



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 two billion (or one in four) people on our planet are drinking water each day contaminated by feces, and 829,000 people are dying each year from diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene, says the World Health Organization. Someone – usually a child – is dying *every 38 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, especially during COVID-19
- 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 two full-time and three 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% of every dollar donated (only 4% in the most recently completed fiscal year, ending June 30, 2022)
- **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 8,000 water projects benefiting more than 4.4 million people
- During our most recently completed fiscal year (ending June 30, 2022), Lifewater drilled 355 new wells, rehabilitated 314 dormant wells, and repaired 1,137 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, began providing safe, accessible water to almost one million people
- During fiscal 2021-2022):
 - An average of 415 people benefited from each new water project
 - 79,348 hours were saved each day by children and adults no longer needing to walk long distances for water, thanks to the new projects
 - 134,016 additional hours per month that children are in school rather than fetching water
 - 16,752 additional days per month that GIRLS are in school rather than fetching water
 - Almost \$36 million in economic impact from families no longer needing to buy water (estimated average water purchases per household multiplied by total households)
 - a \$4.30 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 FOUR consecutive years:
 - Included Lifewater in its “Top 10 Impact Charities” list
 - Designated Lifewater as Canada’s best water-focused charity

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 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