



water for people  
EVERYONE • FOREVER

Kenneth J. Miller

# FOUNDERS' AWARD

Honoring Water For People Champions  
June 2, 2025

Presented by

**Jacobs**

# Thank you

Water For People gratefully acknowledges our sponsors for supporting this year's Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award Ceremony.

## Presenting Sponsor



*"At Water For People, actions come from the core belief that everyone should have access to clean water and sanitation services, forever. That forward-thinking approach aligns with our mission at Jacobs – Challenging Today, Reinventing Tomorrow. Water For People and Jacobs share a common vision that all people have accessible, sustainable, and safe water supplies, adequate sanitation, and live in healthy and thriving environments."*

– **Rick Warner**, Water Market Strategic Leader, Jacobs

## Honorary Sponsor



## Program

### Welcome

Jessica Carner and Julie Kauffman, Water For People  
Rick Warner, Jacobs

Water For People Overview  
Kate Verlaan, Water For People

### Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award Presentation

### Closing Remarks

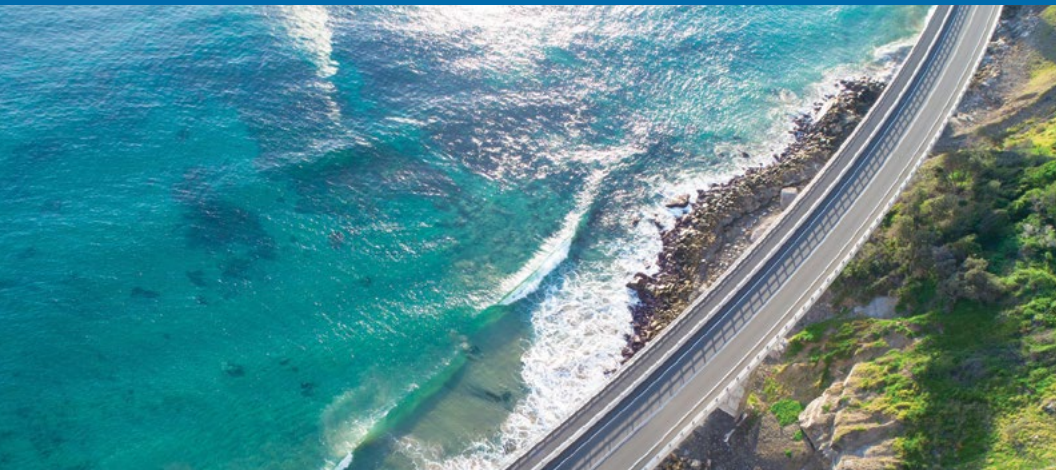
# A OneWater future, today.

At Jacobs, we think differently about water. We view all water as a valuable resource and work with clients to tackle the issues that impact communities: climate, safety, reliability, flooding and scarcity.

By looking at water through a OneWater lens we move beyond traditional silos, bringing an inclusive approach to developing a sustainable and equitable water future for all.

We integrate planning, implementation, and operations to develop local solutions that optimize the global water cycle and maximize synergies across markets.

Let us show you how our OneWater approach provides our clients and communities the foundations they need to flourish and grow.



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# Jacobs

Challenging today.  
Reinventing tomorrow.

# Awardees

**KEY:** AWWA: American Water Works Association

WEF: Water Environment Federation

WEA: Water Environment Association

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## Chelsea Bernard

**CDM Smith** is honored to nominate Chelsea Bernard for the Water For People Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award in recognition of her unwavering commitment and passion for our workplace giving campaign. Chelsea's creativity and dedication have been instrumental in promoting our campaign and raising awareness – and donations – across CDM Smith. From her inspiring storytelling seen in campaign updates, to her outreach with our extensive local coordinator network and her innovative thinking to keep our campaign fresh and successful, her contributions have been exceptional. Chelsea's stellar organizational skills and leadership have been evident in her role in organizing and leading core team meetings, ensuring that every aspect of the campaign runs smoothly. Her enthusiasm and tireless efforts have made a significant impact, and she truly embodies the spirit of this prestigious award. Since joining CDM Smith's Workplace Giving Campaign team, Chelsea has grown from a curious supporter to a passionate champion of Water For People's Everyone Forever mission.

*"Water For People allows us to make a significant collective impact through small individual efforts. It's lifesaving and important work and reminds me how lucky I am to have access to clean water."*



## Don Broussard

Don has consistently supported the annual **Southwest Section AWWA** Water For People auctions and events, which not only enhanced their success but also encouraged others to participate. His generosity helped raise significant funds that supported SWAWWA's charitable and educational efforts and have made a lasting impact. Don was not only a contributor to the auctions but also an active bidder in support of Water For People initiatives. His participation reinforced his personal commitment to the cause and inspired others to follow his example. Don Broussard exemplifies leadership, dedication, and service. His decade-long role as Executive Director leaves a legacy of generosity and commitment to improving water resources for future generations.

*"I have been involved with Water For People for many years, since it aligns with my personal ideas of helping people help themselves. Water For People has done amazing things with in-country construction projects and training to make each project sustainable. I fully support their mission and objectives."*



### Lynsey Cantalini

Lynsey is on the Water For People workplace giving committee and always brings her energy and her passion for change to the work she does in this capacity. Lynsey was instrumental in seeing the **Brenntag** team raise over \$22,000 for the World Water Classic in 2024. She promotes Water For People both internally to her colleagues and peers, but also externally to key suppliers and customers.

Lynsey has dedicated countless hours over the last year, working on the workplace giving partnership and the World Water Classic campaign, and her willingness to give of her energy and her time is inspirational. She leads by example, and with tremendous influence and we are lucky to have her on our team.

*"Access to safe water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and when communities have reliable water, they have the option to focus on education and growth to whatever extent they choose."*



### Roxana Carrillo

Roxana's dedication to Water For People and her significant contributions to the **Stantec** giving campaign align perfectly with the criteria for this award. Her efforts in promoting and supporting Water For People's mission demonstrate her commitment to making a positive impact on global water and sanitation issues. Roxana's dedication to Water For People shines through her relentless advocacy for the organization's global initiatives that support communities in need. Her leadership and enthusiasm have played a crucial role in the success of Stantec's giving campaign, making her a truly deserving recipient of the Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award.

*"As a teen, I would visit my family in Mexico almost every weekend. To use the bathroom, we had to walk up a hill behind grandma's place to the outhouse then*

*walk down to the front patio to wash our hands in a bucket of water collected from a homemade well. I only experienced this once a week, but this was the norm for my cousins and was especially challenging when they menstruated. Although I had already developed a love for the environment, my passion grew for sustainability, the human right to water, and gender equity. I am able to advocate for these causes through Water For People, who exceeds what I expected from a charity. Their Everyone Forever model aligns with my belief that the most helpful approach is to provide support and resources where communities can empower and sustain themselves. Everyone Forever can be a tool for communities to transform and thrive independently long into the future.”*



### **Patricia Chmiel**

For the past several years, Patty has coordinated Water For People fundraising activities in her local **Brown and Caldwell** Ramsey/Upper Saddle River, New Jersey office. She stepped up this past year to help our Workplace Giving leadership team track all such local office events and fundraisers across the company. Additionally, she has been a great resource to other champions looking for pointers on heading local fundraising activities. Patty sees the value that can be achieved with each dollar of support through Water For People’s partnerships. She has been a tireless supporter of Water For People, and her consistency is key to our company’s ongoing Workplace Giving efforts.

*“Water For People holds significant importance to me due to the substantial impact they can achieve. Brown and Caldwell has been collaborating with Water For People for a considerable period, even before my tenure began approximately 16 years ago, playing a crucial role in their mission to provide clean water and sanitation to communities globally.*

*Upon joining Brown and Caldwell, my interest in Water For People grew through office lunch and learns, workplace giving campaigns, and local Water For People groups. I volunteered to be a local champion for office fundraising events to help raise funds to assist in making a difference. These initiatives not only foster camaraderie among employees but also supports a vital cause and spreads the word.”*



### Kim Hanson

Kim has never missed an opportunity to step in and lend a hand. Her unwavering passion for creating sustainable, long-term solutions to provide clean water and sanitation around the world is evident in everything she does. Whether it's returning from a late-night business trip just to attend an early morning fundraising event or taking the time to explain initiatives to committee members in a way that inspires deeper involvement, Kim brings energy, commitment, and leadership to every aspect of her work on the **NC One Water For People Committee**.

The continued success of the North Carolina Water For People Committee simply wouldn't be possible without the dedication of volunteers like Kim Hanson. She brings extraordinary leadership to the team, consistently inspiring committee members with her passion for Water For People's mission. She goes beyond just coordinating efforts – she actively educates and empowers other volunteers, helping them understand not only what they are doing, but why it matters. By deepening the collective awareness of the global water crisis, Kim ensures the Committee's work remains meaningful and impactful. Kim's Committee peers are incredibly grateful for her countless contributions and her ongoing commitment in her role as Chair. Her leadership truly makes a difference – now and for the future of our mission.

*"I joined the North Carolina Water For People Committee in September 2017 because I was interested in helping to plan and organize a 5k, one of the Committee's main fundraisers. I have volunteered for the race every year since then, including acting as the Race Director for two years. What initially grabbed my attention with Water For People, and what has kept me engaged, is the way they partner with the local governments where they work. Water For People doesn't just come in and build a service system and leave – they require a true partnership. They provide support to bring clean water and sanitation to a community, and then ensure they have the resources to maintain the system in the future. They spend years, not days, in districts – working until every family, clinic, and school has safe, reliable water and sanitation services."*



### Paul Hasler

Paul Hasler has been an instrumental asset to the **Jacobs** Employee Giving Campaign since 2023. He's provided valuable support to disseminate corporate messaging regarding our campaign efforts to both internal and external readers. This Workplace Giving Campaign wouldn't be as successful without him – and Jacobs feels incredibly fortunate to have him on the team.

*"What sets Water For People apart is its focus on lasting impact – it partners with communities to develop critical water and sanitation services and build local capacity to maintain these systems for the long term. This sustainable impact is why Water For People's work is so important. Since joining Jacobs, I've been proud to support the company's annual Water For People Employee Giving Campaign and spread the word on Water For People's impact and how people can get involved. Jacobs has supported Water For People for over 30 years and I'm honored to be part of that long-term partnership."*



### Stephanie Johnson

Stephanie's long-time career as a professional engineer in the water and wastewater industry has given her the knowledge and experience to bring many successful projects to completion. Her mindset of success has not only made an impact on the **Ohio AWWA/Ohio WEA Charitable Outreach Committee**, but also the water industry as a whole.

Stephanie has been an integral part of the Columbus Race for Global Water 5k, serving as an organizer and race photographer for the past decade, donating her time and resources to support Water For People. As a Co-Chair, and later Chairperson, of the annual Wine to Water event, she has brought people together to address water access challenges. Additionally, she founded the Women in Water organization in Ohio, fostering networking, mentoring, and support among women in the industry. Her unwavering dedication and passion for water issues continue to drive positive change and she is very deserving of this honor.

*"Access to clean water is important for quality of life and water is an invaluable resource. As a water engineer, I share Water For People's passion to improve communities' access to clean water and protect our most valuable resource."*





### Melissa C. Mack, PE, PMP

Melissa has been an active volunteer with the **Texas AWWA and WEA Texas Water For People Committee**, helping with the Texas Water Silent Auction for many years. She has consistently distinguished herself as one of the volunteers that can always be counted on, always stepping up to take on whatever task is required. Over the years, she has naturally gravitated to a leadership role in planning and executing the auction. In the past year, she recognized that the organization of the auction and the process of putting it together could use more – well, organization – so she volunteered to be a co-chair and has frankly revolutionized the behind-the-scenes structure of how the event runs. And all this while living and working in her home country of Belize! Melissa truly embodies the characteristics we seek to recognize with the Ken Miller Founders' Award, notably passion, dedication, and genuine and infectious kindness that permeates through everything she does.

*"Being the native of Belize, a developing country, and currently serving in Belize as a missionary, I understand and appreciate the great need to have clean drinking water and safe sanitation options. With my current ministry being evangelistic and outreach, I love the opportunity to serve Water For People's mission contributing to a purpose that has hit home for me since I was a child."*



### Abhisek Manikonda

Since 2021, Abhisek has supported **Carollo's** Workplace Giving campaign in several capacities – as an office coordinator in the Boise, Idaho office and then as a member of the leadership team that oversees the company-wide campaign. This year, Abhisek will serve as the company-wide Campaign Coordinator. He is a critical member of the Workplace Giving leadership team and takes the initiative on completing many campaign tasks and responsibilities. He works closely with the team to identify ways to improve communication of the campaign and build awareness of Water For People and its mission. In addition, despite his busy schedule, he is committed to supporting coordinators and the needs of the campaign. He started office hours for coordinators during this past campaign to give them an opportunity to get additional support and ask questions to help their local efforts. He is a positive team member and

continues to look for ways to improve the company-wide campaign. His positive attitude and willingness to take on campaign responsibilities make him a valued and integral team member.

*"Water For People is important to me because their mission aligns with my view that everyone should have access to clean water. Growing up in India, I know first-hand how your life is impacted from not having access to basic human necessities like safe drinking water and sanitation. Being a water professional, I cannot think of a better organization to partner with than Water For People."*



### Emily Nelson

Emily has served in several capacities as a volunteer with the **Indiana Section of AWWA and Indiana WEA**. As a past chairperson of the Young Professionals, a volunteer at the Evansville Concert, silent auction chair, and past chair of the INAWWA/IWEA Committee, she has helped raise funds for Water For People and inspired others to join the cause. Emily brought vitality to the Run for World Water event, presenting fresh ideas about utilizing social media and energizing the team to succeed. Emily advocated for the INAWWA and IWEA Committees to join efforts and function as one, contributing to their overall success and consistent ranking among the Top 10 Fundraising Committees at Water For People annually. Her persistence helped capitalize on the work of both groups so that the impact of the volunteers in Indiana could reach new heights.

*"I chose my career in the water side of civil engineering partly because of the impact clean water and sanitation has on people's lives. Being involved with Water For People allows me to extend my personal impact. I chose Water For People not only for the work they do, but also how they accomplish it."*



### Eric Osborne

Eric has been an exceptional fundraiser for the **Georgia Section AWWA Water For People Committee**. His deep commitment to the mission of providing sustainable water and sanitation solutions has been a driving force behind his efforts. Eric's passion not only inspires those around him but also motivates others to contribute to the cause. He has a unique ability to connect with people, sharing personal

stories and experiences that highlight the importance of Water For People's work. This connection fosters a sense of community and encourages participation from individuals and organizations alike. Eric has a way of turning an event into an engaging experience that attracts more interest. Moreover, Eric's dedication is reflected in his ongoing efforts to educate the public about water-related issues, allowing potential donors to understand the tangible impact of their contributions. For these reasons, he has been recognized with the Miller Founders' Award, which honors his outstanding fundraising achievements and his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the world through Water For People.

*"From the moment I heard about Water For People and their mission, I wanted to be involved. Providing life-giving water to people all over the world who truly know water's worth is very satisfying. Seeing the benefits of clean water on people's faces and knowing it will improve every aspect of their lives chokes me up every time."*



### **Summer Peil**

Summer is an active volunteer with the **Arizona Water Association Water For People Committee**, serving as event organizer for the Pints for People event and also helping orchestrate the Wine into Water fundraiser. Over the past five years, Summer has been an integral part of making the event a success. Her contributions include coordinating with event venues, ordering merchandise for the events, and soliciting donations for the silent auctions. Summer brings positive energy and detailed organization to every event, helping to make them huge successes.

*"Growing up in Arizona, I was always acutely aware of the effort it takes to get water to our homes. We relied on well water, and my parents were mindful of our usage – limiting showers and repurposing washing machine water to irrigate the fruit trees in our backyard. I've also seen firsthand the lengths the U.S. government goes to in order to provide water to the Navajo people, who live in the Four Corners region of our state. My company, Archer Western Construction, is one of several contractors working on the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. For many Navajo families, access to water is a major challenge, with many driving long distances just to haul it back to their homes."*

*That's why organizations like Water For People are so vital. Their work helps provide water to communities in countries without the same infrastructure or government support, alleviating the burden on women and children who often bear the responsibility of fetching water – time that could otherwise be spent on education or work."*



### **Claire Sichko**

Although originally a Midwesterner, Claire has fully embraced the southern hospitable lifestyle below the Mason–Dixon line, and it has been showcased through her kindness, helpfulness, and charitable contributions in leadership roles with **Water For People Kentucky/Tennessee Section**.

Steadfastness and dedication are principal characteristics of Claire's, as evidenced by her longtime devotion to Water For People as well as through her longtime employment at Arcadis. Our awardee has spent over eight years on the Water For People Committee, raising awareness and funds for the fight for reliable and safe water and sanitation for everyone. Claire has worn every hat possible on the Committee, including general member, vice chair, chair, and now as the current treasurer. She has willingly volunteered on every sub-Committee and event planning team possible from golf tournaments to bowling tournaments to serving as a main staple at the Water Professionals Conference Water For People booth. She has worked hard to grow the organization and bring in fresh, creative fundraising mechanisms through the creation of new events. Her consistency and strong efforts with the KY/TN Water For People Committee are multiplied through every dollar she has helped raise.

*"Water For People is important to me because water is important to me. There is no life without water. Additionally, Water For People is important to me because this organization has given me a way to give back and educate others. Involvement in this group has been extremely rewarding and a ton of fun. The people are amazing and the feeling of generosity and contribution to a vital cause is incredible. Someday I hope to go on an Impact Exchange to see the Water For People process firsthand, but until then I'll be here, bothering everyone I know to participate and donate!"*



### Saloni Singh

Saloni has gone above and beyond to raise awareness and funds for Water For People. Through the **Ontario Water Works Association Water For People Committee**, she has generously donated her time and has provided leadership and guidance to the Committee. As chair of the OWWA Committee for the past three years, she has been an integral part of our success in organizing fundraising and awareness events. She also has helped to pass the torch to upcoming chairs to allow our Committee to continue to thrive for years to come. Saloni has demonstrated exceptional leadership for the OWWA Water For People Committee and has been a key contributor to our success in raising funds and awareness. We would like to recognize her generosity and contributions to this important cause.

*"Water scarcity is an issue that disproportionately impacts women, girls, and lower-income communities. It's also an issue that is solvable. Water For People is important to me because of their Everyone Forever approach that focuses on collaboration and sustainability, instead of a band-aid solution. Water For People's work is incredibly impactful, and I am proud to be a small part of it."*



### Lindsay Strole

Lindsay has been a volunteer for the **Connecticut AWWA Philanthropic Committee** since 2020. Her magnetic personality has resulted in her obtaining numerous sponsors and supporters for CTAWWA. Lindsay continually reaches out and communicates with nearly 200 sponsors, raising much needed funds for those that need clean water to survive in locations throughout the world. Lindsay's professionalism, tireless efforts and dedication to the CTAWWA Philanthropic Committee is unsurpassed. She is the perfect example of someone that places others before herself and she is more than deserving of the Kenneth J. Miller Founders' Award.

*"Water For People is important to me because every person in the world deserves access to safe, clean, drinking water, and safe, clean sanitation. These are some of the most basic human needs, and such a large percentage of the global population does not have access to these resources that are often taken for granted. I love Water For People for making the commitment to work towards a future where everyone,*

*everywhere will have access to clean drinking water. I couldn't think of a more fulfilling mission in the world than to support that commitment."*



### **Kimberly A. Thorner**

Kimberly Thorner is the General Manager of the Olivenhain Municipal Water District in California (OMWD). For several years, she has served as the emcee for the **San Diego Water For People** Annual Water/Wastewater Industry Luncheon. She has an outgoing and funny personality that makes it a must-attend event. Beyond her emcee role, Kim has OMWD involved as a sponsor at the luncheon, hosting San Diego Committee's "Walk For Water" events, and sponsoring San Diego Committee's musical festival, Jazz On Tap. Plus, Kim and her water district regularly win the "Nuttiest Place to Work" Award by selling the most San Diego Water For People Committee Holiday Nut Baskets.

Kim annually invites fellow Committee members to make a presentation for her employer's workplace giving campaign meeting. Kim's presentations at these events inspire people at all levels to support and become involved in Water For People. Kim Thorner has been a consistent supporter of Water For People's events, through her leadership role at Olivenhain MWD and serving as an outstanding emcee at San Diego Water For People luncheons. She exemplifies a high-level water agency manager openly supporting Water For People and its mission and is well deserving of the Miller award.

*"I attended my first Water For People lunch almost two decades ago and heard a presentation about how women and girls disappear sometimes when they walk miles to retrieve water. That hit me in the heart. I was a mother of two baby girls at the time, and I appreciated how fortunate we were to just turn on the tap for our needs. I love how Water For People doesn't just go in and build a new water supply. They work with the government and the locals in-country as a partnership so that the local community is vested in improving their water and sanitation situation and the improvements are maintained after Water For People is done, because it was a partnership – not just charity. I also appreciate how far Water For People takes each dollar donated and has such a good charity rating. Finally, I genuinely love working with the people in the San Diego Chapter. They are kind, funny, dedicated and have*

*hearts of gold. I always feel like my cup is refilled after spending time with them each month! Water For People is a group of really good people doing good in the world. What is not to love about Water For People!?"*



### **Jennifer Walsh**

Jen's leadership of the **Hazen and Sawyer** Workplace Giving Committee from 2019 to mid-2021 was instrumental in strengthening the company's commitment to charitable giving and employee engagement. She played a key role in increasing visibility and participation in Hazen's workplace giving initiatives, ensuring that employees were more aware of opportunities to contribute and get involved.

Her leadership was particularly critical during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic when traditional fundraising and engagement strategies were disrupted. Despite these challenges, Jen successfully guided the Committee through this period, adapting to new circumstances with creativity and determination. She spearheaded a virtual spring fundraising campaign that strengthened company support for Water For People and kept Committee members involved.

Beyond organizing fundraising efforts, Jen kept the Committee motivated during a time of immense uncertainty, offering encouragement and providing a sense of purpose. Her leadership helped the team remain focused on the positive impact they could have, fostering a spirit of generosity and resilience. The Hazen Water For People Workplace Giving Committee wouldn't be what it is today without Jen's hard work and dedication.

*"Water For People is important to me because the organization utilizes a collaborative approach partnering with community leaders and local governments to address the global challenges of water and sanitation. Their Everyone Forever model has demonstrated success in communities across the globe and I value their focus on sustainable water services that are protected, funded, and aid independent."*



### Hilary Williams

Hilary is a long-time member of EA's Water For People Employee Giving Champions. She combines her love of hiking with her passion for giving back to organize an annual group hike for employees in our Syracuse, New York office. Last year's event took on the Fulton Chain Trifecta Challenge, with over 10 hikers completing the challenge by hiking three peaks in the Old Forge region – Black Bear, Rocky, and Bald Mountains over the course of two days. Using crowdfunding, they ended up raising just over \$1,500, exceeding their goal. Hilary's contributions to our Water For People Employee Giving program are truly invaluable. Her innovative idea of combining hiking challenges with fundraising efforts not only results in significant contributions but also promotes healthy exercise and team building among our employees. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and creativity.

*"As a cornerstone of EA's Charitable Giving pillar of our public benefit structure, contributing meaningfully to our Water For People partnership is important to me. By organizing annual hiking events that are fun and challenging for EA staff, we can raise both funds and awareness for Water For People by bringing attention to the distance some people across the globe have to hike to access clean water. I look forward to planning these annual events and hope to carry that on for years to come!"*

To learn more about becoming a Water For People Champion, reach out to [volunteers@waterforpeople.org](mailto:volunteers@waterforpeople.org).



water for people

Water For People will be at the American Water Works Association Conference (ACE) in Denver, Co June 9–11. To get information about attending the **Social Splash** on Monday, June 9 or setting up a meeting at our booth, visit [waterforpeople.org/ace](http://waterforpeople.org/ace).