

WATER IS LIFE - KENYA



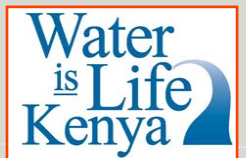
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Relationships matter here...

Having an extended stay in the US this year has given me the gift of continuity with people: more time to develop relationships, appreciate their special talents, their compassion, and their competence. I am grateful to the many who share themselves and their time freely, who positively impact the circles in which they move. One of the special blessings of Water is Life Kenya is that we bring people together here in Newark for a good and loving purpose.

One of the most often repeated comments at the Water Walk on April 23rd, after “wow, it wasn’t supposed to rain today!” was “what a nice group of people!”. And who were we? We were all ages – grade school kids, high school, U of Del. students, professionals, retirees, all types of people from different walks of life gathered to deliberately “walk miles in someone else’s shoes” by carrying water around the Newark reservoir. Practicing empathy and compassion in a community, across generations, - doesn’t get much better than that! I am grateful to be in the middle of something so wonderful happening in Newark, DE!

Thanks, Joyce



... and in Kenya.



Sanford Water Walk

Water Water Water Walk 2016

The 2016 Water is Life Kenya Water Walk was held on April 23rd to support the community of Lenkiloriti (see What's on Tap) and carry water in solidarity with the millions of women who have to carry water each day. Walkers lugged jugs of water around the Newark Reservoir and calculated and "paid off" their own water "debt" through a series of interactive stations. Despite walking "in" water (it rained most of the morning), spirits were high as we celebrated the more than \$13,000 raised through the walk.

Asked how carrying water around the reservoir was, a UD student said "It was harder than I expected. Definitely!"



NCCL Water Walk



Youth and connected ness – Water Walks: NCCL, NCHS, Sanford

What can a kid do to change the world? A lot! While many see kids and teenagers as more willing than able, Water is Life Kenya has seen our connections at schools grow into powerful engines of compassion. For example, at Newark Center for Creative Learning (NCCL) students have raised thousands of dollars through Water Walk and Green Fest events, by donating proceeds from their school musical, and volunteering for WILK as interns and helpers.

The energy doesn't stop at NCCL. Sanford and Newark Charter High School are having their own water walks in the next year and a number of students may be visiting Kenya next summer to pitch in and see WILK's work for themselves. Each of these activities touches lives both here in Delaware and in Kenya.

Dorcas Mutero: A Life Transformed

I first met Dorcas in 2007 as a member of the Imisigiyo borehole project, WILK's first borehole drilled in 2007 and opened in 2008. Her husband, Mutero, is one of the officials of the borehole committee. Both are active members of that community, with Dorcas serving as the secretary of the Ilkiramat loo Imisigiyo Livestock Keepers Group, part of WILK's Livestock as a Business Program since 2013, and working as a teacher at Imisigiyo nursery school.

Before I came back to the US, I arranged to meet her as she was passing through on her long way home from Isinya town. She seemed exhausted, but happy. "I completed my exams, Joyce! I never thought I would finish high school. But now I've done it! Can you help me find a sponsor for college, Joyce?" Dorcas went back to high school as an adult and had just completed her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exam, equivalent to our G.E.D.



Dorcas, center, with 2 other Imisigiyo group members

She told me when she got married as a young girl she thought her education was over. After marrying, she had three children and the work of raising them, taking care of her husband, bringing water every day from across the border in TZ, consumed all her time and energy. After the borehole was drilled, however, the idea of going back to school took root. She is a great example of human potential that can be fulfilled after the problem of water is solved.

Such determination and courage can't be ignored, so to Dorcas' question about helping her find a sponsor I said "Yes, I will try!". Now I pass her request on to you!

Please help Dorcas go to school by donating \$100, \$250 or \$500 to her college fund.
Let's help Dorcas fulfill her dream!
Go to www.waterislifekenya.com/donate today!

What's on Tap: Lenkiloriti

Never heard of Lenkiloriti? You're not alone. Lenkiloriti is more a name for a collection of houses a few miles apart than an actual town. However, these people all share the same need for water. 1,678 people in Lenkiloriti have been without clean water for years. They rely on water from a dam during the rainy season, but during the dry seasons they suffer continuously as they walk long distances for water for themselves and their livestock. As the water in the dam goes down it becomes stagnant and dirty. Typhoid runs rampant.

The good news is that a well was drilled last year, bringing consistent, clean water closer than ever. The bad news was money ran out before the well could be properly equipped so the water can flow. Water is Life Kenya has met with the community and agreed to raise money for a pump and generator to make the well operational. To show their readiness and commitment to water in their homes, Lenkiloriti community water project members contributed their money to build a pump house which is complete, and waiting for the new pump and generator!

WILK needs to raise just a few thousand more dollars to have enough to change life in **Lenkiloriti** for years to come.
Go to www.waterislifekenya.com/donate today!

Water Is Life - Kenya Livestock Keepers Groups hit the Road

30 members of WILK's groups toured three farms to see smart farming practices first hand! What did they see, you ask? Good breeds of cattle, conserving fodder, planting and harvesting grass, and grass seeds for sale, collecting cow dung to produce biogas and using the leftovers for fertilizer, and having cooking gas! What they saw inspired them so much that after a busy day of touring farms WILK's 4 women's groups organized a meeting at 9 pm to sit and discuss how they could do what they saw – how could they produce biogas from cow dung and grow good grasses for their cows themselves!

To sponsor a group for a season of trainings and microloans donate on www.waterislifekenya.com/donate.

Chairladies of Lenkisem and Loolakirr groups, Chairmen of Risa and Oshumu groups sign in their groups on the farm tour

Yolanda Chetwynd: Creative Ways of Caring

We can count ourselves lucky if we live useful lives which create something. We created WILK to bring water to places where there was none. WILK Board member and Newark based artist, Yolanda Chetwynd creates through painting. She paints, she says, echoing the words of Rembrandt, "to highlight the interconnectedness of each person's life story to another's."



Drawing and Sharing from Well by Yolanda Chetwynd

And so we find ourselves in the middle of the fruitful season of Yolanda Chetwynd's art exhibits, which included St. Andrews School, the Newark Arts Alliance and concludes at the Grand Opera House (from June 1-June 30) in Wilmington, DE. Here is the miraculous part: Yolanda has generously offered to donate the proceeds of the sales of her paintings to Water is Life Kenya.

Stop in at the Grand Opera House, or view her paintings and purchase them through her online catalog: <http://yolandachetwynd.com/GNFiles/catalog.pdf>. Through any of these avenues you can own one of Yolanda's paintings and bring her visual story into your home, with benefits that stretch all the way to the lives of people in WILK's project areas in



Connect through United Way

In Water is Life Kenya's 10th year help us reach 100 x 1000! Does your company, school or organization have a United Way campaign? If yes, do you always wonder which organization you should donate to? We have the answer for you! **Water is Life Kenya!** Choose WILK on the United Way menu and help us reach our goal of **100 donations of \$1000 through United Way**. Your support will empower us to continue our life transforming work of bringing clean water to communities in rural Kenya!

Help us Turn Beads into Water:

Buy our beautiful beaded handicrafts at these local stores and support clean water:

The Well Coffee House - Lancaster Pike, Hockessin - always on sale.

Dansko Shoe Outlet, Jennersville, PA - August 1st - 13th 2016.

Be sure to join us for this year's
Thirst Reverse - mid November
Iron Hill Brewery, Main St, Newark, DE



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