



Ryan's Well FOUNDATION

Newsletter Spring 2009



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BUILD

Celebrating the completion of our 500th water project!

This year marks an important milestone for the Ryan's Well Foundation – the completion of our 500th water project! We were thrilled that Ryan was able to make this exciting announcement with Dr. Jane Goodall, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and patron of the Ryan's Well Foundation at Algonquin College in Ottawa.



Clean water access point in Uganda, 2009

With this great accomplishment now under our belt, we're looking ahead to what we hope will be another busy building year. This year, we're planning projects in three focus areas of West Africa, East Africa and the Americas. Our goal is to support approximately 80 water access points, plus latrines and continued hygiene education to sustain the *safe water chain*.

You can learn more about our **Projects Needing Help** at www.ryanswell.ca. Together, with our local partners and generous supporters, we look forward to completing our next 500 water projects as we continue the fight the global water and sanitation crisis to improve – and save – the lives of millions.

NEWS FROM RYAN

Thank you!

I can't believe how quickly the past few months have gone! I'm now just a couple of months away from finishing high school.



Ryan speaking to a school in Qatar

I recently returned from a trip overseas where I was able to meet some amazing people dedicated to making positive changes in the world. My first visit was to the 'Be the Change' global issues conference at the American School of Doha in Qatar which hosted schools across Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Here, I was one of many speakers from around the world challenging teachers and students to 'Be the Change' in their own schools. I then travelled to Thailand, where I spoke to the incredible students and staff at the International School of Bangkok (thanks for the amazing feedback on our Facebook page!). I also spoke at the Global Issues Network Conference which involved 200 participants from 30 countries and highlighted 20 global problems and how people can come together to initiate change.

It's so humbling to be able to connect with so many people who support the Foundation and our goal of clean water for all.

I haven't seen Jimmy since Christmas but have kept in touch. He's now finishing his first year at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and so far – loving it! Between his studies, he's been able to continue to speak with groups in the area to share his and the Foundation's stories.

While he hasn't yet decided on a career path, he remains committed to helping people. He's mentioned hoping to return to his homeland – Uganda – to help others in need and to do what he can to influence positive changes for the country.

These past few months I have dedicated myself to looking to the future. Where will I go to school? What do I want to study? What's next for the Foundation? These are exciting times! At a recent event for Dr. Jane Goodall's "Roots and Shoots" program, I was thrilled to have the privilege of announcing our most recent milestone – the completion of our 500th water project. Continued thanks to you for helping us reach such a pivotal accomplishment!



Ryan with Dr. Jane Goodall

I know we can continue to make a difference to those impacted by the global water crisis by continuing to work together. Here's to our next 500 water projects! – Ryan Hreljac

Voice from Abroad

Like you, we're keen to hear how our projects are progressing after they have started and once they're completed. On a recent monitoring trip to Uganda, we visited our local partners and the many water and sanitation projects that have been completed over the last year. We rely on communications from our project partners in the communities to keep us not only updated, but inspired, too. We received the lovely letter below from the community at *Omiri Primary School* in Oyam District of Northern Uganda during our visit:



Girl students of Omiri Primary School collect clean drinking water from their new well.

The parents, teachers, pupils of Omiri Primary School and the entire community are really grateful for what you have done for them. All we can say is Thank You so much!

The construction of the borehole has enabled us to access clean drinking water. This has greatly reduced the incidence of water borne diseases. The borehole is serving over five villages – a population of over 300 individuals.

The construction of the ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP) has improved the sanitation of our school. Our children – especially girls – can now study well as a result of this.

Therefore, we are very happy for your generous heart, which you have extended to us. We, the community of Omiri Primary School, wish you well in your charity work. What you have done and what you will still do enables us to access clean water and our children to receive basic education. This is very vital to our survival because we shall be able to fight diseases, poverty, and ignorance. Once again, we want to thank you so much.

– The Community of Omiri Primary School

Learning About Water!

#5

The Water Cycle and Our Changing Environment

The earth has a limited amount of water in its many different forms – snow, ice, vapour, salt water, groundwater, freshwater, etc. It is the *water cycle* that continuously circulates the earth's water resources through different phases and governs what water supply is available for our use. Solar energy powers the water



Traditionally nomadic Maasai women of Kajiada, Kenya are trained in the building of household rainwater harvesting tanks as their culture adapts in a changing world.

cycle and temperature controls the rate of evaporation from our oceans. Any change in temperature or the power generated by the sun will significantly impact the water cycle and resulting accessible water resources for our daily use.

Changes in the water cycle can have an immediate impact on groundwater supplies and a long term affect on ready access to safe water. Naturally occurring springs and aquifers from which drilled wells draw water can be altered in both the quality and quantity of available water. Changes in rainy seasons are already impacting several regions suffering from the global water crisis, affecting production and supply of food crops and traditional cultures.

These regions already facing water scarcity are likely to be among the first to feel the impacts of changing water supplies driven by changing environments. So many challenges are already faced on a daily basis - Where can I fetch water today? Can I stay in school today? Will our crops get enough water this season? Will I faint again from dehydration? All of these challenges can be magnified by a change in environment and resulting changes in the water cycle.

Volunteer Spotlight

I volunteer because I can!

I first met Ryan years ago when we played on the same soccer team. We had fun, we loved the game, it was simple ... we were 7 years old. We had a great time while our parents watched and talked during all our games. Already then, Ryan's dream of "clean water for all" was starting to grow in the community and it was almost impossible to **not** get involved. As the years went by, the Ryan's Well Foundation was created and my family volunteered when there was a need. It was just something we did. I was always told that if you ate today and had a roof over your head, you should give back. During the last few years of high school, I started volunteering at Ryan's Well once a week after school. It's easy and I know it does make a difference. Ryan and I will graduate from high school, then go our separate ways to university next fall. I hope we will still meet up on a soccer field from time to time. Volunteering has given me valuable experience and also confidence in myself. I realize that I am very fortunate so, even though I don't have to, I volunteer because I can! – *Oliver Rubli*



Ryan and Oliver, 2009

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, instead!

EDUCATE

Youth in Action



In the last Newsletter, we reported on the training of 21 exceptional youth who, as Youth Ambassadors, would be making presentations at their schools and in their communities. The Ambassadors have been very busy over the past few months.

Congratulations to the nine Youth Ambassadors in Brockville who have launched a community-wide campaign "Where There is a Well, There is a Way" to raise \$11,000 for a clean-water well in a Ugandan village. Ambassadors from across the city are proud of the fact that they have come together from rival high schools to make a difference together. You can check out their personalized fundraising page through the website for more information.

Ben and Brea in Ottawa have been making an impact at the University of Ottawa with their presentations to students enrolled in the Department of Education. Their workshops have already generated a lot of interest for the Youth in Action Educational Program as student teachers explore ideas for motivating future classrooms. After raising \$3,000 for materials, Ben and Brea funded their own trip to Southeast Asia helping to build a well, a latrine and a home for a family in Cambodia.



As part of World Water Day 2009, Kelsey and Katelyn made presentations at a UN sponsored workshop for students from the Upper Canada District School Board. Students at the Clean Talk Sanitation Symposium left with an understanding of what life is really like for the 2.5 billion people in the world without access to sanitation and the almost nine-hundred million without access to clean drinking water.

Jensen, Elizabeth and Katelyn were a hit at the Cornwall ACTNOW Symposium for students in Eastern Ontario. Their Toast to Water workshops were very popular with participants. Great job!



Jensen and Katelyn at the ACTNOW Symposium

With many more events scheduled through the summer, Youth Ambassadors will be busy continuing to motivate individuals, organizations and communities to get involved in making the world a better place for all. We recognize the power of youth and look forward to developing new ways to help to include, engage, and support your involvement with the Foundation!

Please feel free to share your ideas with us! Post your thoughts through our Official Ryan's Well Facebook group, follow us on Twitter (TheRyansWell), or send us an email at info@ryanswell.ca

If you are a student aged 15 - 17 interested in becoming a youth ambassador, please contact gerry@ryanswell.ca for more information!



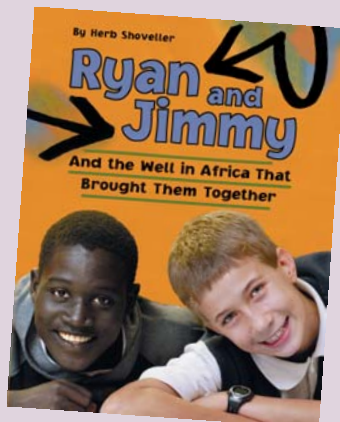
MOTIVATE

These amazing initiatives represent the many incredible acts of kindness & generosity that Ryan's Well is fortunate enough to be a part of everyday. Thank you to each and every one!

💧 Aaron, a senior at Sheldon High in Sacramento, CA is installing and maintaining recycling bins on his campus. Proceeds from his project are being offered for clean water in African communities!

💧 Students at Gracefield Public School in St. Catharines, ON launched their campaign on February 26 with a Gracefield Youth Action Symposium. Good luck and have fun!

💧 The Grade Six class at Horse Hill Elementary School in Edmonton, AB read "Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together." Their first question "What can we do to help?"



💧 On January 24, 2009 Alexander celebrated his 13th birthday, honouring both his Italian and Jewish cultures by reflecting upon his involvement in community service and the environment. With that in mind, he requested that donations be made to the Ryan's Well Foundation. Because of the generosity of family and friends, Alexander was able to raise in excess of \$6,400!

💧 Rayne, a grade one student from Winnipeg asked for donations to support the Foundation rather than presents for her 6th birthday. She has also made several presentations at her school, inspiring other students to take action! To date, Rayne has raised over \$600 and sold approximately 100 Ryan's Well water bottles. Way to go!!

💧 Homelands Senior Public School students from Mississauga, ON wrote to Ryan to tell him "We think you are a candle in the world, spreading light to many other candles. Keep going!"

Message from the Board of Directors

In 2004 I was racing in Niger when I met a Tuareg family in the desert. The daughter left her entourage of 50 camels that were laden with salt which the family was transporting. This little girl desperately wanted something from my backpack but until she took my water bottle, I had no idea what she wanted. I assumed this plastic water bottle was what was making her happy but in fact it was the last bit of clean water that was in the bottle that she was so happy to have. It wasn't until a few years later when I spent 111 days running across the Sahara that I remembered this experience and how that little girl would forever be with me. We learned on our journey across the Sahara the seriousness of the water crisis in Northern Africa from our daily experiences and interaction with the people of Northern Sahara. After reaching the Red Sea, my wife Kathy and I wanted to do something or help out in some way that we were sure would make the lives of so many who do not have access to clean drinking water and sanitation better. We decided after meeting the Hreljac family that we had found exactly where we wanted to be - with an organization that cares so much and effectively has changed the lives of so many. We are now proud members of the Ryan's Well Foundation Board of Directors and are proud to call the Ryan's Well Foundation our second family. - Ray Zahab



Ray Zahab, Running the Sahara, 2006

Making a difference in celebration of Earth Day 2009!



Bentall and their building owners have supported a Sustainable Water and Sanitation Project for a school in Northern Uganda. Students and their community will have safe water to drink everyday - improving health, livelihoods and access to education. On Earth Day, Ryan's Well

set up a display at the screening of Disney's *Earth* presented by Bentall at the World Exchange Plaza in Ottawa. We extend our sincere thanks to Bentall for supporting positive change!

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!

Ryan's Well has partnered with Aniceto & Bigg Co. to raise funds for Ryan's Well clean water projects through the sale of high grade, stainless steel water bottles.

To date, 2,000 bottles have already been sold! Please contact sales@abcorp.ca or call 1-888-739-1119 to learn more about group order discounts, free custom labels and how you will make a difference for Ryan's Well!



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.

Burkina Faso

Our safe water and sanitation projects in Burkina Faso are now underway with thanks to **Orezone** and **IAMGOLD**. Over the coming months our first projects will be implemented in the Séguénéga and Léo regions of Burkina Faso with matching funds contributed by Orezone/IAMGOLD. Visit [Projects Needing Help](#) to learn more about our next matching funds project in Burkina Faso.



Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Food Shop

raised \$7,600 in support of the Foundation during their annual Christmas Fundraiser. The money is earmarked for the construction of a shallow well in Northern Uganda, and hygiene education activities for their community schools.



Owner, Janet Campbell with Ryan and Susan Hreljac

Stay in touch!

Want to hear the latest Ryan's Well news? Looking for a way to share your own ideas? Join our '**Official Ryan's Well**' Facebook page, or follow '**TheRyansWell**' on Twitter.

Looking for the perfect gift?

Take the stress out of shopping by making a donation through our gift catalogue. Embracing the spirit of giving, our gift catalogue can help bring joy and hope to those who need it most. You can select a gift by category or amount. You can send a personalized e-card or mailed card with details about your gift in honour or in memory of someone special. What could be a better gift than clean and safe water? Visit www.ryanswell.ca to donate.



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