



saving lives, changing the world.

Summer 2006 News Update

Thirst Relief International exists to provide humanitarian and disaster relief aid to those in need around the world through the provision of safe, clean drinking water. As a young and passionate organization dedicated to seeing lives changed and saving the world, we are both sickened and called to action knowing that nearly 2 million people die annually (90% of which are children under the age of 5) simply because they lack access to clean drinking water. As a result, we are working to put an end to the water crisis plaguing 1.1 billion people worldwide. Celebrate with us as we review the good that has been done over the last quarter through the efforts of Thirst Relief, our partner organizations, and your generous financial support.

A Note from the President

A little over a year ago, we asked you to believe in and financially support a vision, a vision that would save lives and change the world. You responded generously, helping us to raise over \$30,000 to fund the start-up costs of what has become Thirst Relief International. Now, one year later, through your continued support, we are providing clean drinking water to those in need worldwide. Thank you for believing in a vision that has become a reality! As an organization that is currently run on a 100% volunteer staff, we can tell you with certainty that every dollar given to us goes to the cause of providing pure water to those who need it most. The need is real and the workers and resources are available – all we need is the funding to continue our fight against the 2 million needless deaths that occur annually. It's our hope that you can believe with us for an even bigger future as we continue to bring hope and life to so many around the world.

– Jim Hicks, President, Thirst Relief International

\$5 Saves a Life!

Can \$5 really save a life? 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. We are seeking Thirst Partners who are willing and able to give a \$5 recurring monthly donation toward the cause of clean drinking water. To put it in perspective, that's one less fast food value meal or two less specialty coffee drinks per month.

With your help, we can save the lives of millions who are literally dying of thirst. Your \$5 donation can have an unimaginable impact when combined with other \$5 gifts.

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Amazon Water Project

The Amazon Water Project continues to provide for the clean water needs of the "forgotten river people" of the Brazilian Amazon. Through the end of August 2006, Thirst Relief International has funded the construction, delivery, and installation of 171 concrete bio-sand water filters! It is also exciting to report that the number of field project managers implementing the Amazon Water Project has increased from 1 to 3. As a result, resources and infrastructure are ready and waiting to provide 60-80 filters per month, which is more than double our current capacity. All that is needed to make this happen is consistent monthly funding. For just \$50 a filter, you can help overcome death and disease resulting from the consumption of contaminated drinking water by providing long-term, sustainable, and economical drinking water solutions for those living in the depths of the Amazon.



A water filter is delivered by canoe to this remote home in the depths of the Amazon Basin.

The distribution of the water filters has been widespread, from the community of Nova Colina, to locations so remote they can only be identified by latitude/longitude coordinates. Nova Colina is a rural neighborhood outside the city of Altamira. It is basically a plot of low-lying land where people have staked claims and built small wooden homes. There is no city water access in Nova Colina, and wells there are very shallow – about 6 feet deep. During the 6-month rainy season, the water quality of the wells worsens, and the people inhabiting this area are forced to drink the equivalent of runoff. The bio-sand water filters provided by Thirst Relief ensure a safe, clean supply of drinking water, and are having a definite impact on the health of this community. Our team put filters in two homes in Nova Colina, one at each end of the neighborhood. This way, neighbors can use them to get safe water for drinking and cooking.



The team stages the water filters for distribution to homes in the village of Aparecida.

The Thirst Relief team recently delivered 18 filters to the village of Aparecida. The village is about 50 years old, and we brought them the ability for clean water for the first time. This is a close-knit community, with generations of family living in this one location. When the team arrived and shared the purpose of their visit, they were accepted with open arms. One of our project managers described the excitement among the people as "like Christmas morning". There was real joy in their faces as they hung out of their house windows to watch the team deliver the filters. It's difficult for us to comprehend, but imagine receiving a sustainable means of clean drinking water for you and your family, and generations to come, for the very first time. The provision of clean drinking water to those in need... something so simple, yet so profound!



Horse and cart are used to deliver filters to Nova Colina.

Sub-Saharan Africa Water Project

Thanks to the consistent monthly funding of our Thirst Partners, the bio-sand water filter project in Zambia is a growing success! Through the end of August 2006, Thirst Relief has funded the building of 3 filter molds and 120 bio-sand filters. To date, the filters have been distributed in and around Kasempa in the North-Western Province, and Ndola in the Copperbelt Region. In Mapalo (near Ndola), the health impact of the bio-sand filter project is being taken to a new level by starting a community development model of distribution. By completing a hygiene training class and participating in building the bio-sand filters, the beneficiaries develop a sense of ownership in the project. One woman in Mapalo had been forced to purchase water from a neighbor because her own well was contaminated. She was so excited to receive a filter and now be able to provide her family with clean drinking water! Every home in this area suffers from waterborne illness, so it is exciting to know we are eliminating death and disease through the distribution of the filters.

Thirst Relief also funded a well hand pump repair in August 2006 at the Katuba Basic School, which will provide clean drinking water to over 800 people in the community. The well hand pump had been broken for over 4 months, and the community was forced to drink from a shallow, contaminated well that was on the verge of drying up. The clean drinking water will have the most significant impact on the health of the children attending the school, who were suffering from waterborne diseases like hook worms, tape worms, malaria, and cholera. Our team reported back that this repair was desperately needed and couldn't have come at a better time. The pupils at Katuba, and the community at large, were very grateful for the gift of clean drinking water.

In Zambia, the cost to build, distribute, and install a concrete bio-sand water filter is \$50, which in turn benefits 10 to 20 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 the sub-Saharan Africa Water Project, resources/infrastructure are ready and waiting to provide 80-100 filters per month, repair of 20-30 well hand pumps per month, and drilling/construction of 2-4 new wells per month. With your financial support, we can maximize our field resources and impact the lives of thousands upon thousands in Zambia and beyond.



Grateful Katuba School pupils on the day of the well repair.



Team repairing the well at Katuba Basic School.



Recent bio-sand filter installations in Zambia.

Guatemala Water Project

As part of our continuing effort to put an end to the world water crisis, Thirst Relief International has started its third water project. In partnership with Northside Fellowship in Westerville, OH, we are working to bring a sustainable and reliable clean drinking water supply to the Nuevo Reto Orphanage located outside of Guatemala City, Guatemala. Nuevo Reto rescues children who would otherwise be left begging in the streets and provides them with shelter, adequate nourishment, and a formal education.

The orphanage's water supply comes from a cistern under the house, which is supplied from a well on the premises. Several of the children have suffered waterborne illness as a result of drinking the water. The clean water solution for this project is still in the evaluation phase. However, based on our preliminary review, Thirst Relief will likely propose a reverse osmosis water purification system to eliminate the dissolved solids, viruses, bacteria, and other germs contained in the water. Stay tuned for more information on this and other future water project opportunities in Mexico, Mozambique, and Uganda.



The smiling children of Nuevo Reto.

Alive Festival in Review

The Thirst Relief staff has been working diligently to spread the word about our cause to bring clean drinking water to those in need. We want to reach the masses with the message that \$5 really can make a difference. As part of this effort, Thirst Relief was honored and privileged to serve as one of the main sponsors for the 19th annual Alive Festival in Canal Fulton, OH. As part of our advertising package, we had a full color ad in the festival program, and an information booth in the large vending & display tent. Most noteworthy, our 60-second video ad was shown twice nightly during this 4 day event. As a result, some 50,000 people heard about Thirst Relief International for the first time! Thanks to the Alive Festival for making it possible for us to have such a visible presence at this event.



Thirst Staff sharing about our worldwide water projects at Alive 2006.

Donor Spotlight

Photographer Davina Fear helped coordinate a photo mentor program at the 2nd annual Pictage Partner Con in Los Angeles to raise awareness and funds for Thirst Relief. Over \$2000 was raised to benefit Thirst Relief, and the program is expected to be an even bigger success in the years to come.

Photographer Liana Lehman helped to coordinate a charity extravaganza in Atlanta to benefit Thirst Relief. The event raised \$350 for Thirst Relief, while providing a fun bash for a group of Buckhead singles.

Get Involved

Together, we can save lives and change the world! 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. You can make a secure online donation at www.thirstrelief.org, or mail your check to: Thirst Relief International, PO Box 436, Lewis Center, OH 43035-0436.

2. Get Involved...Get the Word Out! Join our grassroots marketing campaign to help spread the word about Thirst Relief International. Contact us at 1-866-5THIRST or info@thirstrelief.org to obtain your Partner Packet.