

ROSSHIRT WATER FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION, INC.



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

Issue 2, 2012

Over \$100,000 raised. Seven wells drilled, providing more than 2,500 people of Zimbabwe every day with life-sustaining clean water!

How gratifying it is to know that since my first trip to Zimbabwe in 2006 through the most recent one in 2012, life has changed for thousands of people in many poor areas of this country. Thanks to your donations, we have made a difference in so many ways including:

- Purchasing and distributing thousands of pounds of maize meal (grain) – nearly six semi-truckloads were passed out.
- Giving educational resources for children and teachers.
- Helping with the cost of school tuition.
- Purchased groceries for over 300 families.
- Donated hundreds of personal hygiene products, including toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- Providing financial support to AIDS hospice care.
- Built 7 wells that are giving at least 2,500 people per day clean water for life. The four new wells drilled in 2012 also have electric pumps!

Each trip made me realize how easily we can take life for granted – with our nice homes, new cars and the latest technology. Seeing for myself the suffering of entire families in remote villages on the other side of the world has really opened my eyes. Knowing that there are people who are dying of an illness like cholera because they have no clean, safe water to drink or cook with – but doing nothing – is inexcusable to me. Because of this, my determination and desire to help others less fortunate has increased.

Our progress

In my four trips to remote villages of Zimbabwe since 2006, we have made a tremendous difference in the daily lives of thousands of people of that country, thanks to donations to the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation.

On the first trip, we purchased and distributed three semi-truck loads of maize meal and other staples to hundreds of families to help ease their hunger. It was during my second trip to distribute food, personal hygiene products and some children's toys when I realized that the people in these remote and poor areas were also desperately in need of clean and accessible water.

In 2009, we drilled our first water wells, also known as boreholes, that would provide safe drinking water to the people in the villages. It was also important that these wells be able to serve hundreds of families for years to come – and to be easy to get to for all the residents of these areas. That year, thanks to the generous support from donors of the Rosshirt Water For Africa Foundation, the first three wells were constructed and clean drinking water was soon flowing.

By January 2012, I was ready to again go to Zimbabwe and oversee the construction of more wells in other poor areas of that country. We received many donations for this project – with a significant amount in matching funds from the Moritz Family Foundation. **I cannot thank the Moritz family enough, especially Lou Ann, for her commitment to this cause and for her belief in me.**



In 2012, we not only built four new wells, but we improved the capability to include electric pumping systems at all new sites!

Making it happen

When I first started making my plans to go to Zimbabwe this past January, it was with excitement that three new boreholes would be constructed – and that we would follow up with any routine maintenance on the three existing wells. What a thrill to find out before I left that a last-minute donation would allow us to dig four new wells instead of three.

In the years since the first wells were built, I kept in contact with some of the people in Zimbabwe who were a big part of our success in 2009: Bashir Khan, who guided me through the villages and in fact, many aspects of this process, and Easton Moko, who also assisted me throughout it all. Isau Bwerinofa, who drilled the first three wells, again did a great job. Not only did he drill the boreholes, but he helped us teach the villagers how to do routine maintenance of the wells to keep them running properly and the water flowing.

When we met again this year, Bashir, Easton, Isau and myself were like an army of four – ready to take on a challenge and make a difference to those in need! This trip was less stressful because of what I had learned in 2009. I was confident that this would be another success for the people.

I also had the opportunity to again visit the first three well sites and was so excited to learn that the wells continued to be a resource for good health and hygiene – and that the wells were serving many more people than we originally thought.



During the trip, Bash, Isau and Tim check a well drilled in 2009 to make sure water is flowing.



When we were checking one of the well sites from 2009, a group of men came to us and told me that 400 villagers each day were using a well that we thought would serve only 100!

We made a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of families this year!

Our first order of business was to determine the four sites, which we selected based on need, accessibility and the number of people that could be helped through the years. One well would be dug at the facility in White Cliff and three in Kadoma City.

Kadoma Prison

The first well was constructed at a prison, approximately 85 miles southwest of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital. The city has a population of 81,000. Kadoma Prison was the site of a major cholera outbreak in 2009 and today houses nearly 700 male and female inmates, along with 250 officers and their families. Kadoma City Council hopes to eventually connect the well we constructed with the prison water system to supply each cell.



When the power is on, water is pumped into this holding tank so that when the electricity goes out, people can still get water.



The Kadoma Training Institute

Our second well was dug at a home for underprivileged, abandoned and abused children, which is located quite a distance from the city's water supply. This building was without its own water source for over 20 years. Before our well was built earlier this year, residents had to walk the equivalent of six football fields each way to get water. Now close to the building, the well is connected directly to the interior pipes – thanks to the hard work of the driller, Isau. This well now serves over 400 facility residents, staff and their families, along with residents of a neighboring village, Ngezi.

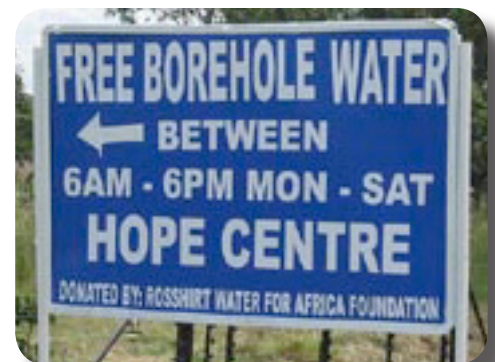
Makufa

Our third site, Makufa, is a high-density suburb of Kadoma. The water was contaminated after a pipe burst from the Kadoma water supply in 2009 and contaminations were frequent because existing wells are so shallow. The aging water and sewage infrastructure had forced residents to rely on two shallow boreholes for all their needs, with the exception of laundry, which is washed in a nearby river. The new Makufa well now serves 800 residents every day, as well as a nearby high school. This well serves the largest population of all the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation boreholes to date.

When these first three wells were completed, the Kadoma City Council held an official ceremony to thank those who made the wells possible. They thanked the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation and its donors, and presented me with a plaque. It was humbling when the city officials explained to the hundreds of people celebrating the new wells how this all came to be and why we came to help their village. We also placed commemorative plaques at each site recognizing the Rosshirt Water For Africa Foundation donor for its commitment.

Hope Centre

The fourth borehole constructed in 2012 is at Hope Centre, a daycare facility located in White Cliff, about 40 miles from Harare. The center offers services for working parents who cannot afford daycare. The children at this facility receive two meals a day and an educational curriculum. This well serves 280 children, along with families from surrounding areas. A sign erected from funds raised by the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation directs the villagers to the well site – informing all that the water is free for everyone.



Saying thank you!

The people were so happy to have their very own well in the community – knowing that their families would not have to trudge miles in the hot sun in hopes of finding safe water.

In fact, many lined up early at the sites even before the boreholes were complete. Adding to the fun, we distributed candy to children as the mothers filled their buckets with water.



Families waiting in anticipation of getting clean water.

Every picture tells a story!



Children, and even their mothers, were eager to get candy.



Clean water is flowing by the buckets! Knowing that the wells have electric pumps is going to help a lot!

There is still much to do

It was the sight of a little boy in 2008, begging on the street from the “white man” (me) ... not for food or money, but for the precious water remaining in my bottle that made me realize that water was the NEED.

Knowing that in just four years, the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation has drilled seven new wells shows how much we have helped.

Yet there are still so many more in need and suffering. In Zimbabwe, poverty is a way of life – and life does not seem to get better for many of its people.

The people of this country often go days without food and water. The life expectancy of a Zimbabwe man is 42 years – lower than 20 years ago when it was 60. In our country, it is 76.

This country has been in economic crisis since the 1990s with some regions reporting that 70 percent of its families are poor or extremely poor.



H₂O – a life force that sustains us.

All living things on earth need water to survive and while human beings can live several weeks without food, they can only live a few days without water. Only oxygen is more essential to our survival.

Thank you to all our donors. We are so grateful to you for giving from your hearts.

Special thanks go to our major donors:

The Moritz Family Foundation
Barb Trueman
Mike and Barb Cantlin

My personal gratitude to Dirk Stevens who designed the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation web site at little cost to the foundation.



This is just one of the plaques recognizing a major donor that was placed on a new well drilled this year in Zimbabwe. Each of the seven wells now has a recognition plaque.

The Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation has been busy ...

We met all the goals set since our last newsletter, including:

- Raising enough to construct four new wells, bringing the total to seven.
- Launching the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation website, www.rosshirtwaterforafricafoundation.com.
- Increasing awareness of our cause through the news media, including an article that appeared in the October 6, 2011 *Columbus Dispatch*. This can be viewed online at: http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2011/10/06/wishing-wells.html.
- Exhibiting an art collection at NRS Gallery in Columbus, which featured pictures from my trips to Zimbabwe.

Personal reflections

While I personally can't give a lot of money, I am successful in raising funds and creating awareness so that I can oversee drilling of more life-saving wells. There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that we are helping so many others.

**Together, we will continue to make a difference
for those less fortunate.**



The screenshot shows a news article from The Columbus Dispatch. The headline is "Chance meeting led Gahanna man to provide water to Zimbabwe". The author is Jeffrey Sheban, and the article was published on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 5:49 AM. The article discusses how Timothy Rosshirt, a Gahanna resident, provided clean water to a village in Zimbabwe. It mentions that Rosshirt is a recent immigrant from Zimbabwe and described the difficult life in her homeland. The article also notes that there is not enough food and clean water in the village, and that Rosshirt's foundation sponsored the first well in 2009. The article includes a photo of Rosshirt pumping water from a well, with elementary school children watching. The photo is captioned "ROSSHIRT WATER FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION PHOTOS".

Make your contribution now to the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation on the form below.

Yes! I want to make a tax-deductible donation to the Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation, Inc. and help bring life-saving water to the people of Zimbabwe.

My check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please call me to discuss other giving opportunities. Phone No.: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail your check made payable to:
Rosshirt Water for Africa Foundation, Inc.
3817 Bentworth Lane
Columbus, OH 43230