the clean drinking water need is found in the concrete bio-sand filter. This simple yet effective technology provides a long-term, sustainable, and economical drinking water solution for those in poverty stricken areas around the world. Where ground water sources are a viable option, shallow water wells equipped with hand pumps provide an equally economical and sustainable clean water supply to entire villages.

Thirst Relief's cost to build, deliver, and install a concrete bio-sand water filter is \$50, which in turn benefits on average 10 people in need. The cost to repair an existing broken well hand pump is \$300-\$800, which in turn benefits 500 to 1000 people in need. The cost to drill a new well is \$2,000-\$4,000, which in turn benefits 500 to 1000 people in need. For less than \$5 per person, we can provide the basic necessity of clean drinking water to those in need around the world.



This Brazilian girl will not be a statistic thanks to generous giving

Reason 3: The Power of Prevention

One of our Thirst Relief partners, who is an emergency/trauma center doctor turned medical missionary, recently attended a tropical medicine seminar. He was astonished to learn the following – over one hundred medical practitioners agreed that three ongoing medical clinics a day, in any given tropical region of the world, wouldn't have as much impact on addressing a community's health as simply addressing their need for clean drinking water.

It is the mission of Thirst Relief International to overcome death and disease resulting from the consumption of contaminated drinking water by providing pure water to those in need around the world. By providing a source of clean, safe drinking water to those in need in the Brazilian Amazon, sub-Saharan Africa, and beyond, we are preventing waterborne disease and circumventing the need to treat it. For those without access to doctors and antibiotics, this prevention is literally life saving.



Zambian children receiving the gift of clean drinking water



Bio-sand filter production at facility in Porto De Moz, Brazil

Reason 4: The Efficiency of Our Efficacy

Efficacy is the power to produce an effect. Efficiency is the ability to be productive without waste. In other words, when you contribute to Thirst Relief International, you are getting the biggest bang for your donated dollar. The organization is run by a 100% volunteer staff comprised of professionals and entrepreneurs. We have the passion, drive, initiative, business acumen, technical competency, and access to field laborers and overseers to expand our current water projects, and start new water projects all over the world. All we need is the funding that would allow us to do this.

Thirst Relief International has minimal administrative overhead, including a monthly phone bill, monthly online donation service fee, printing costs, and postage for mailers. We limit our marketing and advertising budget to less than 3% of our overall expenses. Most noteworthy, none of the Thirst Relief executive staff draws a salary. All this means over 95% of your contribution goes directly to our worldwide water projects and getting safe, clean drinking water to those who need it most. This is world-class charity operation, and the organization is committed to using your generous gifts as effectively and efficiently as possible. Together, we're saving lives and changing the world.

Looking Forward to 2007

We look forward with anticipation to 2007 as a year of sustainable growth and expansion. The need is great in the regions of our current water projects, and we have the potential to expand these projects many times over. Funds permitting, the resources/infrastructure are ready and waiting to provide the following:

- For the Amazon Water Project, the production and distribution of 60-80 bio-sand filters per month.
- For the sub-Saharan Africa Water Project, the production and distribution of 80-100 bio-sand filters per month, repair of 20-30 well hand pumps per month, and drilling/construction of 2-4 new wells per month.

In addition to our current water projects, we are evaluating new water project opportunities in Mexico, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Uganda for 2007. Bottom line, the start-up costs of a new water project are significant, and ongoing funding is required to sustain these projects once launched. Ironically, even in the business of saving lives and changing the world, it's money that makes things happen. Please consider financially supporting Thirst Relief via a one-time or recurring donation to help make these opportunities a reality.

Donor Spotlight

Thanks to **Rhodie Shreve and the staff of Vineyard Columbus** for selecting Thirst Relief as one of the charities for their "Principle of 3" giving commitment. This principle is based on giving as a community of people and not just as an isolated individual.

Thanks to the **Galloway Youth** at the Galloway U.M. Church in Franklin, PA. The youth group took a collection and raised \$80 on behalf of Thirst Relief!

Get Involved

Consider partnering with us in the following ways:

1. **We need your financial support** to continue/expand our existing water projects, and start new water projects in other areas of need.
2. **Get Involved...Get the Word Out!** Join our grassroots marketing campaign to help spread the word about Thirst Relief International.
3. **Do you have a creative fundraising idea?** Let us know! We'll support you with whatever resources we can to make your event successful.

How to Contribute

Two Ways to Donate

1. Donate by Check

Thirst Relief International

P.O. Box 436

Lewis Center, OH 43035-0436

2. Donate Online

www.thirstrelief.org

Contact Us

Toll Free Phone: 1-866-5THIRST

Voice: 614-899-7909

E-Mail: info@thirstrelief.org

If you would like to financially contribute to Thirst Relief International via snail mail, please cut off this bottom portion and send along with your tax-deductible check. Thanks so much!



thirst relief
INTERNATIONAL

saving lives, changing the world.

Thank you for your generous support of Thirst Relief International. With your continued help through a one-time or recurring gift, we can save the lives of millions who are literally dying of thirst.

- \$5 can do unimaginable good when joined with other gifts
- \$50 builds, delivers, and installs one concrete water filter
- \$500 repairs an existing well hand pump
- \$3000 drills a new well
- Other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Thirst Relief International and send to P.O. Box 436, Lewis Center, OH, 43035-0436, or make a secure online donation at www.thirstrelief.org. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.