

WATERLINES

302 East Coronado Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87505 USA 505-988-5642 waterlines@waterlines.org www.waterlines.org

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Dear Friends of Waterlines,

This letter sketches Waterlines' recent activities. More than sixty new drinking-water projects were completed in 2011, primarily in Kenya, Ethiopia and Panama. Waterlines' projects, all with strong community ownership, continue to focus on small-scale approaches: gravity-flow pipelines, rainwater catchment tanks and spring protections. Ten additional projects in Kenyan schools provided toilets and hygiene education as well as a water source. We supported projects in 2011 in Bolivia and Peru designed by WEFTA (the nonprofit led by Waterlines' board members Pete Fant and Lou Harrington), and single projects in Nicaragua, Morocco and Nepal.



As always, Waterlines relies on volunteers to track projects and make site visits. Each year Waterlines volunteers check on at least 100 previously-completed projects to verify that water continues to flow, and if necessary to work with communities to resolve problems. Our water systems, with few moving parts, are less demanding than those of many non-profits, but Waterlines' record of checking on prior systems is matched by few organizations.

Particular thanks for Waterlines' work go to its board members: Betty Kersting, Judy Crawford, Mark Reimers, Diane Reimers, Fr. Robert Cumberland, Pete Fant, Lou Harrington, Deborah Douglas, John Vavruska and Bill Muldrow (emeritus). A debt is owed to those associated with Water Advocates, Waterlines' 'supporting organization,' whose Washington DC-based advocacy from 2005-2010 significantly furthered Waterlines' mission to extend clean water to people in developing countries. The website www.waterlines.org has been updated through the generously donated talent of Richard Anderson. Waterlines does no direct fundraising and continuing appreciation goes to our donors who faithfully contribute without solicitations. An extraordinary network of volunteers and donors has allowed Waterlines to improve water supplies for hundreds of thousands of people in the world's poorest regions. Thank you. David Douglas

KENYA UPDATE: Drinking Water Projects:

Waterlines began working in Kenya's Rift Valley Province in 1997 with community-led projects to protect springs and provide rainwater collection tanks. Over 500 projects have since been completed for schools, churches, clinics, and women's groups. Judy Crawford, Betty Kersting, and Mark and Diane Reimers track proposals, financial wires and completion reports. In Kenya, Richard Kayla, Joel Mitei and David Langat facilitate implementation of projects. The Reimers make annual site visits to an average of 60 projects to confirm how water projects are functioning in the communities. Mark



describes a typical rainwater-harvesting project: "A great need exists to provide improved water to schools and dispensaries in Kenya. Rainwater harvesting is a very effective means of meeting this need in the highlands of Kenya. Each project involves the construction of a 35,000 to 50,000 liter water storage tank and a gutter system to collect rainwater that falls on existing metal roofs. Three Kenyan facilitators (Joel Mitei, Richard Kalya and David Langat) work with local committees to complete applications, select artisans for construction, and report on

completed projects. Most projects cost approximately \$3,000. Waterlines contributes 75% and the local committee provides 25% of the cost. In 2011, Waterlines supported 50 new rain water harvesting projects at schools and dispensaries."

KENYA UPDATE (cont): WASH-in-Schools Projects:



Half of all the world's schools lack a water source and latrines, according to UNICEF. Waterlines has taken part in a comprehensive "WASH" (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)-in-Schools Initiative launched by Water Advocates and others in 2008. Mark Reimers describes this work that expands Waterlines' work beyond water sources to include sanitation and hygiene components:

"As a part of this Initiative, Waterlines has so far helped extend water, latrines and hand-washing education to 35 schools in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Waterlines' pilot program is

overseen locally by Tenwek Hospital Community Health and Development. On a cost-sharing basis with Waterlines, each school has obtained a rainwater-harvesting tank and gutter system, an improved latrine building with eight toilets, and hygiene training for two teachers. The hygiene program includes a student health club, water purification treatment, latrine cleaning and maintenance, and hand washing training and facility. The program is being monitored over three years. The average cost per school is \$9,000."

Funding for Waterlines' pilot WASH program has come primarily from the Laird Norton Family Foundation, the Kind World Foundation, and the H2O for Life School to School Program.

ETHIOPIA UPDATE: Spring-protection projects:



Emeritus board member Bill Muldrow, worked for 12 years in Ethiopia for the Presbyterian Church USA, and provides a brief sketch of the Waterlines' spring-protection work in Ethiopia which has expanded considerably in recent years:

"Ethiopia is a large, mountainous, ethnically diverse country, the majority of whose people are subsistence farmers. Due to the lack of sanitary facilities in the countryside, virtually all unprotected surface streams and other water sources are heavily contaminated. Waterlines has focused its efforts on the simple technology of enclosing springs to protect the water source, then piping the water by gravity flow to central locations in, or near, villages and concentrated population areas. To date, 52 of these protected-spring projects have been completed, or are in the final stage of planning and development, bringing improved water to more than twenty-five thousand people."

PANAMA UPDATE

Father Robert Cumberland, a parish priest in Mexico and one of Waterlines' first volunteers, has helped implement drinking-water projects in Panama for 20 years. He looks back on the program there, where 82 rural communities have obtained water through gravity-flow means, mainly in the provinces of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro: *"The Waterlines program is ever-expanding. We started out with one community close to the highway--with a*



single contact person--and now we're going further and further afield.. Waterlines began working in Ngobe communities in the Chiriqui with evangelical lay pastors, then with Catholic parish priests and the Sisters at Llano Nopo, then with Peace Corps Volunteers, each year extending the groups of people we're working with. All projects have been gravity-flow, which very early on were found to be more reliable and less expensive in the long run, despite the long distance for gravity-flow pipelines. More than 90% of the communities are indigenous, a few are mestizo, and all are marginalized.

Projects in the past decade were carried out by Nicholas Arcia (one of the most capable technicians in all of Panama, from the Comarca, mestizo himself, and the best person for designing spring boxes) and Peace Corps Volunteers. Waterlines has a continuing commitment to the communities. They're always surprised when we come back because that's not their usual experience, with either the government or most NGOs. Waterlines one of the few organizations that continues to go back, yearly reporting on systems. That's meant a lot to the people."

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

Water Engineers for the Americas: Waterlines' board members Pete Fant and Lou Harrington established the nonprofit WEFTA in 2002 to support water and sanitation projects more complex than those normally undertaken by Waterlines. With partial funding from Waterlines and strong in-country partnership with local Latin American NGOs, WEFTA has supported projects in Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. For further information please see www.wefta.net.

Recent and upcoming site visits to Waterlines-supported water projects:

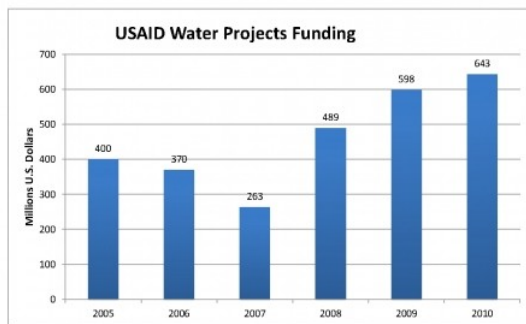
- Panama: (January 2012) Fr. Robert Cumberland, Tim Wellman
- Nepal (October 2011), Morocco (January 2012) John Vavruska
- Ethiopia (December 2011-January 2012) Migs Muldrow, David Muldrow, Sheri Fry
- Kenya: (February 2012) Mark and Diane Reimers

Water Advocates (2005-2010)

As most of you know, Waterlines helped launch the U.S.'s first full-time advocacy organization for safe, affordable and sustainable drinking water internationally. Water Advocates was based in Washington D.C. and set up to be in existence from 2005 through 2010 before "sunsetting". Its original board consisted of CARE's Peter Lochery, Water.org's Gary White, Steve Werner (former head of Water for People), Stephen Turner (former Deputy Director of WaterAid), and Waterlines' David Douglas.

Water Advocates' years overlapped with a growing worldwide appreciation of water and sanitation as the cornerstone of health and development. Created as a "supporting organization" to Waterlines, Water Advocates elevated American support for water within the U.S.

Government, civic and faith organizations, corporations and foundations, schools and universities.



Water Advocates was viewed as one of the most effective non-profits ever established in Washington D.C. Its staff, lobbyists and consultants increased American public and private funding for long-term drinking-water and sanitation projects in poor countries by more than \$100 million annually, and helped reverse the decline in USAID water assistance (*see bar graph*).

A successor initiative, with a broadened mission and known as "WASH Advocates," has garnered new philanthropic support to expand its work (in the old Water Advocates' office) in 2012 and beyond. It's safe to say that full-time, Washington DC-based advocacy for worldwide drinking water would not have begun when it did without Waterlines.

WATERLINES 2011 INCOME AND EXPENSES



Beginning Balance January 1, 2011 **\$ 92,400**

Contributions Received in 2011: **\$500,009**

Project Expenses in 2011: **\$317,355**

Waterlines 2011 Project Expenses: Kenya, \$191,203, Panama \$15,046, Morocco \$5,500, Ethiopia \$32,777, Nepal \$5,400, Nicaragua, \$15,000, Eritrea, \$1,500, Water Engineers for the Americas (Bolivia, Peru, Colombia) \$50,000, Misc. (bank wires, state fees) \$930

Beginning Balance January 1, 2012 **\$275,054**

