

SAVING LIVES ...

one well at a time



A newsletter from the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation

Issue 4, 2016

**It's no longer enough to say "we drilled 10 wells!"
What matters more is that the foundation maintains these wells ... which is why
we continue to make a difference to over 25,000 people EVERY DAY!**

As with all mechanical systems and engineered structures, the 10 wells built through RWFA since 2009 also require routine maintenance and needed repairs.

Without this care, the wells would no longer be able to function, or provide safe water every day to the more than 25,000 people, gardens and livestock now served by these wells.



"In areas where wells have been drilled, cholera and typhoid are now diseases of the past as clean and safe water has now been provided. Thank you for helping out our distressed community and thank you so much for making a difference through clean and safe water! Indeed you have quenched the thirsty of Africa."

Easton Moko

If there were no inspections, maintenance and repairs to the wells drilled through the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation, the people of Zimbabwe would experience a high and renewed risk of illness from filthy water, including dehydration, dysentery and diarrhea – as well as the potential for another cholera epidemic caused by unsanitary water.

Our foundation appears to be the ONLY organization that provides routine maintenance and repairs to the wells it drills in Zimbabwe. There are hundreds of abandoned, dormant wells throughout the country that do not function because they were not maintained by the funding organization.

Unlike the others, the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation remains committed to ensuring that clean and sanitary water continues to flow from our wells for decades to come.

The need for inspections and repairs ...

Providing care and maintenance to the existing wells is not a new endeavor for the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation — during previous trips to drill new boreholes, we made sure the wells were maintained and repairs made where needed. Now, however, our primary focus is to continue to ensure there are inspections, maintenance and needed repairs of the 10 wells funded through the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation.

Throughout 2015, each well was inspected and repairs made where needed. Easton Moko, who is the foundation's contact person in Zimbabwe, coordinates and oversees the process — and it's not easy. Replacement parts aren't as readily available in Zimbabwe as they would be in the United States, where we make a quick trip to Home Depot or Lowe's, expecting to immediately find what we want in stock.

Numerous other challenges exist:

- Travel and access to the sites, which for the most part are in remote areas of Zimbabwe — can be difficult if not hazardous. Travel often includes coming upon police road blocks, with officials demanding identification and money in the form of bribes before we could proceed.
- The inspection and repair process can take days to complete, especially as power outages are common in the desolate areas.
- Money transfers from the foundation to Zimbabwe to pay for the repair work are difficult and time-consuming to collect — it's not unusual that the local Zimbabwe Western Union office may not have even \$100 available to disburse the wired funds.
- Apathy and a lack of caring from the local officials — who may be corrupt.
- Ensuring that replacement parts are not a sub-standard, black market type of item.

Events & Successes of 2015

- ⇒ The cost of a well inspection and routine maintenance was \$800 per well.
- ⇒ The Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation paid over \$25,000 for all repairs and maintenance.
- ⇒ We applied for and were awarded our second grant from the National Groundwater Research and Education Foundation (based in Columbus, Ohio) for well repairs; the amount was \$8,000.
- ⇒ Repairs are now performed with a three year warranty.
- ⇒ We have a strong working relationship with the well repair contractor, who is committed to making sure the job is done correctly, is willing to provide a significant discount on his labor costs, and who wants to work with the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation and help his country.

"I have made sure that spare parts we buy hold a warranty. I am thanking you for contracting me to repair your wells in my country, and I have worked with all my heart to pay you back in return."

Stewart Maukira,

Well repair contractor in Zimbabwe

We keep clean water flowing!

Despite challenges that may arise, the commitment of the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation is to ensure that each of the 10 wells functions as it should, and continues to provide sanitary water for the people in the community.



During last year's repair process, some motors were replaced, structural components restored, switch controls repaired, a few electric pumps installed, water flow and pressure was increased; other improvements were also made.



Two of the well repairs were in the Kadoma community ... one a children's correctional center and the other, an adult prison. Each well serves a high volume of residents, staff and inmates in

the facilities; these two wells were drilled in 2012.



On December 5, 2015, the Principal Superintendent of the children's facility, the Kadoma Training Institute, sent the following letter (unedited) to the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation:

Dear Sir:

Kadoma Training Institute is sincerely appreciative of the donation of the borehole. It also extends its gratitude for the repairs of the same borehole.

We are thankful that Rosshirt Foundation is taking care of repairs since as an institute, our coffers are dry. The borehole is catering for our livestock, garden as well as drink consumption. We recognize your philanthropic work and we hope you will continue with the good work.

Yours faithfully,
E. Muchokwani

The Renovation & Restoration Fund

The Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation appears to be the only foundation that pays for annual inspections, maintenance and repairs to their wells in Zimbabwe. We are committed to making sure there is safe and accessible water for thousands of people, their livestock and farms for years to come.

This is why the 10 existing wells continue to provide sanitary water to more than 25,000 people each and every day. Thus, it is important that we establish and grow a fund used specifically for inspection, maintenance and repairs of the existing wells.

In addition to taking care of our wells, there are hundreds of boreholes that are dry and inoperable because the needed inspections, maintenance and repairs were not done. This fund would also be used to help restore some of those wells to full functionality, and provide thousands of other people in Zimbabwe with clean and accessible water once again.

Please help quench the thirst for sanitary drinking water in Zimbabwe by supporting the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation's campaign goal of \$50,000 for The Renovation & Restoration Fund.

Donations can be mailed to the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation or made via PayPal at www.rosshirtwaterforafricafoundation.com. Your donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

*"If we can save the life of only one person,
all our efforts will be worth it."*

- Tim Rosshirt

Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation

**ROSSHIRT WATER FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION
3817 BENTWORTH LANE
COLUMBUS, OH 43230**