



# CONNECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF WATER FOR PEOPLE

→ Connection: A physical joining of two or more things. The logical linking together of words or ideas.

## Environmental Stewardship in Guatemala

*by Nina Miller, Ph.D., Manager of Program Education, Water For People*

Talk to Water For People–Guatemala country coordinator Edgar Fajardo about water and sanitation development in his country and you quickly realize he is focused on the big picture. Beyond the gravity-fed water systems and household latrines that support the health and growth of rural communities, Fajardo has trained his sights on the sustainability that flows from watershed management.

This environmentally based approach broadens Water For People’s work model, extends the timeline for impact, and links together a range of issues that communities face. Best of all, by its very nature, watershed management expands the knowledge and capacity of local governments, local NGOs, and communities, particularly in their ability to cooperate on common goals.

So, what is watershed management? Indeed, what exactly is a watershed?

A watershed is a geographic area from which water drains toward a common watercourse (such as a lake, stream, or ocean) in a natural basin. It is defined by water but includes topography, geology, and land use. Watershed management entails balancing all of the needs that must be met within

its terrain: personal and household use, sanitation, irrigation and animal husbandry, and even manufacturing and transportation. Balancing these needs depends on bringing all stakeholders into the discussion and empowering them to plan for their mutual benefit and the stewardship of shared resources.

The goals of watershed management are conservation of water and soil, appropriate development of natural resources, and poverty reduction. Nothing could be more logical or, in truth, more ambitious. In the Water For People–Guatemala program, as in the world of international development more generally, the paradigm of watershed management is guiding exciting efforts that will take time to come to fruition. Still, the promise is there to move the world toward ultimate sustainability.

Of Guatemala’s 38 watersheds, the second largest is the Salinas, encompassing 4,639 square miles in the middle-western highlands. Contained within the Salinas Watershed is Quiché, the department where Water For People–Guatemala has made a multiyear commitment to four regions. Like nine other Guatemalan watersheds, the Salinas flows north into the Gulf of Mexico.

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Dear Friends,

Any *American Idol* fans out there? *European Idol*? *Canadian Idol*? The “Idol” TV show has become a global phenomenon all in itself. Singers from all walks of life come together to audition with the hope of landing on television and getting their big break. Each week, singers compete and viewers vote a contestant off the show, until there is just a single winner left. Even if you don’t watch it yourself, the odds are that your kids, spouse, or coworkers are watching . . . and voting. I must confess, I am a great fan.



It is crazy how many people vote: 14 million, 16 million, 20 million. Week after week, people take a fraction of their day to pick up the phone or text in their vote. Engagement, involvement, and unbelievable momentum.

*American Idol* judges repeatedly say, “this is a singing competition, not a popularity contest.” One could make the same kind of comment about development NGOs, such as Water For People. It is about sustainability, not popularity. Water For People may not be the biggest or the most popular organization in this business, but without question, we are leading the sector and one of the most effective.

True sustainability is a slow and steadfast process. If you are a woman in the small hamlet of Mushlim Para in West Bengal, India, sustainability is not a topic that takes debate and understanding. Water For People’s commitment to community involvement and civic/private partnerships, combined with outstanding staff and incredible volunteers, has made us thought leaders and innovative implementers.

The global water crisis is real, and it is solvable. The answer is rooted in Water For People’s working understanding of success, found in communities worldwide that have water and sanitation systems still delivering years after implementation. Water For People is making a lasting difference through our model of indirect implementation and community empowerment and involvement.

I wonder what would happen if everyone in the world *without* safe water and sanitation could vote for the most effective water/sanitation development agency. Who would they vote for?



Sincerely yours,

Colleen Stiles  
CEO, Water For People

**Our Mission:** Water For People helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities, and health and hygiene education programs.

**Our Vision** is a world where *all* people have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; a world where no one suffers or dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease.

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Fajardo sees watershed management as an enhancement of the community empowerment model that Water For People has long used. “In addition to questions of need, affordability, and maintenance,” he says, “communities must consider their water use within a larger network of communities connected by water. When our staff began exploring where we would focus our efforts in Guatemala, the entire team was struck by how interconnected the communities are.”

Improper treatment of wastewater affects those “downstream,” as does the failure to protect a source from domestic animal use. Soil erosion contributes to the diminishment of the water table, and exposure makes springs more vulnerable to storms and floods. A watershed-aware community will strive to keep trees around water points. Such practices protect future generations as well as one’s own family and neighbors.

Watershed awareness includes the knowledge of each area’s place in the watershed, in terms of factors like rainfall and soil quality. One village might be well positioned to grow vegetables, while a village 6 miles away would make the wisest use of their land in grazing cattle. Education in sustainable agriculture may lead to the introduction of new plant species that produce more food for families and for market. Over time, knowing such optimal uses can spur planning for sustainable economic development and consequent poverty alleviation.



*Water For People–Guatemala country coordinator Edgar Fajardo leads a community meeting on project implementation.*

Fajardo points out that people can make better choices about technology in the context of watershed management. For example, where a community might have opted for VIP (ventilated improved pit) latrines because of their low cost and ease of installation, consideration of the high water table in their area might lead them to choose pour-flush technology, which does not threaten drinking water supplies. Additional expense in the initial phase would thus be offset by savings in avoidable water treatment down the line.

A sound idea in a “stable” natural environment, watershed management, Fajardo notes, will become essential under the increasing stresses of global warming. “We are already seeing more extreme weather events like Hurricane Stan, which hit Guatemala just weeks after Katrina,” he says. “Deforestation contributed to the devastation and damage from mudslides, while the poverty of subsistence farming made rebuilding painfully slow.”

Additionally, Fajardo points to the need to find new sources of water in the face of increasing scarcity. Last year, Water For People–Guatemala developed its first rainwater catchment project in a mountain village in the region of Nebaj. With an average 100 inches of rain a year, Visivan was perfectly situated within the watershed to take advantage of this simple technology that frees its women and girls from hours of daily hauling from unsafe sources.

Watershed management certainly has its challenges. Fajardo notes that “because water can be used for many things and there are competing demands for the same resource, watershed management is inherently political.” For that reason “it is essential to involve government in any watershed management activities.”

Fortunately, Water For People–Guatemala is well positioned to do just that. As an organization, Water For People puts strong emphasis on working with local government to increase their capacity for the regulation and infrastructure support that rightly belong to government. Within the expanded purview of watershed management, such capacity building can include helping government with long-range planning around the arbitration of competing water interests. Even in this early stage, Water For People–Guatemala regularly partners with the ministries of environment, forestry, and health, all of which will be central players in a future of integrated environmental stewardship.

Water For People’s director of International Programs, Ned Breslin, sees Fajardo’s groundwork in Guatemala being played out in other Water For People country programs and the international water development sector as a whole. Says Breslin, “Important practices and awareness can be generated at the community level, and Water For People has always believed strongly in education and self-determination of communities. But a watershed exceeds the boundaries of any one community. Real management of the resource begins when communities cooperate through the larger supporting structures of government ministries.” More broadly, “Watershed management is in its earliest stages. It will be a challenging process to work it out for the whole sector, but Water For People is very well positioned to do it because of its focus on government participation and capacity building.” ■

# TARGET PERU:

## Water For People Announces Further Expansion



The Water For People Board of Directors voted unanimously at its June board meeting to include Peru as an official Water For People country program. Bordered by both Bolivia and Ecuador, Peru will serve as a valuable bridge between the two active Water For People country programs currently operating in South America.

Although official water and sanitation coverage rates for Peru are 83% and 63% respectively, numbers in many rural areas barely reach 30%. The 2007 World Water Corps scoping team to Peru noted that Water For People could have a significant impact in Peru because of the government’s strong commitment to provide safe and reliable drinking water,

the lack of water and sanitation services throughout the country, the availability of local partners, and the lack of other NGOs working in the sector. With similar geographic and cultural contexts as Ecuador and Bolivia, lessons learned from working in these areas will strengthen the Peruvian program from the outset.

Registration delays in Ecuador prompted the board to activate expansion into Peru, which was designated an alternate country in 2007. Water For People is by no means abandoning its commitment to the people of Ecuador, but will not operate in the country without being formally recognized, thus the delay and decision to add Peru. ■

## Launching Rwanda:

### A New Country Program Is Born

by *Hélène Baribeau, Ph.D., P.E., Country Coordinator, Water For People–Rwanda*

I left southern California on June 18 and made it to Kigali, the capital city of the Republic of Rwanda, on June 20, after traveling for 30 hours. This is my third visit to beautiful Rwanda, and I was happy to see its green hills, red dirt, lush vegetation, and colorful homes. At the same time, it was a strange feeling to land on the other side of the planet without a return ticket. This is now my home, at least for the next few years.

#### A Little Background

The Republic of Rwanda is too often associated with the horrific events that unfolded in 1994, when long-held ethnic conflicts between the Hutus and Tutsis erupted in genocide; 800,000 to one million people died in just 100 days. Today the government is attempting to build a society with a place for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. There are no more Tutsis or Hutus, only Rwandans.

Landlocked between the Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi, Rwanda is a small country of 10,169 square miles, located in the Great Lakes region of east-central Africa. The capital, Kigali, is conveniently located in the country's center. Rwanda is divided into five provinces (North, East, South, West, and Kigali), which are subdivided into 30 districts. The country is further divided into sectors, then cells, and lastly villages, or *imudugudu*. Rwanda contains approximately 15,000 such villages.

Rwanda's current population is 10 million and it has three official languages: Kinyarwanda, French, and English. The country has one of the lowest percentages

of urbanized populations in the world (14%), yet it has the highest population density in Africa (830 people per square mile), which means that its rural population is very dense, and people can be seen just about everywhere.

#### Water and Sanitation

Rwanda has abundant water resources that should provide for all of the country's water needs, if properly planned. The Ministry of Natural Resources, MINIRENA, oversees water and sanitation and has offered tremendous support to Water For People, including providing office space in one of its compounds.

MINIRENA estimates that 65% of the population has access to drinking water and 85% has access to sanitation facilities. However, only 38% of people have access to latrines that meet adequate hygienic conditions. It is likely that these numbers are inaccurate, as the definition of "adequate sanitation" is still unclear.

#### Water For People's Rwandan Program

Water For People–Rwanda received its registration as a local NGO in April 2008, and is committed to aggressively pursuing Water For People's mission while contributing to the Rwandan government's initiatives to decentralize authority to the districts, develop the private sector, and build the capacity of local governments and communities.



*Water For People–Rwanda country coordinator Hélène Baribeau visits a school in rural Rwanda to assess water and sanitation needs.*

Of Rwanda's 30 districts, two have been assigned to Water For People: Rulindo in the North Province, and Kicukiro in the Province of Kigali. These districts were designated to Water For People because of a significant need for water and sanitation improvements.

Water For People–Rwanda has three overall goals:

- Focus on Water For People's core mission of supporting the development of locally sustainable water resources and sanitation facilities, and promoting hygiene education to improve health in participating communities.
- Maintain Water For People's reputation for excellence, including hiring and training qualified staff and developing strategic partnerships with local government, civil societies, and the local private sector.
- Promote education and technical expertise by training technicians in water and sanitation technologies, and the formation of local enterprises.

I am especially excited about some unique opportunities in Rwanda and the chance to bring creativity to our work here. Some of the special initiatives we will be exploring are:

- Developing and promoting local private entities to operate and maintain the implemented infrastructure, consistent with the government's desire to develop the private sector.
- Involving high school girls in the design of school sanitation blocks for girls, with the aim of retaining them in school.
- Developing a "good hygiene practices" outreach program via radio, the most effective communication medium in Rwanda.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of "community health clubs" to promote proper hygiene and encourage demand for improved services.

The Rulindo and Kicukiro districts have both prepared development plans highlighting water and sanitation priorities. Several projects are under consideration, including rainwater harvesting; protection, rehabilitation, and/or implementation of new water sources; sanitation facilities in communities and schools; and training of local groups on the operation and maintenance of facilities.

Water For People–Rwanda has already established working relationships with several local organizations that are working in the sector. We intend to work closely with these organizations to eliminate redundancy of work and complement each other's strengths and weaknesses.

I look forward to the adventure of a lifetime as I work to fulfill Water For People's important mission for thousands of people in need in Rwanda. While I know I will face many challenges and hardships, I also know that I can count on the support of a dedicated staff and thousands of people who share Water For People's vision. Thank you for your trust and support. And watch for regular updates! ■

### **About the Author**

*Hélène Baribeau has been an active Water For People volunteer for the past five years, and served as vice-chair of the AWWA California-Nevada Section Water For People Committee, chair of the Orange County Committee of Water For People, and the team leader for the preparation of the scoping study to assess whether Water For People should begin a Rwandan country program. Hélène was hired by Water For People in March 2008 to serve as Rwanda's country coordinator and launch the program.*



*Water For People's offices in Kigali, Rwanda.*



*Latrines outfitted with a rain-catchment system in rural Rwanda.*

# World Water Corps

## A Volunteer Reflects on an Eye-Opening Honduran Adventure

by Harold Lamport, World Water Corps Volunteer

Earlier this spring, water issues were clearly in evidence from a casual glance through Colorado newspapers. There was a tainted water supply in the small town of Alamosa, ongoing debate over whether to build a new reservoir to serve expected population growth along Colorado's Front Range, and nationally, the finding of traces of prescription drugs in the water of several municipalities. More recently, flooding was devastating cities and small towns across the Midwest and South.

My water education took a quantum leap forward, however, when I spent a week in rural Honduras with the World Water Corps on a monitoring assignment. Along with several other U.S. volunteers and the Honduran staff of Water For People, I helped gather information on the success of past projects with an eye toward guiding future work.

Seeing firsthand the disparity between what we take for granted here and the trying conditions endured by millions living less than a two-hour plane ride from Houston was truly sobering and, for some members of our group, transformational.

Our team of 11 went to nearly two dozen villages spanning terrain from coastal plain to mountains. In each village, we spoke with local water committee members, checked on gravity-fed water systems and their chlorination mechanisms, and conducted household interviews and visual inspections of tap facilities and latrines.

We were greeted with open friendliness at every stop. Water For People's extraordinary country coordinator, Diana Betancourt, allowed us to see through her eyes the challenges and the triumphs experienced daily

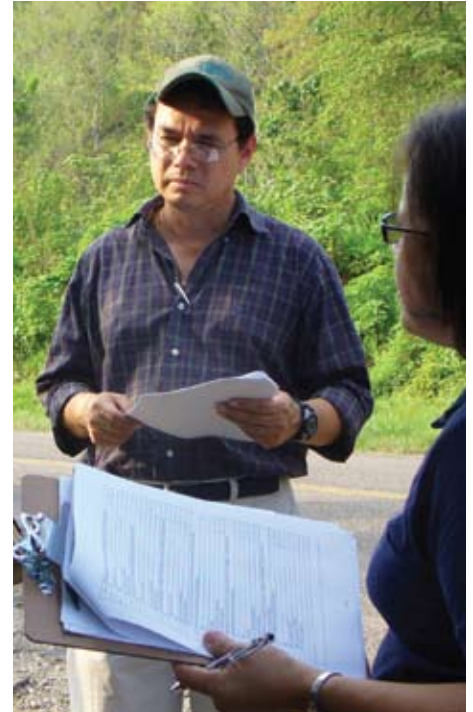
by NGOs, government agencies, and communities. Her knowledge of and affection for the villagers and their circumstances greatly eased our job and made it educational as well.

Honduras is one of the hemisphere's poorest nations with an annual per capita income of slightly more than \$1,000. Ten percent of its 7 million citizens do not have access to safe drinking water or even minimal sanitation facilities. The majority of villages we visited were located at the end of dizzyingly steep, unpaved roads, high in the mountains.

Thanks to organizations such as Water For People, village by village the situation is improving. With significant increases in its program budget over the past few years, Water For People has expanded its reach and has launched operations in Nicaragua. Betancourt has assumed her new role as regional manager, overseeing operations in Latin America, including Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Water For People's successful model puts a premium on local buy-in from targeted communities, who must want improved water and sanitation services. Villagers supply the labor to stretch the waterline from the water source, which can be a distance of six miles or more over rugged terrain. And by using U.S. volunteers to monitor existing efforts and do preliminary groundwork on new commitments, the organization can deliver its services in a highly cost-effective manner.

All the water systems we saw were functional, to the great contentment of the villagers, although chlorination was not always a priority. One farmer explained



Water For People-Honduras country coordinator Allan Torres leads a World Water Corps team on a monitoring assignment.

that chlorine, if in water used to wash the coffee crop, imparts a bad taste, which can affect the caliber of the product delivered to the cooperative in town.

Clearly the hemispheric need for basics such as water and sanitation far outstrips the ability of development organizations to provide them. As a society, we would do well to embrace Water For People's unassuming yet unyielding commitment to deliver these vital services. We must help the organization continue to leverage precious dollars into better health and sanitation for our hemispheric neighbors and friends. ■

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Harold Lamport teaches seventh and eighth grade math at Gilpin K-8 School in central Denver. He is active on the AWWA Rocky Mountain Section Water For People Committee. This was his first World Water Corps assignment.

# REPORT CARD – Progress Against Plan



In 2006 the Water For People Board of Directors approved a five-year (2007–2011) strategic plan to guide the organization’s activities with an emphasis on increasing impact. The core objective of the plan is to increase the number of new people Water For People reaches with the development of safe drinking water resources and improved sanitation to 1,000 per day by 2011, a fivefold increase over 2006.

Developed by Water For People’s Strategic Planning Committee, under the leadership of Pat McCann, chair, the strategic plan focuses on four main goals: strategic growth, international program delivery, resource development, and organizational excellence. The plan called for significant growth within Water For People’s five active program countries and expansion into five new countries.

In the two years since the original plan was adopted, Water For People has experienced record growth. In 2008 the Strategic Planning Committee conducted a mid-course review to assess organizational progress against the plan and modify the plan to reflect new developments.

The detailed analysis of performance revealed impressive results that were well beyond what had been forecasted.

- 24% of strategies were ahead of plan, including the launch of the World Water Corps volunteer program, the mapping program, and the monitoring program.
- 57% of strategies were on target, including revenue growth, country expansion, and communications objectives.
- 19% of strategies were at risk or behind plan, including implementation of global IT systems and securing office space. These are being addressed.

As of 2008, significant progress has been made on many of the major milestones outlined in the plan. Examples include:

- Expanded from 5 countries to 8, and well on the way to surpass 10 by 2011.
- Revenues increased 26% from 2006 to 2007 and are on target for a similar increase in 2008.
- 298 new people per day served with safe water and/or improved sanitation in 2007, a 9% increase over 2006.
- Strengthened staff and management systems that will allow for increased growth and scalability.
- Exciting new donor opportunities, including support from foundations.
- Growing reputation as an innovator and thought leader in the sector.
- Growing awareness of the global water and sanitation crisis.

“The strategic plan has been our roadmap, guiding us through two years of considerable growth while helping us plan for the future in a strategic and thoughtful way,” says Water For People president Fred Elwell. “I’m pleased with our performance to date and feel confident that we will be able to reach our ambitious goals by 2011.”

In addition to assessing Water For People’s performance against the original plan, the committee used the midcourse review to fine-tune the plan itself to ensure its ongoing relevance. Based on this review, the strategic plan was modified to reflect progress and new priorities. One of the more significant changes is to reach 1,000 new people per day by 2011 with *both* water and sanitation instead of a combined number. If successful, this will double Water For People’s impact. “We have some work ahead of us,” confides Elwell. “But we have powerful momentum on our side.” ■

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Water For People Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

**T**wenty-six passionate volunteers from throughout North America were presented with a Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award for their outstanding volunteer service to Water For People at the inaugural Water For People Luncheon, held June 9, 2008, at the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta.

The event was attended by 440 Water For People supporters, who enjoyed an inspiring keynote presentation by former AWWA executive director Jack Hoffbuhr, a longtime supporter of Water For People and advocate for global water and sanitation development. Following his speech and much to his surprise, Hoffbuhr received a Miller Award of his own, recognizing his many years of support.

The Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award was established in 2001 by the Water For People Board of Directors to honor outstanding volunteer service in this international humanitarian effort. The award was named in honor of Kenneth J. Miller of Denver, who is one of Water For People's founders and its first president. Ken received the first Founders' Award in 2001.

### 2007–2008 Miller Award Winners

**Jack Hoffbuhr**

*Former AWWA Executive Director*

**Bobby Riley Redding**

*AWWA Alabama-Mississippi Section*

**Katherine Hammer**

*AWWA Arizona Section*

**Dennis Mitchell**

*AWWA British Columbia Section*

**Brian Bowcock**

*AWWA California-Nevada Section*

**Robert Page**

*AWWA Connecticut Section*

**Grace Johns**

*AWWA Florida Section*

**Gene Camp**

*AWWA Georgia Section*

**Barb Waddell**

*AWWA Illinois Section*

**Doug Karst**

*AWWA Indiana Section*

**John Hays**

*AWWA Iowa Section*

**Dave Tomljanovich**

*AWWA Kentucky-Tennessee Section*

**Bernie R. Bullert**

*AWWA Minnesota Section*

**Glenn Dostal**

*AWWA Nebraska Section*

**Anne Moynihan**

*New England Water Works Association*

**Sandra Kutzing**

*AWWA New Jersey Section*

**Crystal Bonge**

*AWWA North Carolina Section*

**Ken Howe and Bill Persich**

*AWWA Pacific Northwest Section*

**Clair and Doris Olivers**

*AWWA Pacific Northwest Section*

**Ruth Lesser**

*AWWA Pennsylvania Section*

**Barry Stone**

*AWWA Rocky Mountain Section*

**Harold R. Seifert**

*AWWA Southwest Section*

**Chris Varnon**

*AWWA Texas Section*

**Jeff Kapinos**

*AWWA Virginia Section*



*The 2007–2008 Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award recipients.*

# Workplace Giving: Engaging Employees in a Common Cause

It's a program that puts employees' money where their hearts are. More and more companies are participating in Water For People's Workplace Giving program and providing employees with the opportunity to support Water For People's lifesaving work.

Workplace giving has become an essential component of Water For People's fundraising strategy. It's making a tremendous difference in the organization's ability to fund work abroad. In 2007, more than \$860,000 was raised by employees, representing a 53% increase over the prior year and almost 20% of Water For People's total revenues.

"It's a way for employees across the industry to give back," says Colleen Stiles, Water For People's CEO. "Our mission hits close to home for people who spend every day ensuring that we all have safe drinking water."

For some companies, workplace giving has become a competitive sport, with employees striving to out-donate employees from competing companies. "It's all in good fun," says Stiles. "The important thing is that we are able to support our mission." In 2007 it was the employees of American Water who set the bar, raising \$133,000. The company contributed even more. In 2008 the employees of CH2M HILL surpassed that benchmark by donating more than \$180,000 during the month of May.

Workplace giving enables companies to increase their level of support by consolidating their annual corporate gift with donations from employees. The impact can be significant. Not only do workplace giving campaigns boost the morale of the employees as they collectively focus on



Louise Kirkpatrick takes one in the face from coworker Catherine Thompson, both of CDM's Maitland, Florida, office, during their workplace giving campaign.

supporting one charitable organization, but they also directly reflect the company's commitment to social responsibility.

Water For People's Workplace Giving campaigns are flexible. Beyond simply fundraising, the goal is to educate employees on the global water and sanitation crisis. The most successful campaigns have strong support from executive-level management, who work directly with Water For People's staff to develop an appealing campaign that inspires employees. The preferred method is for the company to implement an independent, companywide campaign during a specific time of the year. World Water Day in March and National Drinking Water Week in May are the most popular times to launch campaigns.

Workplace giving is not limited to traditional payroll deductions. Employees can also make onetime gifts or donate online and set up monthly credit card donations.

To increase campaign impact, fun company-sponsored fundraising activities can make all the difference. Promotion is the key to success. Companies frequently use company newsletters, paycheck inserts, and intranet sites to create excitement about campaigns.

Companies never go it alone. Water For People's staff works closely with company representatives to ensure success. Campaign coordinators receive weekly progress reports that can be shared with employees. At the end of the campaign, Water For People provides a final tally . . . along with effusive thanks!

To learn more about Water For People's Workplace Giving program, contact Lori Geres at 303.734.3489, lgeres@waterforpeople.org. ■

## PEOPLE CONNECTIONS



Meet Magdalena Tzunux, a bright 12-year-old girl from the high-mountain village of Arenal, Guatemala. Wise beyond her years, she has big plans for herself. She wants to get her university degree—an ambitious goal in a region where most students only finish third grade. Magdalena loves learning, except that her school lacks proper sanitary facilities. The latrines are filthy and dangerous, and pose a threat to children's health. For girls like Magdalena who have reached puberty, there is no privacy. As a result, she stays home for a week every month, interrupting her learning and limiting her dreams.

Water For People is supporting the construction of proper latrines at Magdalena's school, including separate facilities for boys and girls. This simple convenience will offer Magdalena the chance to attend school every day so that she can learn and grow. She has many natural gifts—now she will have an opportunity for a better life.

Simply having access to water and sanitation can mean an improved education and an end to poverty. Your support of Water For People helps give people like Magdalena a chance to succeed.

Donate now.  
[www.waterforpeople.org/donate](http://www.waterforpeople.org/donate)

## Ford Meter Box Honors Company Leader With Endowment

The Ford Meter Box Company has made an initial \$100,000 gift to Water For People to establish the Richard V. Ford Endowment in honor of Richard "Dick" Ford, son of company founder Edwin Ford. A respected industry inventor, leader, and philanthropist, Dick spent more than 50 years with The Ford Meter Box Company, eventually serving as chairman of the board before he passed away in June 1981.

Among his many achievements, Dick demonstrated a strong commitment to helping people access water in developing countries, long before Water For People was an idea. His frequent travels gave him a deeper understanding of global water issues, particularly for the poor. Dick Ford pioneered the company's exporting business when, in the early 1950s, he began selling the company's products to utilities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On a sales trip to Asunción, Paraguay, the last capital city in South America to install a water system, Dick visited some of the poorer neighborhoods and was dismayed to learn that the poor were not going to receive the benefits of the new water system. He was troubled to see people hauling water from public wells and buying water from dirty wagons.

He had intense discussions about the problem with the head of the government-owned utility, and together they concluded that a less expensive system could be built to serve these neighborhoods, if they could limit the amount of water used. Inspired by the thought of the hand pumps of his childhood days and incorporating a valve using a dashpot principle to avoid water waste, Dick conceived an idea that he presented to company and the Fordilla valve was designed. With this valve, water systems could be built inexpensively and serve all people.

By February 1962, 100 families in Asunción were able to draw water in their front yards using Fordilla valves. Dick worked tirelessly to promote the Fordilla throughout Latin America with the hope that poor people everywhere could access safe water. The Richard V. Ford Water For People Endowment extends his legacy as an innovator, philanthropist, and water industry leader.

"By funding this endowment, The Ford Meter Box Company is helping to secure the future of Water For People and especially our work in Latin America, whose people held a special place in the heart of Richard Ford," said Colleen Stiles, Water For People's CEO. "We are so grateful, as are the thousands of people who will benefit from access to safe water and improved sanitation in the coming years." ■



*Ford Meter Box employees test Fordilla valves in the early 1960s.*

# Second Graders Make a World of Difference



The phrase “every drop counts” took new meaning this spring in Orlando, Florida, when Elayne Nash and her second grade classmates created “water drop” pendants to raise money for Water For People.

Kids created hundreds of colorful plastic water drops using Shrinky Dinks material that is easy to draw on and cut out. The Dr. Phillips Elementary School class, led by teacher Elizabeth Savedes and parent Heidi Nash, strung the water drop pendants with plastic lacing and then sold the jewelry to fellow students.

“When the kids bought the necklaces, they were literally saving lives one drop at a time,” Heidi said.

The idea to hold a fundraiser for Water For People sparked off two years ago when Will Nash, son of Heidi and Jeff Nash, suggested it after traveling with his family to more than a few water conferences (Jeff works at CH2M HILL), where Will gained the appreciation for water as a valuable natural resource. He rallied the school, giving a presentation on Water For People, and organized a fundraiser selling bracelets.

The second grade teacher, Savedes, focuses one month of her class each year on water conservation, and this year, with

Elayne in the class, it was the perfect opportunity to continue the tradition Will started. By making the Shrinky Dink necklaces, Heidi said the idea of water as an essential resource was really driven home with the students.

“The kids were made aware that there is a world outside where people are truly struggling and they need our help,” she said. “And they learned that helping is easy.”

When school was in session, Elayne said she often saw fellow schoolmates wearing their new water drop pendants. She remarked that she and her classmates enjoyed making the necklaces, especially because the Shrinky Dink material allowed for different designs as well as drawing outside the lines. “I knew people needed help and I didn’t want people dying because their water wasn’t clean,” Elayne explained.

Enriched by the school’s embrace of the cause and by the knowledge held by the second graders selling the jewelry, fellow students who purchased the \$1 necklaces understood the meaning of the water drops and knew they were helping to make a difference. “They thought that people should have their fair share of clean water,” Elayne said. The students raised more than \$400 for Water For People. ■



Second-grader Elayne Nash created a necklace *fad* in her school, raising \$400 for Water For People.

## Fowl Fundraiser: Valparaiso City Utilities “Flick” Chicken to Benefit Water For People

If you’ve never had Nelson’s Port-A-Pit Chicken, you haven’t lived. This mobile “restaurant” travels to various locations in Indiana and cooks chicken on-site for its loyal followers. The savory aroma attracts hungry patrons from miles away.

Knowing the allure of this special chicken, Valparaiso City Utilities hosted a Water For People fundraiser on May 20, 2008, attracting hundreds of people to their Customer Service Center for a tasty morsel of bird.

At \$5 for a half-chicken, they sold 500 tickets and raised more than \$1,100, surpassing their \$1,000 goal. The whole team came together to help out with signs, ticket sales, boxing, serving, and putting together goodie bags to spread the word about Water For People’s important work. Everyone played a part in the fundraiser’s success and had a fun time in the process.



“Chicken Flickers” from Valparaiso City Utilities.

# HOMERUN!

## 2008 New England Water For People Gala at Fenway Park

The New England Water For People Committee knocked one out of the park when it hosted the 2008 New England Water For People Gala on May 10. The event, at Boston's historic Fenway Park, attracted more than 300 attendees and netted approximately \$65,000 for Water For People, enough to provide more than 1,300 people with a protected ongoing source of safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education!

The New England Committee has hosted a major gala event every other year since 2004, with increasing success. This year's attendance was up by more than 100 over the 2004 and 2006 gala events. Cochairs Larry Durkin, Dave VanHoven, and Anne Moynihan are to be credited for an outstanding job in planning and promoting a memorable event. Larry took the lead, bringing all the pieces together and working closely with Water For People staff in Denver. Dave made the dream of a strengthened New England Water Works Association and New England Water Environment Association partnership happen to the point that one attendee commented that it wasn't separate committees he saw, but one united New England Water For People Committee.

Anne was so instrumental to the event's success that the committee recognized her commitment and outstanding organizational abilities by surprising her with a Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award for volunteer service to Water For People. She has organized event logistics for the past three galas.

Water For People's vice president and Boston native Elisa Speranza attended and presented Anne with her Miller Award. Also in attendance was Water For People CEO Colleen Stiles, who gave a moving speech about the courage required to take on the world water crisis.

Dr. Larry Simon of Brandeis University gave an inspiring talk about the role of members of the water and wastewater communities in the global water crisis.

In addition to enthusiastic support from New England's water and wastewater community, the event was sponsored by Poland Spring, *The Boston Globe*, Harpoon Brewery, and WCVB-TV (Boston's ABC affiliate).

The gala was lots of work—and lots of fun. Thanks to all who pitched in and made it so successful. You made a real difference in the lives of many less fortunate people! ■



Top: Gala co-chairs Dave VanHoven (left), Anne Moynihan (second from left), and Larry Durkin (right) celebrate success with Mistress of Ceremonies Karen Holmes Ward of WCVB-TV in Boston. Bottom: The Water For People logo shares the stage with Fenway's famous John Hancock sign.

# SUPPORTING THE CAUSE

Longtime Water For People supporter Dick Riegler (*second from right*) presents a plaque of appreciation to the Ardmore (Pennsylvania) Rotary Club and the Main Line Rotoract Club. The clubs raised more than \$20,000 to support Water For People's work in the San Antonio Ilotenango region of Guatemala. John Steele (*far left*) and Fred Fromhold (*far right*) accept the honor on behalf of the Ardmore Rotary Club; Barbara Steele (*center*) accepts on behalf of Main Line Rotoract.



**Special Thanks . . .** to **MC i Consulting Engineers** in El Paso, Texas, for their generous support of Water For People as a Family Sponsor in 2007. The company was inadvertently left out of the *2007 Water For People Annual Report*.

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## Water Buffalos Create a Rumble

The legendary Water Buffalos completed their third annual ride to the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition, this time in Atlanta, which more than lived up to its reputation as “Hotlanta.” In sweltering heat, 9 dusty riders pulled into the Omni Hotel at CNN Center after riding in from all over the nation, some from as far away as Arizona. It was all for a great cause: supporting the provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation for people in the developing world.

The group raised nearly \$80,000 for Water For People, far surpassing the \$42,000 raised on the ride to Toronto in 2007. “We’re definitely on a roll,” says Bill Persich of Brown and Caldwell, who led this year’s effort.

Complementing the riders’ efforts, the AWWA Georgia Section made arrangements to raffle a 2008 Harley Davidson® motorcycle in the Water For People booth. The bike became a main attraction in the exhibit hall, as people were more than willing to fork over \$50 for the chance to win. In the end, Jeff Hines of York, Pennsylvania, had the winning ticket. As it turns out, he was less a biker and more of a Water For People supporter, and he donated the bike back to Water For People.

A grand time was had by all. “Perhaps the greatest enjoyment is the rendezvous with other riders,” says Persich. “As we got closer to Atlanta, our ranks grew larger and we started to really enjoy the ever-growing and boisterous meals we shared along the way.”

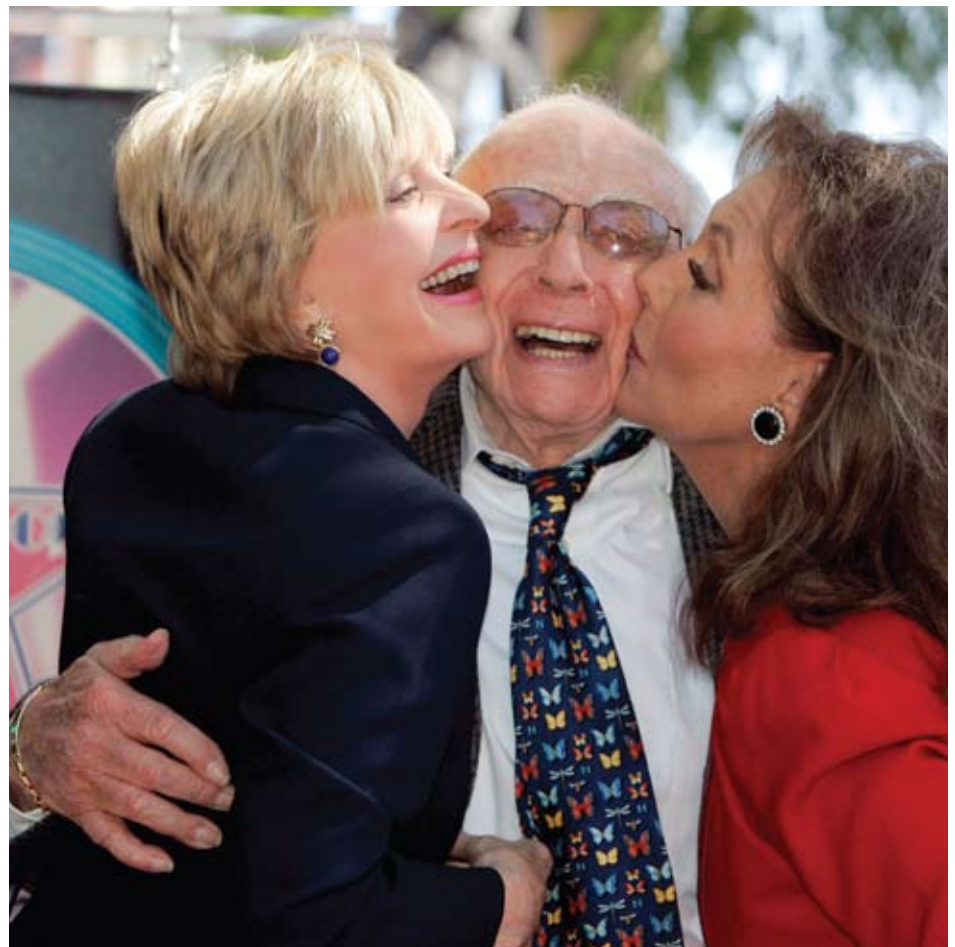
The Water Buffalos already have their bikes pointed toward San Diego and the 2009 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition.

# Here’s the Story ... of a Man Named Sherwood

Veteran television writer/producer and Water For People supporter, Sherwood Schwartz, has made a significant mark on Hollywood with more than 700 individual projects, including creating, writing, and producing two popular television series, *Gilligan’s Island* and *The Brady Bunch*. Schwartz, 91, is currently working on a new play, but even with a very busy life, he always finds time to devote to nonprofit organizations that are close to his heart. Spreading his good nature throughout the world, Schwartz donates annually to more than 250 organizations. For many of the past

17 years, he’s donated to Water For People, enabling the organization to support sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure in developing countries.

“I contribute to Water For People because water is an essential ingredient for a healthy life,” Schwartz says. “Clean drinking water doesn’t cost a fortune, but the impact of not having the resource is deadly. I’ve been very fortunate in my life. I have a wonderful wife and a beautiful home with everything I could ever want. I think it’s important to give back to people in need.” ■



Posing next to his new star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and joined at the momentous occasion by Florence Henderson (Carol Brady from *The Brady Bunch*) and Dawn Wells (*Mary Ann Summers* from *Gilligan’s Island*), Sherwood Schwartz enjoys the recognition of his Emmy-winning work.

# EVENTS

More information is available on the Water For People website at [www.waterforpeople.org](http://www.waterforpeople.org).

<b>08/01/08</b>	<b>Water Slam Softball Tournament Fundraiser</b> , sponsored by the Sacramento Committee of Water For People, Tahoe Park, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Alexa La Plante, 916.418.8430, or Heather Shannon, 916.418.8369.
<b>08/04/08</b>	<b>11th Annual Rocky Mountain Water Golf Tournament</b> , sponsored by Rocky Mountain AWWA and WEA, Riverdale Dunes Golf Course, Brighton, CO. Contact: Emily Allen, 303.820.5296 or Emily.Allen@c-b.com.
<b>08/11/08</b>	<b>The Coca-Cola Company 2008 Water For People Golf Classic</b> , presented by RE/MAX International, Inc., Sanctuary Golf Course, Sedalia, CO. Contact: Joanna Monahan, 303.734.3483 or jmonahan@waterforpeople.org.
<b>08/14– 08/19/08</b>	<b>Bolivian-Americans Climb Mount Sajama to Raise Money for Water For People</b> , sponsored by Florida Water Associations. Contact: Shazeeda Ameerally, 352.335.5877.
<b>08/23/08</b>	<b>Water For People Southern Arizona Golf Classic 2008</b> , sponsored by the Arizona Water For People Committee, Omni Tucson National Golf Resort, Tucson, AZ. Contact: Asia Philbin, Asia.Philbin@tucsonaz.gov.
<b>08/25/08</b>	<b>2008 Pennsylvania Water For People Golf Outing</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Pennsylvania Section, Sandy Run Country Club, Oreland, PA. Contact: Robert McIntyre, RKMIntyre@StoneHillContracting.com.
<b>09/09/08</b>	<b>14th Annual Fall Golf Classic</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Connecticut Section, Tunxis Plantation, Farmington, CT. Contact: Steve Melanson at smelanson@ctwater.com or 800.428.3985 ext. 3071.
<b>09/15/08</b>	<b>Water For People Golf Tournament</b> , sponsored by the AWWA New York Section, The Links at Union Vale, Poughkeepsie, NY. Contact: info@nysawwa.org.
<b>09/16/08</b>	<b>Water For People Trap Shoot</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Kansas Section, Powder Creek Shooting Park, Lenexa, KS. Contact: Gary Moxley, 913.677.3366 or garym@repedrotti.com.
<b>09/18/08</b>	<b>The Van-Dells Live, Concert &amp; Sock-Hop</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Indiana Section, The Coliseum, Evansville, IN. Contact: Duane Gilles, 812.305.6684 or dgilles@amwater.com.
<b>10/05/08</b>	<b>Water For People Golf Tournament</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Alabama/Mississippi Section, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Capitol Hill at Prattville, AL. Contact: Buddy Morgan, 334.206.1607, or Kyle Massey, 334.206.1645.
<b>10/10/08</b>	<b>4th Annual Joint Scholarship Golf Tournament</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Florida Section, Hammock Creek Golf Club, Palm City, FL. Contact: Jennifer Porter, 772.219.2887 or Jennifer-P@Boyleengineering.com.
<b>10/19/08</b>	<b>WEFTEC Bicycle Ride</b> , sponsored by the AWWA Georgia Section, Lakefront Bike Path, Chicago, IL. Contact: George Patrick, 877.303.0724 or WEFTECbikeride@live.com.
<b>10/19/08</b>	<b>Water For People Gala at WEFTEC</b> , sponsored by Water For People, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL. Contact: Joanna Monahan, 303.734.3483 or jmonahan@waterforpeople.org



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