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Ryan's Well FOUNDATION

Newsletter Fall 2009

NEWS FROM RYAN

Greetings from the East Coast!

It has been an eventful few months! I graduated from high school and am now immersed in my studies at the University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I am in the Foundation Year Programme that allows me to study various disciplines such as English, History, Philosophy and Sociology in one class along with an elective in Psychology. I am still hesitant to choose a specialization but I'm told I have lots of time. In my spare time, I'm usually playing basketball (I made my university team!) and hanging out with friends.



Graduated! Ryan with his parents – Susan and Mark – at his high school graduation.

This summer, I worked at the Ryan's Well office. It was great to learn how the Foundation operates on a day-to-day basis. I discovered that staff, volunteers and donors are just as passionate as I am about educating people

on water issues and raising funds for our build, educate and motivate programs.

While I am now on the Board, I will continue to speak at

conferences and workshops on water issues when I can. In the coming year my involvement will be somewhat limited – being away from home and having to focus on my studies.

Despite moving away, I am still committed to making a difference for those impacted by the water crisis. Thanks to everyone for your support. Together, we will help get clean water to as many people as we can! – *Ryan Hreljac*

NEWS FROM JIMMY

Hello from Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia! I am in my second year in the General Arts program. I stayed in Nova Scotia over the summer and planted trees, and I have a part-time job to balance school and work. My life is great and can easily be compared to drinking nice, fresh clean water, because when you have access to dirty water that looks like "hot chocolate," you don't feel well and you are tired, too.



Jimmy and John – pointing out Jimmy's home country and talking about the importance of clean water!

I continue to speak to schools when I can. The last school I visited was Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. I talked about water being necessary for life. My message to them and to you is to keep aiming high so that some day we will reach our goal of bringing clean water to all! – *Jimmy Akana Hreljac*

BUILD

For many years now, Ryan's Well has promoted the great need for clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene education in developing countries around the world. While these are obviously basic necessities for anyone's daily life, there are much broader impacts for those who struggle each day to find clean water, a basic toilet, water supplies and if they're lucky, soap to wash. One in eight people across the globe don't have access to safe water and two in five lack the dignity of basic sanitation.¹ These are startling figures but even more startling are the deeper implications on livelihoods – **443 million school days are lost each year due to water related diseases and 40 billion working hours are spent carrying water each year in Africa alone.**²

The social, economic and health-related impacts of having access to safe water and improved sanitation are enormous and providing this first step towards a better life is the goal of the Ryan's Well "Build" program. Since March 2009, another 20,000 people have gained access to a safe water source and approximately 80 toilets have been constructed in India alone. Continuing initiatives to educate girls and boys and people of all ages about hygiene and health are necessary to further the sustainability of the "safe water chain."

Together with your donations and support, we are changing the lives of people impacted by this global crisis. Currently, projects are underway in Burkina Faso, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi and India. There are new projects planned for late 2009 in Uganda, Ghana and Haiti that are in need of your help along with our **School Challenge Project 2009/10** in Togo.

To learn more, please visit our **Projects Needing Help** section at www.ryanswell.ca.

¹WHO/Unicef ²Cosgrove and Rijsberman, 1998

Demonstrating the new Volanta Pump at Tabou Village, Burkina Faso



Drilling at Tabou Village in Burkina Faso with partners DAPLS

Voice from Abroad

Action Enfance et Developpement Togo (AED Togo) was created on September 1, 1998 by a group of volunteers with the mission of improving the well-being of needy Togolese, especially women and children.



Kouma (in blue) with teachers from Attikpa Primary School, Togo

AED seeks to alleviate the basic need for clean, safe water in a sanitary environment for schools and communities and to increase knowledge and change attitudes and practices towards sanitation and hygiene within schools and communities.

Together with providing clean water and the construction of latrines in schools and communities, our organization has developed an education program through building schools.

From three years ago, it supports needy children through a yearly charity distribution of bed kits (including long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets – LLIN – to fight against malaria). The kits also include supplies and personal items.

Partnering with Ryan's Well has helped AED provide clean, safe water and sanitation stations to 1,300 children and 700 adults in the Attikpa School neighbourhood. This also lets young girls attend school where in the past they could not because there was not a secure place to care for themselves during menstruation.

Within these communities and schools, there has been a reduction of diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and malaria.

Announcing the first-ever Ryan's Well School Challenge!

This 2009–2010 school year, Ryan's Well is calling all schools/classes/teams to help raise \$18,400 in order to reach the goal of providing access to safe water, improved sanitation and education about good hygiene and sanitation practices for a community in Adakpame, Togo (West Africa).

See how easy making a difference can be! Visit our website www.ryanswell.ca to complete and return the pledge form, set your own fundraising target, get creative and go! Throughout the school year, we'll provide updates, pictures and stories directly from the project as it progresses.

All proceeds will be submitted by March 2010 so we can celebrate your hard work in time for World Water Day on March 22. **Visit our website to sign up today!**

The support of the Ryan's Well Foundation has made a difference. A new kind of life has appeared in Attikpa primary school and communities: "As water is now flowing, life is flowing because water is life," says Dona – a little girl of nine years old.

Attikpa primary school has become an example of the benefits of safe water and hygiene education. Now girls outnumber boys in schools! Furthermore, girls are not ashamed during periods of menstruation.

Now, many school principals and parent committees are seeking the same type of assistance from AED and wanting Ryan's Well to come to their communities, too.

Congratulations to the Ryan's Well Foundation and to all donors out there for the great work done in Attikpa School and surrounding communities in changing the lives of these 2,000 people. We wish to help many more people in the future!

*– Laurent Kouma Dekalikan
President, AED Togo*

Volunteer Spotlight

For the past two years I have been passionate about water conservation and this summer I wanted to both make a statement and raise money for a water-related charity. After looking through a long list of worthy organizations, I chose the Ryan's Well Foundation because of their commitment to not only building wells (over 500 – an amazing accomplishment), but educating others of the importance of conserving water. This was exactly what my charity *Hydro Heroes* prides itself on. In August, my friend Charles and I embarked on a 1700 km bike ride from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Montreal, Quebec in order to raise awareness and funds for the water crisis! It took us a total of 11 days to complete the ride.

I must say it was one of the most strenuous and draining experiences but it was all worth it when you think that women sometimes walk five kilometres a day to get to the nearest water source which is often dirty. So cheers Ryan's Well for all you are doing! It's inspiring! – *Katie, Toronto, ON*



Charles and Katie on their 1700km bike ride

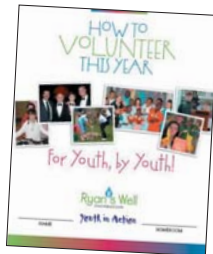
To learn more about our work and how you can help, please visit the **Projects Needing Help** section of our website. While you're there, help us save paper by signing up for our electronic newsletter!

Youth in Action



As part of our mission to **BUILD, EDUCATE** and **MOTIVATE**, our website offers many valuable (and free!) resources for both educators and students! Here are some of our favourites. Visit us online at www.ryanswell.ca to see them all!

How To Volunteer – a fantastic booklet written for youth – by youth on how to become a volunteer.



Teacher Resource – An informative guide for teachers of grades 1 through 8 with activities, quizzes, links and more!



Case Studies – Four engaging case studies that explore water and health, gender, natural disasters and economic development.

Ambassador Spotlight

As a student who is globally-minded, I feel that it is my responsibility to help address the global water crisis. Having travelled to many countries, including Russia and India, I have learned that access to clean water is limited and that there are many people, even students like myself, who are in dire need of clean water. In effect, I became one of nineteen Youth Ambassadors for the Ryan's Well Foundation in 2008. My fellow ambassadors and I have recently launched a campaign in Brockville, Ontario called "Where There's a Well, There's a Way." As we all hope to raise \$11,000.00, we are enthused about the upcoming events we have planned this year. Many of these activities include organizing city races and elementary school dances. I enjoy being an ambassador as well as motivating others to make a difference. In my opinion, it is important to make communities aware that freshwater resources are limited qualitatively and quantitatively.



Monica and Christine, Ryan's Well Ambassadors

I strongly believe that differences can be made using three methods. Through leadership, education and demonstration, communities in development can be strongly impacted.

- Monica, Ambassador, Brockville, ON

Calling new Ambassadors! Do you want to make a positive difference in our world? Become an official voice of the Ryan's Well Foundation through our Ambassador Program. Visit our website at www.ryanswell.ca to learn more!

MOTIVATE

This is just a sample of the many acts of kindness and generosity Ryan's Well receives. Want more? Visit our website at www.ryanswell.ca. The inspiring initiatives of schools, communities, faith-based groups, youth and corporations are truly motivational!

💧 Five young girls from Kingston, Ontario were inspired by Ryan's story and decided to help. First, they felt it was important to spread the word throughout their community; then they made and sold hats, sock slippers, bracelets, earrings and magnets and donated all proceeds to the Ryan's Well Foundation. Amazing!

💧 The Knox Presbyterian Youth Group in Red Deer, Alberta were thrilled to hear Ryan speak and most inspired afterwards! They organized a play and ethnic luncheon informing people of the lack of adequate water and sanitation in the developing world, then gathered donations for the rain water collection project in Kajiado, Kenya. Wow!



Showing their support! Youth Group members from the Knox Presbyterian Church, Red Deer

💧 Wellesley Middle School in Natick, Massachusetts organized a "Concert of Hope" as a benefit for the Ryan's Well Foundation. The choral director for this truly amazing event heard Ryan speak two years earlier and was so inspired that she helped motivate her students to put their talents on display to help make a difference! The concert was a huge success. Thank you!

💧 MacKenzie King Public School in Kitchener, Ontario is a small school with a very big heart. The students and teachers raised a large amount to donate to Ryan's Well. Last spring during an assembly, the teacher/organizer sang a song she had written and showed a PowerPoint of photos - many including Ryan. What a wonderful gesture!

💧 The Sunday School children of the Community Protestant Church in Mundelein, Illinois learned about Ryan's story and wanted to raise funds by telling the story to their congregation and collecting spare change donations after church service. Well done!

Message from the Board of Directors

Greetings from the Ryan's Well Board of Directors! Our donors and supporters of all ages inspire us every day. And our local partners around the world remind us how much safe water and sanitation improve the lives of hundreds of children and families. It's what keeps the Foundation going and, on behalf of the Board, we send a big thank you for your support.

Now that Ryan is off to university this fall, it is critical that the Foundation have a strong network of both people and policies in order to survive and thrive. Our volunteer Board is a talented group of 14 people from diverse backgrounds who make up just one part of the Ryan's Well team but are honoured their contribution. The Board supports our staff in a number of ways to deliver on three important pillars: BUILD water and sanitation projects, EDUCATE people at home and abroad about the importance of clean water and MOTIVATE each of us to make a difference in the world.

Please join us in welcoming three new Board members. Michelle McGahey is an elementary school teacher in Kemptville, Ontario who has lived overseas and is a long time supporter of the Foundation. Chris Radziminski, a graduate of both UBC and the University of Toronto, is an advocate for safe drinking water who brings a passion for international development and working with youth. And Ron Little, President of Orezone Resources who was first inspired to get involved in 2003 when he heard Ryan (then age 12) on CBC Radio and has been working with us ever since. Ron has more than 25 years of experience in mining exploration and operations and brings excellent finance and business experience to the Board.

We are also delighted to announce Ryan Hreljac, our Founder, moves from ex-officio to a full voting member of the Board now that he turned 18 in May. As always, Ryan exemplifies the vision of clean water for all and will now contribute more formally to the Foundation's decision-making and governance.

After building more than 500 water access points, we thank our Board members, past and present, along with all our volunteers for their faith and support. Here's to great things ahead!



No height difference here! Ryan and Velma, Chair of the Ryan's Well Foundation Board of Directors

Velma McColl
Chair of the Board, Ryan's Well Foundation

Become a monthly donor!

Becoming a monthly donor is an easy way to make a lasting, ongoing difference to those in need while also helping to minimize related administrative costs! Visit www.ryanswell.ca to sign up today.



Bottles for Wells Project!

Aniceto & Bigg Co. presented a cheque for \$5,684 to the Ryan's Well Foundation on October 14, 2009 for funds raised through the Bottles for Wells Project. This brings the total raised to \$20,160 in just 10 short months! A huge thank you goes out to all schools, businesses, organizations and individuals who have purchased bottles and participated in this successful project! A new school and group discount is being offered this fall. Contact Michelle and

Cathy at Aniceto & Bigg to plan your fall fundraising at 1-888-739-1119 or email sales@abcorp.ca before all the bottles are gone!



Help reduce our impact on the environment by subscribing to our **electronic newsletter** instead! Please visit us online at www.ryanswell.ca to subscribe today.

Our sincere thanks to Orezone & IAMGOLD!

Thanks to the generous support of Orezone Resources and IAMGOLD this past April, the initial four projects will soon provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to over **5,000 people in Burkina Faso**. Recently, the capital city of Ouagadougou was tragically struck with severe rains and flooding conditions. Our partners in the Séguénéga Region to the northwest and Léo to the southeast have been able to continue progressing on much needed water and sanitation access, to date completing a total of three wells, four latrines and community training and mobilization activities throughout. We extend our thanks to Orezone and IAMGOLD for their support as we move forward with more safe water projects in Burkina Faso!

How will you stay in touch?

We've now made it even easier to keep up-to-date on all the latest news – and to share your own! Visit our website at www.ryanswell.ca to:

- Subscribe to our **NEW BLOG**
- Join our **Facebook** group
- Follow us on **Twitter**
- Share pictures on **Flickr**
- Post videos on **YouTube**

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