



**A GUIDE TO
WATER TO THRIVE &
ANSWERING FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR WORK**

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A GUIDE TO WATER TO THRIVE & ANSWERING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR WORK

Q: What is the founding story of Water to Thrive?

IN 2008....

In 2008, a Lutheran Bible Study at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas studied the effects of the global water crisis and decided to take action to help solve this problem.

12 WELLS FUNDED

TLLC acted and funded 12 wells. After seeing the impact one church could make, a member of the group, Dick Moeller, realized he could make an even greater impact and founded Water to Thrive as a 501c(3) nonprofit.

Q: What is the Impact of Water to Thrive's Work?

OVERALL IMPACT

Over 1,200 Wells Built,
660,000+ people Served

HEALTH, HYGIENE, & SANITATION

Every beneficiary community receives comprehensive WASH training. Clean water decreases disease rates by 80%.

TIME & MONEY

Having a clean water source located within minutes of the community saves time for women and girls. This allows for them to put their time into other activities and endeavors that will bring money to the family, like creating products to sell at the market, starting businesses to bring in revenue, attending school and improving their education. When communities gain access to clean water, their time and energy is freed up to be more productive, which stimulates economic growth and development.

EDUCATION

School attendance in girls increases significantly for each hour reduction in water collection. Children have more time for school when they aren't spending hours collecting water.

STARTING A CAMPAIGN

You can provide clean, safe water to people of East Africa by building your very own online fundraising campaign. It's easy. Just log on to our website and follow the simple steps. In no time at all, you'll be on your way to raising the \$5,000 it costs to fund a well that will change the way of life in a rural village forever.

Once you start the campaign, you'll have up to six months to reach your goals. Your family, friends, school, or congregation can contribute to your project or set up a sub-campaign to support your efforts.

At the conclusion of your campaign, you'll receive detailed information about your well, including photographs and GPS coordinates. You will also be able to choose the wording that goes on the plaque at that well. Remember, 100 percent of your campaign funds will go directly to the project, whether it be in Ethiopia, Uganda, or Tanzania.

FUNDING A CAMPAIGN

Whether you want to locate a specific water project or see the scope of Water to Thrive's impact in Africa, our website gives you the tools you need.

You can see current fundraising campaigns, and see the details of completed projects on an interactive map.

OUR MISSION

Water to Thrive transforms lives in rural Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to bring the blessing of clean, safe water, connecting communities in need with those who have the heart and spirit to make a difference.

OUR VISION

A world where we share generously to provide health, hope, and water to those we serve.

OUR VALUES

Stewardship
Transparency
Impact
Accountability
Empowerment
Integrity

Q: How Does Access to Clean Water Empower Women?

- In sub-Saharan Africa, girls of every school age are more likely to be denied or prevented from realizing their education. Plus, the burden of water collection often falls on women and girls. With access to clean water, girls gain the opportunity to attend school like their male peers.
- On the walk to water, women and girls are vulnerable to kidnapping and rape. When a long journey to collect water is eliminated, women and girls are safer.
- We ensure women make up at least 50% of locally-elected water committees. This provides them with an opportunity to be in a leadership position within the community, sometimes for the first time ever.
- Domestic violence: One woman told us it took so long for her to get water, her husband thought she was seeing another man and beat her. Now, she doesn't get beaten anymore.
- Women and girls get hours back in their day and now have more freedom to choose what their daily life looks like.
- For every year that girls have the opportunity to stay in school, the age of marriage rises. If more girls are staying in school longer, child marriages decrease.

Q: Why Do You Work with African Partners to Build Wells?

Our in-country partners know the language and culture of the communities we serve. They are in the area and can conduct site visits to best determine the needs of a community and what type of project will work best given their location. They are able to mobilize the communities to receive a well.

Q: Why Can't I Go Out & Dig My Own Well?

Our wells are dug by highly skilled laborers. We want experienced laborers to dig the wells in order to ensure the quality of the wells and safety of laborers. In addition, allowing you to dig a well would be taking jobs away from local, African workers.

Q: Do You Only Dig One Type of Well?

Building wells is not a one-size-fits-all task. Mountain villages have different needs than dry desert communities. River regions present different challenges from the plains. The type of project we build depends on the location and the unique needs of the community. Implementing different types of water projects ensures that every project type is uniquely chosen for long-term sustainability in each community.

Q: What Types of Water Projects Does Water to Thrive Build?

Hand Dug Wells

When a community has a good supply of water near the surface of the ground, a hand-dug well is usually the best project type to construct. With the guidance of a water expert, community members help dig the well from 8 to 15 meters deep. Concrete rings are stacked inside the well to prevent cave-ins, and a filtration system is used along the entire depth of the well shaft. The completed well is covered with a large concrete cap, and a hand pump is installed.

Shallow Borehole Wells

When there is no spring available and the water is too deep underground for a hand-dug well, a drilling machine is needed to access the water in the deep aquifer. These types of projects are called shallow boreholes, and they utilize drilling rigs to dig to depths of 20-50 meters. For a shallow borehole, a rig will drill until water is hit. Then a steel casing is inserted into the long well shaft to protect the deep well from collapsing and to prevent contamination of the pure water in the aquifer. A pump is then used to bring this clean, safe water to the surface for communities to use.

Spring Protection Development

If a natural spring is present, the eye of the spring is carefully capped and covered with a large cement protection box. The box protects the water from surface contamination and also contains a natural filtration system of river gravel and sand. The clean, filtered water is then piped to a reservoir where it collects overnight. During the day, the clean water that has been collected is piped to distribution points where community members can collect it.

Deep Borehole Wells

In some cases, even a borehole of 20-50 meters isn't deep enough to reach water. In instances like this, heavy equipment and very deep drilling is required. For these cases, we choose a deep borehole well. Usually drilled to a depth of 50 to 250 meters, deep boreholes are the most difficult and expensive water projects to construct. They require a large team of drillers, and must be fueled by diesel generators or connected to a power grid. However, if drilled into a high-volume aquifer, these deep boreholes can yield a high enough volume of water to serve more than 15,000 people per year. Deep Borehole Wells require electricity to build, which many rural communities do not have. Water to Thrive does less of these projects because of this and because they are very expensive to build.

Q: What Does the Process of Funding a Well Look Like?

Our in-country partners assess rural communities and their needs, and share that need with Water to Thrive. They submit a proposal for funding to us, which we carefully review. Then, we share the need for funding with individuals, schools, churches, etc. who want to get involved. Once we raise the funds, we send them to our partners in Africa, and then the construction process begins.

During the construction process, the community receives sanitation and hygiene training so that they know how to maintain their new water source, prevent contamination of the water, and how to prevent diseases.

Once construction is complete, Water to Thrive receives completion reports from our partners that include photos of the well, GPS coordinates, and beneficiary information. We carefully review every completion report to ensure each project was completed on budget and in accordance with the original proposal. Then, we share this information with the donors who funded the project.

The construction process can take up to 18 months.

Q: Why Do You Only Work in East Africa?

THE NEED

Of the 159 million people worldwide who collect water from surface sources (i.e. ponds, lakes, swamps, etc.), a staggering 58% (92 million) live in sub-Saharan Africa. There is a great need for clean water and basic sanitation in this area.

OUR IMPACT

Working in one geographical area allows us to focus our resources, maximize efficiency, and strengthen our impact.

Q: How Do You Empower the Communities You Serve?

The community elects a Water Committee to make all the decisions about the well. These decisions range from hours of operation for the well, to which materials will be used to build the fence around the well. The Water Committee also manages the Maintenance Fund so that they are able to have funds stored away in case the well needs to be repaired in the future. Water to Thrive implements projects with a simple design so that local members of the community can fix the well in future if needed.

Q: What Best Practices Do You Implement to Ensure Your Work is Sustainable?

Communities are fully involved in the process of implementing a well, from location selection to long-term project maintenance. Each village elects a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) committee, formed at the beginning of the process, and community members have a voice and responsibility at every step. Well users pay a small fee each month towards management and maintenance of the water point, and the residents contribute time and labor to the construction of the project as well. Keeping the community as an active partner in the life of the water project helps to ensure our best practices of accountability, quality, and sustainability.

Q: How Can I Be Sure that My Donation Goes Towards Building Wells?

We offer our 100 Percent Promise that when you give for water, 100% of your donation will go towards funding water projects. We fundraise for water and operational expenses separately. If you fully fund a well, when the well is finished, you will receive the GPS coordinates, photos, and you will be able to customize wording that will appear on a plaque on the well.

Q: How Much Does It Cost To Fund a Well?

It costs \$5,000 to fund a well. Also, with funding a well there is \$500 worth of administrative expenses necessary to implement the well. Our donors have the option to give that 10% on top of their donation, knowing it will go towards administrative expenses.

- Fundraise for a Well
- Become an Ambassador
 - Connect with People
 - Share about the Mission
 - Help Bring In New Donors
- Coffee Club & Jewelry
- Trip to Africa
 - Vision Trips to Witness the Impact of Our Work
- Follow Us on Social Media

Q: How Can I Get Involved with Water To Thrive's Mission?

Q: How Do You Decide Where to Build a Well?

Our in-country partners conduct site visits to rural communities to best determine where a well should be built, depending on geographical conditions, the population of the community, nearest water source, etc.

Q: Where Do the Materials to Build a Well Come From?

Most of the materials are locally-sourced. Since the design of our wells is simple, there are only a few resources that are required to construct the well. The materials we use are: Bags of Sand, Concrete (sometimes created on site), the tap, and the pump (which is imported from India).

Q: How Long Does it Take to Build a Well?

Approximately 12-18 months; from starting construction to finishing (completion report).

The timeline does vary because this work does bring unforeseen challenges, such as weather and traveling/road conditions. We receive progress reports from our partners throughout the construction process to guarantee the work is getting done.

Q: Is Your Work Welcomed by the Government?

The government is very welcoming to us and wants our help. We work with local water districts and local partners; this relationship works best for the community because together we are all able to bring our own expertise and put it to work for a common cause.

Q: Will Water to Thrive Be Expanding their Work?

At this moment in time, there are no current plans to expand. The reason we work in these three countries is because their proximity to one another allows our one project manager, Gashaw, to oversee all projects.

Q: How Many People Does Each Well Serve?

The average well serves a community of 560+ people. Some projects serve less, and some projects serve thousands of people.

Typically, once a well is installed, word spreads, and people from neighboring communities will come to use the well. However, the government only allows us to count people as beneficiaries if they live within a 1 km radius of the well.

Q: How Has COVID-19 Impacted the Work of Water to Thrive?

Our work was a little slowed down in the beginning as we were navigating the pandemic. We experienced a decrease in donations at first and it was harder for our partners to conduct large WASH training sessions because people were not allowed to gather. Also, the price of pumps have gone up which in turn increases the cost of implementing a well. However, our donors bounced back and continued funding wells. Our partners were deemed essential workers by the government, so they were allowed to continue their work. They have increased their efforts to educate communities on sanitation and hygiene, with an intensified focus on hand-washing and disease transmission. They are implementing more hand-washing stations within communities and have taught women how to practice social distancing while waiting in line to collect water.

Q: Why Can't the Community or the Government Build Their Own Well?

The government can and they do sometimes, but they also are working to address other needs, like the need to build schools and roads. There is such a great need for water and they cannot adequately address it and all the other needs as well. The communities themselves do not have the experience to build the wells, as well as the funding/resources, and they do not have the knowledge of hygiene and sanitation to maintain the well and prevent disease transmission. Also, these people are mainly subsistence farmers, so they are busy—most of them rise before sunrise and go to bed late to provide food for their families. The women walk hours a day to collect water. They do not have time to mobilize and build a well themselves.

LINKED RESOURCES FOR WATER TO THRIVE

WATER TO THRIVE FACT SHEET

To Access the
Water to Thrive
Fact Sheet

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.watertothrive.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/W2T-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

To Access Additional
GWC Facts

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.watertothrive.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Water-Facts.pdf>

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

To Access
Fundraising Ideas:

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.watertothrive.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/W2T-Fundraising-Ideas.pdf>

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

To Access
Campaign Sign-Ups:

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.watertothrive.org/get-involved/support/campaigns/>

REQUEST A PRESENTATION

To Request a
Presentation:

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.watertothrive.org/get-involved/request-a-presentation/>

POTENTIAL BUSINESS PARTNERS

To Access Business
Partner Resources:

Copy & Paste This Link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dh130h25vm94ixb/AACct-rOoXAV6X7JWHO6Ju_Ra?dl=0

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

To Access Additional
Talking Points:

Copy & Paste This Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/24mc4r690hcm60bi248zd/W2T-Ambassador-Talking-Points.docx?dl=0&rkey=7pb16yrnxj8r4tch4ho3shdw6a>

RHETORICAL/ ANECDOTAL QUESTIONS

Where will I get my
water today?

What challenges will I
face on the way to
water?

How long will it
take today?