

Water=Life **Ripple Effect**

Update for friends and supporters. Vol. 1, No. 3

Water = Life was founded in 2013 by Rev. Elena Delgado and a group of friends living in the Western New York area. Concerned with the access to clean water by children in the developing world, Water = Life was created with the goal of “nurturing the human spirit through the gift of clean water.”

A message from Elena

Much has happened since the last edition of *Ripple Effect* when I reported the highlights of our January initiative in Haiti working with 120 families in proper use of the Sawyer filter system. In this issue, I want to tell you about some new friendships and support Water=Life is receiving. And to let you know about our upcoming return visit to Haiti.

As support grows, as friends invite friends to join us in our commitment to bring clean water and health to children and their communities, the Board of Directors of Water=Life has asked me to **return to Haiti June 24 - July 4.**

The directors see this trip as a critical strategic move to build on the success of our January work in the southern highlands of Petionville Province, to expand our efforts as well as enlarge our donor support.

Here are our four goals:

- ◆ train and distribute the Sawyer SP180 filter systems to 140 family representatives
- ◆ introduce a simple health assessment form to measure the impact of clean water in family life
- ◆ refine the follow-up visit process by our Water=Life Haitian advisors to ensure long-term health benefits to children and their families
- ◆ re-evaluate our training education program

Rev. Elena Delgado, President, Water=Life



East Aurora Presbyterian Church

The Mission Ministry Team of East Aurora (NY) Presbyterian Church is focusing its mission education in support of Water=Life. The church choir kicked off the initiative by supporting 2 filter systems. The congregation is learning about global water issues, children are studying Biblical passages in which water is a character in the story, the youth have labeled empty water bottles for families to fill with spare change. *Here's another ripple.*

Members of the East Aurora Presbyterian Church Choir.



Rev. Buddy Hubbard, Elena, and Darcy Sowyrda, chair of Mission Ministry Team, are happy to work together.



Earth Day Celebrations

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, the Felician Sisters and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Community invited me to participate in their 2016 interfaith Earth Day celebrations. The sisters focused these celebrations around Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home* and St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creation" in which Sister Water is honored. The sisters invited community children, families, teachers, environmental activists to also join them in their witness of solidarity with the people of Flint, MI and all those who suffer from polluted water. *The ripple effect expands!*

Orchard Park Chorale Spring Joys concert!

At its Spring Joys concert on May 15th, members of the Orchard Park (NY) Chorale honored its artistic team Kathleen Keenan-Takagi, Karen Saxon and Joanne Hollenbeck with something more lasting than a bouquet of flowers. This outstanding chorale group made a contribution to Water=Life to purchase 3 complete filter systems. Thank you, OPC! *You're causing a ripple in the lives of so many.*

The Women of Norwood Presbyterian Church

A dear college classmate of mine told the women of the Norwood (SC) Presbyterian Church about Water=Life. Here's what one of the women said: "Children are a gift from God and our future. My hope is that the work done by Water=Life will help these children thrive and know that they are an important part of the family of God - so much so that people who have never met them and live far away are willing to give in order that they may live." The women made a contribution of \$1000 to support our work. *Splash again!*



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The congregation of St. Mark's in Orchard Park (NY) invited me to preach and to share the work of Water=Life.

During coffee hour, I gave a demonstration of the Sawyer filter system and answered questions about the needs of children in Haiti.

The ripple effect continues!



The Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, the Felician Sisters and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Community with Elena.



Your donation of \$50 will purchase a water filter that will clean up to 1 million gallons of water!

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