



Innovative Ideas

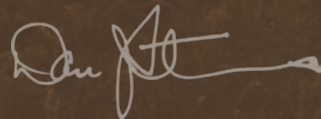
Annual Review: Fiscal Year ending March 2009

From the Executive Director From the Executive Director

While visiting a tiny community in the bush in Mozambique—far from major roads, electrical lines, or any other signs of modern life—we happened upon two men sitting under an odd-looking contraption that involved a solar panel, a battery, and two or three cell phones. These men had established a cell phone charging business: the solar panel charged the battery, which then charged the phones. Talk about innovation!

Our circumstances never stay the same, and to grow and thrive we must constantly try new ways of doing things. This is as true for an organization as it is for individuals. Jesus said that we should not put new wine in old wineskins, illustrating that we need to be responsive to our changing contexts as we serve as vessels of God's love. The question that keeps Lifewater moving and growing is how we might address the global water crisis in more effective, more relevant ways.

In this annual review you will learn of several innovative ideas that are helping Lifewater and its in-country partners be more effective in bringing sustainable safe water to those who most need it. We hope our excitement about the potential of these innovative ideas inspires you to seek new ways of fulfilling your own calling, especially in service to those most desperate for tangible expressions of God's love.



Fighting Poverty through Safe Water

Lifewater International is a Christian nonprofit organization that believes all people should have safe water for life.

With a focus on sustainability, Lifewater helps communities gain safe water, adequate sanitation, effective hygiene, and the skills they need to pass on these resources to future generations.

Core Values Core Values

We are Christian.

We believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people.

We are committed to the poor through holistic ministry.

We practice partnership.

We are committed to good stewardship.



Highlights

Organizational Highlights

Thousands gain safe water. Lifewater International partnered with thirteen organizations in nine countries to bring safe water to 119,010 people between January 2008 and March 2009.

Hundreds of In-Country Health Promoters Equipped to Train Local Communities in WASH.

A total of 267 individuals in Africa, Asia, and Latin America completed certificate-level Lifewater training programs taught by Lifewater staff and certified volunteer field trainers between January 2008 and March 2009.

Lifewater Donors Demonstrate Commitment to Helping Others Gain Safe Water.

While foundations struggled to maintain their giving levels as stock market earnings decreased, individual giving rose 11 percent and church giving increased by 107 percent to fill in the gap—resulting in no decrease in total revenue in the fiscal year ending March 2009 as compared to the previous fiscal year.

Project Highlights

Lifewater established partnerships with two new in-country organizations, one in Kenya and another in Asia. Both partners are already demonstrating their ability to manage large-scale projects that will bring safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education to numerous communities.

After thorough consideration, Lifewater terminated a longtime partnership in Kenya due to financial discrepancies. While grieving the loss of this relationship, Lifewater is confident that the decision upholds its commitment to good stewardship.

A Lifewater partner organization in Central Asia established a training center to equip nationals with the skills they need to support water, sanitation, and hygiene development in their communities.

Lifewater developed new guidelines to better measure the outcomes of project work in the following four areas: community well-being through WASH, community empowerment, spiritual transformation, and capacity building of Lifewater partner organizations.

Photo: In rural northern Uganda, twelve-year-old Harriet transports water from a distant, unprotected spring. Harriet's circumstances will improve dramatically in the near future, when her community gains safe water through Lifewater partner Divine Waters.

by Sam Moore, Lifewater staff member

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Transitions Mental Health

Development Highlights

Lenten Campaign Blesses Individuals Stateside and Abroad

Significant Sacrifice: An Easter Journey helped thousands of individuals and groups find deeper meaning during the Lenten season and turn their spiritual sacrifices into tangible gifts for those in need. In the fiscal year ending March 2009, over \$42,000 was raised through Significant Sacrifice to help communities around the world gain safe water.

Holiday Alternative Giving Provides Gift of Water to Many

Each holiday season, Lifewater provides the opportunity to honor loved ones while giving a gift to someone who really needs it. In 2008, shoppers gave over \$150,000 to help people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America gain safe water.

Individual Giving Provides Solid Financial Base

Individual giving remained strong despite the difficult economic environment. Lifewater's growing individual donor base has enabled the organization to continue expanding its work during these times when it is most needed.

Financial Summary Financial Summary Fiscal Year ending March 2009

Revenue

Revenue & Other Support		
Individuals	\$823,842.37	34.8%
Foundation	\$777,620.05	32.9%
In Kind	\$261,450.00	11%
Government	\$229,847.63	10%
Church	\$213,732.11	9%
Corporate	\$42,416.03	1.8%
Civic Group	\$12,557.20	0.5%
Other Income	\$5,401.13	0.2%
Total Revenue	2,366,866.52	100%

Expenses

Expenses		
Water Projects	\$2,205,002	83.6%
Field Trainer Training	\$131,756	5.0%
Fundraising	\$167,692	6.3%
Management & General	\$134,396	5.1%
Total Expenses	\$2,638,845	100%

* A portion of these expenses represent the use of funds received in a prior fiscal year designated for this fiscal year.



These figures for the fiscal year ending March 2009 are unaudited. The most recent audited financial statements are available at www.lifewater.org. For more information, please see our Form 990 or contact Lifewater's director of Finance & Administration at (888) 543-3426.

Innovative Ideas

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New Filter Technology

New Well Cleanout Tools

WASH Promotion Curriculum

Primary School Curriculum

WASH Promotion through Soccer

Problem

The square concrete biosand filter that Lifewater has promoted (and which is popular worldwide) requires a heavy steel mold that is difficult to fabricate. Welding the mold requires sophisticated equipment and skill that can be hard to find where Lifewater works. An improperly constructed mold results in a high breakage rate as the filter vessels are removed from the mold. The heavy mold is also expensive. These factors limit the multiplication potential of biosand technology.

When a water well breaks, the hand pump is often removed for repair, and the borehole is left uncovered. According to water programs specialist Fred Proby, “Kids—and adults too—will drop stones down the pipe because it makes an irresistibly delightful sound. They’ll keep at it until the well has been filled up.” If the well is to be restored to service, the rocks must be removed. There has been no simple way to accomplish this.

Crucial health practices such as handwashing and safe fecal disposal were not being implemented in some communities despite high-quality health education. Promoters often found that underlying cultural traditions, beliefs, or circumstances were preventing community members from adopting the important health practices.

Teachers and school directors in communities where Lifewater and its in-country partner organizations work needed a way to teach primary school students about important health practices. Lifewater’s existing curriculum focused on training adults and was not appropriate for young children.

In many places, initiatives for positive change are supported primarily by women; men tend to be more reluctant to get involved in community development efforts. In northern Uganda, this problem was compounded by decades of violence that had crushed people’s hope of a better life and hindered their willingness and ability to support water development.

Innovative Idea

Lifewater volunteer Jerry Ohs developed a cylindrical biosand filter mold that is fabricated from light-gauge steel and other readily available components. This new mold requires no welding, is very easy to build, and is inexpensive. The cylindrical concrete biosand filter that the new mold produces is even stronger than the square model.

Fred Proby and field trainer Rod Thompson developed a “well cleanout tool” that consists of a plunger inside a length of steel pipe. The pipe is lowered to the top of the rocks, and when the plunger is pulled up, the suction draws rocks into the pipe where they are held on slanted shelves.

Lifewater developed a WASH promotion curriculum that assures that local knowledge, behavior, and beliefs are incorporated into solutions to health threats (e.g., lack of handwashing). The curriculum guides health promoters as they work with a small group of families to test culturally appropriate solutions before they are widely promoted.

Lifewater developed “Ten Building Blocks for Better Health: Primary School Curriculum,” a participatory learning curriculum that guides teachers and school leaders in methods of teaching students how to protect and promote their health.

Lifewater and its in-country partner organization in northern Uganda promoted water, sanitation, and hygiene through a nine-month soccer tournament between thirteen local communities. They focused on WASH development work in those communities and used soccer matches as educational opportunities.

Results

The new mold is in the testing phase. To gain thorough assessments, Jerry is collaborating with fellow Lifewater field trainer Rod Thompson, Lifewater water programs specialist Fred Proby, and other missions and development organizations. So far, the testers are enthusiastic about the new model.

The plunger has been tested at Lifewater’s Training Center and during pump repair training classes in Ethiopia. It effectively removes even large rocks from wells.

WASH promotion curriculum was developed and field tested in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian health promoters using the curriculum reported that the relationship building that the new methodology requires took time but that it resulted in more openness to changing hygiene behaviors.

Lifewater field tested its curriculum in Kenya and Zambia, with positive results. The schoolteachers participating in the field testing provided valuable feedback for modifications. Several of the teachers have started student health clubs and are teaching club members to promote WASH in their schools.

Thirteen northern Ugandan communities gained safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education as well as hope for a better future. Thousands of individuals in neighboring communities enjoyed soccer, learned basic WASH principles, and heard the gospel.

Follow-Up

Lifewater partner organization Divine Waters Uganda is planning a major expansion of their biosand filter program and will be introducing the new cylindrical filter in this project. If the success of this new biosand filter design continues, Lifewater will introduce it with other partners and organizations.

Cleanout tools have been provided to Lifewater partners with hand pump repair programs in Mozambique and in Zambia. The design will continue to be improved as Lifewater receives feedback from the field.

Lifewater will conduct its fourth WASH promotion training with the health promoters and visit families who have been involved in the field testing. Lifewater will then finalize the curriculum and begin to use it with other partner organizations.

Lifewater will continue monitoring the work of the Zambian teachers who participated in the field testing to evaluate the curriculum’s effectiveness. Lifewater is also equipping its field trainers to introduce the curriculum to other in-country partner organizations, beginning with a partner in Kenya.

The WASH Promotion Soccer tournament will continue for three years, reaching sixty-six communities and seventy-five thousand individuals with WASH. In addition, the best players from the tournament are competing regionally to represent northern Uganda in a nationwide FUFA (Federation of Uganda Football Association) tournament.

Project Data

Project Data

1/08 through 3/09*

Gained safe water:

Communities: 138

Individuals: 119,010

Gained sanitation and/or hygiene education:

Communities: 159

Individuals: 83,764

Field work:

Wells drilled: 50

Wells repaired: 132

Biosand filters constructed: 137

Schools served with water: 22

Latrines constructed at schools: 232

Volunteer field trainers:

Newly certified field trainers: 65 from 13 states

Newly certified lead field trainers: 24

Field trainer courses in U.S.: 14 with 161 participants

Training trips abroad: 76 field trainers taught 25 courses in Africa and Asia

Training of in-country trainers:

A total of 267 in-country water development specialists, teachers, and health promoters completed a certificate-level Lifewater training course (Well Drilling, Hand Pump Repair, WASH Promotion, Latrine Design & Construction, Community Health through Hygiene, or Principles of Effective Community Development).

* This project reporting period is being used to adjust from a calendar fiscal year to a fiscal year that begins on April 1.



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Photo: Cup of Water, Cup of Life, by David Uttley, volunteer Lifewater photojournalist