



## We believe:

1. Every life is created in God's image and is of equal value
2. Access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation are basic human rights
3. The place where you are born should not determine whether you live or die

## The Global Water Crisis

- At least 1.7 billion (or almost one in four) people on our planet are drinking water each day contaminated by feces, and one million people are dying each year from diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene, says the World Health Organization. That means someone – usually a child – is dying *every 30 seconds*.
- To get water, people must often walk long distances
- A lack of water makes hand-washing a rare luxury – resulting in much more disease transmission
- Girls and women are disproportionately impacted by water scarcity
  - They do most of the water-carrying in the developing world
  - Carrying heavy jugs or buckets daily causes potentially life-long neck and back problems
  - It puts females at risk of assault, rape, and even death as they walk isolated trails to water
  - It prevents girls from regularly being in school, and adds to women's already long workdays

## You can save lives through Lifewater

- **Providing safe, accessible water by:**
  - Drilling new wells
  - Rehabilitating dormant wells
  - Repairing or replacing broken handpumps so water flows again
  - Installing rainwater harvesting and storage systems
  - Constructing toilets and handwashing stations
  - Offering vital health and hygiene workshops
- **Building the capacity of Africans and Haitians**
  - Empowering them by providing training in well drilling, pump repair, health and hygiene, business best practices, marketing skills, and community mobilization
  - Insisting on the participation of the local village
    - Determining well location; ensuring each well is available to the entire community
    - Helping to pay the well costs – money, labor, materials – to foster “ownership”
    - Designating someone to serve as the well caretaker – trained by Lifewater to manage, maintain, and repair the well

- **Investing in proven, low-cost technology**
  - Relying on simple, relatively low-cost well-drilling equipment and hand pumps that don't require Canadian technicians to be stationed in, or travel to, Africa or Haiti to maintain them
- **Providing ongoing follow-up**
  - Africans and Haitians working for Lifewater live year-round in the countries where the water projects are located so they are constantly available to ensure the wells/pumps are working
  - Communities can sign annual pump maintenance contracts with Lifewater or do the maintenance work themselves
- **Minimizing costs**
  - Relying on only a handful of full-time and part-time employees in Canada with all staff and volunteers working from their homes
  - Volunteers in Canada paying their own way to Africa or Haiti to provide well-drilling and pump maintenance training, and to audit completed projects
  - Focusing on low-cost solutions – for example, repairing a pump rather than drilling an entirely new well, or ensuring that a well location will serve as many people as possible
  - Consistently keeping Lifewater's administration and fundraising costs below 10%
- **Being highly accountable to donors**
  - Matching donors (individuals, families, churches, civic groups, corporations, foundations) with specific water projects in Africa and Haiti, then posting GPS coordinates, photos, project completion certificates, community profiles, and community thank-you letters for each project on our website (an example: <https://www.lifewater.ca/?ID=3&ProjectID=3550>)

### Achieving a lasting impact:

- Lifewater has completed more than 16,600 water projects benefiting more than 7.7 million people
- During our most recently completed fiscal year (ending June 30, 2024), Lifewater drilled 421 new wells, rehabilitated 324 dormant wells, and repaired 4,367 broken hand pumps; we worked on our own wells and pumps, plus those of other organizations no longer available to offer support
- These projects, plus the installation of rainwater harvesting systems and construction of toilets and hand-washing stations, provided safe, accessible water to more than 2.2 million people in fiscal 2024
- Also during fiscal 2024:
  - An average of 433 people benefited from each new water project
  - 638,629 hours were saved EACH DAY by children and adults no longer needing to walk long distances for water, thanks to the new projects; that's 85.7 minutes per person
  - 3,677,077 additional hours per month that children are in school rather than fetching water
  - 459,626 additional days per month that GIRLS are in school rather than fetching water
  - More than \$11.3 million in economic impact each month from families no longer needing to buy water (average water purchases per household times total number of households)
  - a \$5.34 economic return for each \$1.00 invested by a donor (value of hours saved from walking to fetch water that can be applied to earning income, of hours saved that can be applied to attending school, of household savings from no longer buying water, etc.)
- A wide range of fiscal-year impact and all-time impact statistics are available on our website: <https://www.lifewater.ca/?ID=148&Language=ENG>

## A Top-Ranked Charity

- Charity Intelligence, an independent entity that monitors the performance of 800+ non-profit organizations in Canada, has for FIVE consecutive years:
  - Included Lifewater in its “Top 10 Impact Charities” list
  - Included Lifewater in its “Top 10 International Charities” list

## Lifewater’s Beginnings

- Lifewater Canada was founded by Jim Gehrels in 1997 after the Ontario government hydrologist visited Africa and saw the urgent need for safe, accessible water
- Jim arranged for Lifewater to be a registered Canadian charity (#885420737RR0001) and began recruiting donors and volunteers to drill wells in Liberia, then in other African countries and Haiti
- Despite an eye disease that would eventually leave him blind, Jim travelled many times to Africa and Haiti to oversee Lifewater’s operations
- His wife Lynda, who often travelled and served with him, has been Lifewater’s president (a full-time volunteer) since Jim’s death in July 2020
- In 2021, the Governor-General of Canada posthumously awarded Jim a Meritorious Service Medal for founding and leading Lifewater