



Zimbabwe

WELLS AND TOILETS EVERYONE'S RIGHT!

W.A.T.E.R!

Dear Friends,

Every year in rural Zimbabwe, more wells collapse due to inclement weather. These hand-dug holes are open to water run-off of debris and pathogens that rainfall deposits. Less than 7 in 100 people have a pure water brick well. Less than 7 in 100 have a toilet and so use the savannah bush. This combination brings into focus a complex health issue that can be solved with simple construction. Most Shona people are very conscious of their daily hygiene and understand the problem, but can't fix it due to economic constraints. The percentage of unemployment is in the high 90's, and materials and labor are costly.

Contaminated water is typically their daily source; pregnant women, newborns, infants, children and the elderly, as well as anyone with a compromised immune system (HIV rates are among the highest in Africa) suffer greatly. There is a very high mortality rate, with life expectancy in the mid-40's; it is the very lowest in all of the African countries. Due to a lack of basic sanitation, waterborne diseases compromise health, and illnesses are passed to many family members. Many can't afford the cost of soap. There is also a huge loss of life associated with a lack of nutrition. Although the Shona are an agriculturally based people, they are unable to raise abundant gardens due to a limited water supply. One cannot dig a hole deep enough to obtain sufficient water without the risk of cave-ins.

With a pure-water well built with bricks and a lid, the family not only can prevent disease but also be empowered to raise an incredible garden. The fresh produce availability enhances not just their own family's diet and health, but also makes food available to neighbors improving the community's overall wellness, and generates some income so they can take care of their family's fundamental needs, such as paying for school (education is not free in Zimbabwe) among other vital necessities. Well building is a sustainable solution!

You can change their lives by donating the cost of a few lattes or videos: \$4.81 a week, or \$250 a year, builds a well! Not only will they have clean water for drinking, washing dishes, clothes, and bodies, but also for irrigating their garden (by the bucket). Health is supported in multiple ways, as well as prosperity. A family well often serves the grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren, siblings with and/or without spouses, as well as orphans. This well you build impacts many people and will do so for generations! And, your name is painted on the well top! We have helped them build over 60 so far. Please help us, help them to help themselves - call for more information. I would love to meet you and talk in person; I live just outside of Lebanon. Thank you for pondering your ability to intercede. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated!

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Jaiaen Beck, Executive Director

