

# Lifewater Canada

*Bringing health and hope through safe, accessible water*

2020 Annual Report



# Chairperson's message

Oct. 8, 2020

To say the past year has been unusual is an understatement. The beginning of fiscal year 2020 seemed to be going as planned. The board was diligent in its stewardship of the donations given to Lifewater Canada and the scope of the work to be done. The national teams in Africa and Haiti were focused and determined to provide safe water and sanitation to as many of their countrymen and women as possible.

Then COVID-19 hit, and the world was turned upside down. I am extremely proud of the way our national teams stepped up to share their hygiene knowledge and methods of preventing the spread of this disease., while at the same time continuing to provide the necessities of safe water and proper hand-washing stations. And our donors also answered the call! The desire to help our neighbours, even those on the other side of the world, was so evident in the support financially and prayerfully of those I like to call the Lifewater Canada family – you.

Then at the end of July, the world lost the visionary of Lifewater Canada – Brother Jim Gehrels. But the board, including Lynda Gehrels, and others are carrying the torch as strongly as ever. No matter what challenges are thrown at Lifewater Canada, God's goodness prevails. For this I am eternally grateful.

I am also personally grateful for each and everyone of you that has chosen to make a difference. No matter how small or large your donation is, you are making the world a better place. May you be abundantly blessed and may fiscal year 2021 hold many joys for all of us.



Cheryl Hertan, MBA, CTR  
Lifewater Canada  
Chairperson and US Representative



Jim Gehrels

# Our mission and strategy

## Why we exist

We received this grim message recently from a pastor in Kenya: *“The outbreak of waterborne diseases is frequent and has claimed the lives of many children below the age of five.”*

The World Health Organization estimates that someone – usually a child – is dying every 20 seconds due to diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe drinking water and inadequate hygiene. In the midst of this ongoing tragedy, there are hundreds of millions of other people who are managing to survive on dirty water, but their chronic sickness is often stopping the adults from working and the children from going to school.

When parents can't work, they can't earn money to feed their families. When children can't go to school, they can't get the education needed to improve their lives. In this way, unsafe drinking water traps families, communities and entire regions in an endless cycle of sickness and poverty.

**In response to this urgent need, our mission is to provide safe drinking water and improve hygiene in places such as Liberia, northern Kenya and northern Haiti. We do this in the name of God by drilling wells, repairing pumps, building rainwater catchment and storage systems, and providing vital health and hygiene training.**

**We rely on donations to fund our work, and on our technically minded volunteers from Canada who travel overseas to train and equip our drilling, repair, and health & hygiene teams.**

We work in Liberia, northern Kenya and northern Haiti because they have less access to safe water than most countries, their governments have limited capacity to respond to this desperate need, and there is a general lack of required equipment and trained workers. In addition, groundwater is readily accessible at relatively low cost – resulting in high project success rates and maximum impact for every dollar invested.

# The human impact of your investment

A record-breaking 492,688\* people benefited in 2019-2020:

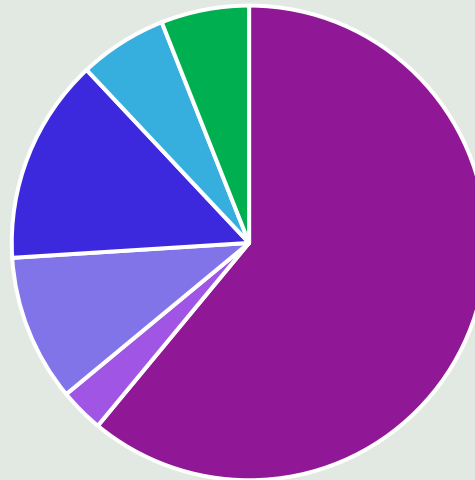
- 99,124 from new wells
- 7,964 from rainwater catchment and storage systems
- 5,600 from pump replacements
- 380,000 from repaired wells
- Thousands also from
  - Health and hygiene training
  - COVID-19 pandemic precautions

\* 202% increase from the previous year

Project		Investment	People benefiting
New well construction	128	\$620,297	99,124
Rainwater catchment & storage	44	\$54,951	7,964
Existing well rehabilitation	10	\$25,222	5,600
Existing pump repair	470	\$23,065	380,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>\$723,535</b>	<b>492,688*</b>



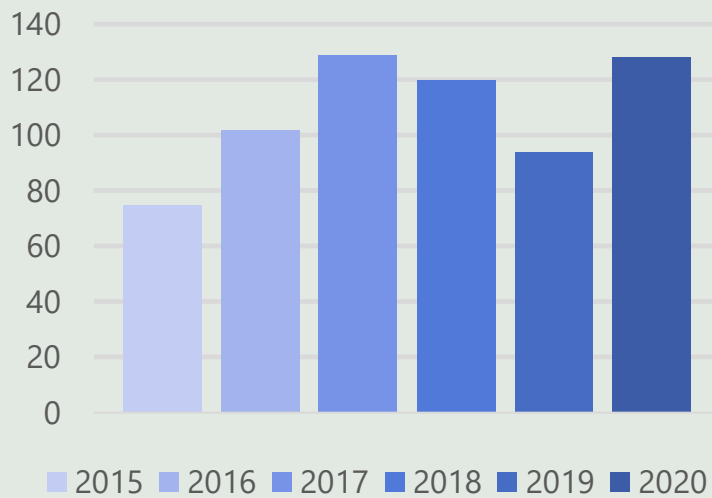
# How we deployed your investment



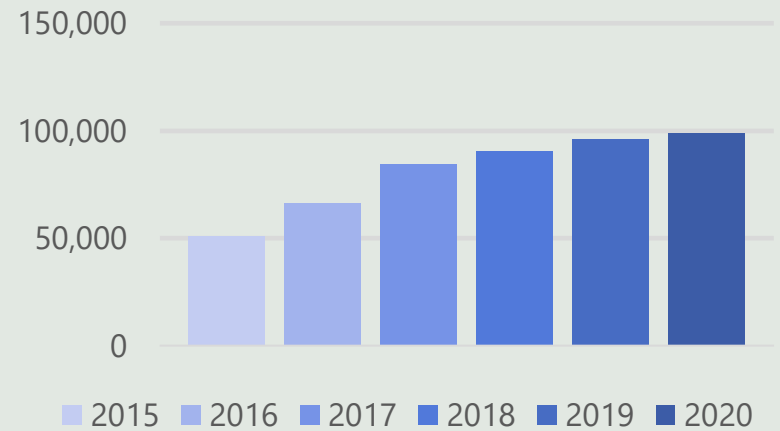
- New wells/catchments
- Well rehab/repair
- Hygiene/COVID
- Infrastructure
- Training
- Overhead

# More wells each year means safe water for more people

## New wells drilled

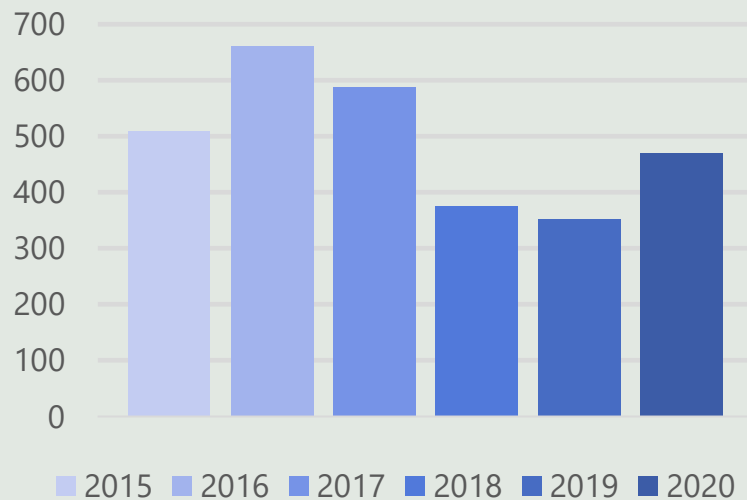


## Number of people benefiting

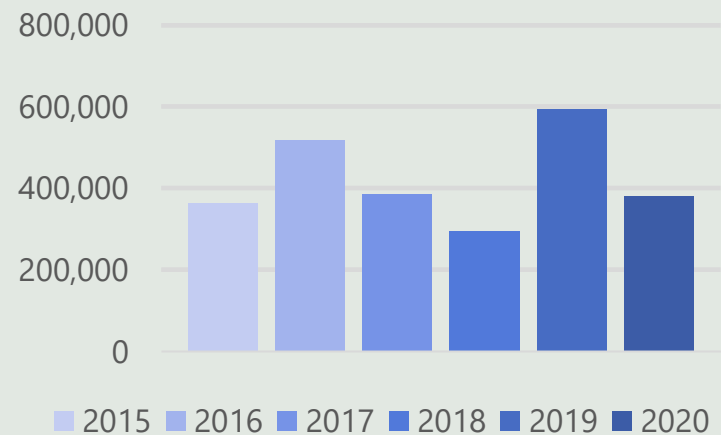


# Repairing broken pumps: a good investment

## Pumps repaired



## Number of people benefiting



# Our development goals

Lifewater is guided by four key development goals:

- 1. Meet Basic Water Availability Service Levels**
- 2. Provide Safe, Drinkable Water**
- 3. Actively Engage Communities**
- 4. Plan for Long-term Maintenance**

The first two goals are intended to ensure that people have a no more than 30-minute round-trip walk to safe, potable water that is available year-round.

The third and fourth goals relate to community ownership of water projects and a community's commitment to long-term maintenance.



# Our operational targets

Each development goal has operational targets, each of which is specific, measurable, and provides direct benefits in one or more of these areas: Community Health, Gender Equality, Project Sustainability, and Affordability.

## Meet Basic Water Availability Service Levels

1. At least 90% of users within one km of the well
2. Year-round water availability
3. Less than a five-minute wait time at the well
4. 150 to 600 people using each well

## Provide Safe, Drinkable Water

1. Water free of pathogenic bacteria
2. Nitrate and Nitrite levels tracking below Canadian levels
3. No turbidity or objectionable taste or odour

## Actively Engage Communities

1. Health & hygiene training
2. Community involved in picking well site
3. Community project contributions (financial, labor, etc.)
4. Facilities built on community's land
5. A dedication celebration and (in Liberia) deed transfer

## Plan for Long-Term Maintenance

1. Site control fencing, and controlled access during off hours
2. Trained project technician
3. Clear maintenance plan
4. Strive for more than one community water source

# Some 2019-2020 highlights: Liberia

Thanks to strong support from our donors, the Liberian drill team completed 79 wells in 2019-2020.

That was 13 more wells than in the previous fiscal year, and by far the largest total during Lifewater's 25-year history in Liberia. The total number of children and adults receiving safe, accessible water from these new wells was 60,174.

The average number of people using each new well is 762, or more than double the 300 we prefer in order to avoid over-using a well and causing the pump to wear out too soon or the water source to be depleted. The continuing over-use of many wells highlights the need to continue drilling and repairing wells in Liberia.

Surveys in two targeted counties identified many wells and pumps damaged or broken by recent road expansions. We will be drilling some new wells, rehabilitating others, and repairing or replacing hand pumps. Priority in 2020 and beyond will be given to communities willing to sign up and pay a small fee for annual pump maintenance plans.

Due to security concerns, we are nearly finished building a second compound to house drilling equipment, repair parts, training facilities, employees, and volunteers.



# Some 2019-2020 highlights: Kenya

Lifewater was able to drill two more wells in Kenya in 2019-2020 that have begun providing safe water to about 950 people.

Your donations also resulted in six damaged pumps being replaced, and the installation of an additional 44 more rainwater catchment or storage tanks that are aiding at least 2,100 people.

Local women's groups are playing a leading role in our water projects in Kenya, including project planning, determining at which homes the storage tanks will be installed, and raising money to pay 5%-10% of the project budget. We intend to provide increasing support for this work in the years ahead.



# Some 2019-2020 highlights: Haiti

Our donors' generosity enabled us to replace the pumps in four wells, and repair the pumps in another 470 wells, in Haiti that were no longer working. More than 383,000 children and adults are benefiting from this replacement and repair work – an enormous impact for which we truly praise God.

The average number of people using each of the new wells in Haiti is 809, or far beyond the 300 we prefer in order to avoid wearing out the pump. This highlights in Haiti, just as it does in Liberia, the need to keep drilling more wells.

Northern Haiti is an ideal region in which to drill wells because it has high-quality ground water that our rigs can reach with a more than 95% success rate. It's also easily accessible for our volunteers who come from overseas to help with the drilling projects.

In 2019-2020, we initiated a long-term plan to refurbish our drilling rigs and purchase heavy-duty drilling trucks. Also, we have almost completed construction of a secure compound to house drilling equipment, vehicles, repair parts, training facilities, employees, and volunteers.



# Combating COVID-19

Your donations have protected tens of thousands people in Africa and Haiti against COVID-19.

With your generous support, we have been able to dedicate more than \$100,000 to important hygiene and COVID-19 precautions.

We have organized community workshops and arranged for roadside billboards (like the one on the left), radio ads, and flyers in Liberia so people can recognize pandemic symptoms, and know the importance of wearing masks, physical distancing, and constantly disinfecting surfaces.

We also speeded up our well drilling and repair work to increase the number of available water points, which decreased the likelihood of large crowds. And lastly, we offered concentrated disinfectant for free at many of our Lifewater wells in Kenya.

During the early stages of the pandemic, Lifewater's well drilling, pump repair, and other teams were designated by local governments as essential services so they could continue their life-saving work.



# Earning your trust and generosity

We work hard to ensure your donations are used wisely.

Our careful stewardship has been recognized by Charity Intelligence, an impartial organization that evaluates the performance of Canadian charities based on several key factors including operational efficiency.

Charity Intelligence ([charityintelligence.ca](http://charityintelligence.ca)) lists Lifewater as Canada's top-ranked water charity, and ranks us as one of the top 10 among hundreds of all types of charities in terms of impact, or 'bang for the donor's buck.'

**Our overhead costs – including administrative and fundraising expenses – total only 6% of the annual budget.**

We achieve this unusually low percentage by relying heavily on volunteers, by employing a very small team of employees who work from their homes, and by constantly seeking other cost efficiencies in Canada and overseas.

Thank you for your very generous support. We hope you'll continue to give with confidence!



# Thank you to all our donors and volunteers!

We are deeply grateful for the thousands of individuals, partner organizations, foundations, churches, schools, and businesses making personal sacrifices to support the work of Lifewater Canada. Each of you is truly a gift to us from God. Thank you now and always.

We are also deeply grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who support Lifewater by helping to organize fundraising and other events in Canada, or who invest their personal time and money to travel to our overseas projects to provide valuable technical expertise and encouragement. Our volunteers are essential in enabling Lifewater to operate so cost-effectively.

**571 days of overseas volunteering:** In 2019-2020, despite the travel limitations imposed by COVID-19, our volunteers contributed a combined 571 days of their time overseas – assisting with project auditing, logistics, equipment repair, training, management, and infrastructure – after contributing an also very significant 514 days during the previous year.



# Partners

- Association Lifewater d’Haiti (Haiti)
- Lifewater Liberia Inc. (Liberia)
- Lifewater Kenya Ltd. (Kenya)
- Link Charity (Ontario)
- Service to Service Inc. (Tennessee)
- The Last Well (Texas)
- The Water Team (British Columbia)
- Water of Life Project (Nova Scotia)
- Water Products Ltd. (Nigeria)





# Foundations

- CAF Canada (Toronto, ON)
- Centra Cares (Langley, BC)
- Comrie Family Fund (Toronto, ON)
- Cup of Cold Water Project (Lower Sackville, NS)
- Derick Brenninkmeyer Charitable Foundation (Oakville, ON)
- Fellowship of Man (Toronto, ON)
- Firstline Foundation (Toronto, ON)
- Flowing Streams (Edmond, OK)
- Gail Blanchette Charitable Foundation (Scarborough, ON)
- Hageman Family Foundation (Burlington, ON)
- Jacma Foundation (Toronto, ON)
- JMB Charity Fund Toronto, ON)
- Larry Bannerman Foundation (Kincardine, ON)
- Laura Roeleveld Family (Aurora, ON)
- Luke Four Foundation (Peterborough, ON)
- Michelle McGowen Memorial Foundation (Barrie, ON)
- NWM Private Giving Foundation (Vancouver, BC)
- Shell and Kay Maude Charitable Foundation (Cochrane, AB)
- Service to Servants (Homosassa, FL)
- Strachan Charitable Foundation (Midhurst, ON)
- Strategic Charitable Foundation – Gladwell Family Fund (Toronto, ON)
- Supper in Park and Pitchfork Barbecue (Bow Island, AB)
- The Blossom Foundation (Toronto, ON)
- The Clint Brooks Family Foundation (Calgary, AB)
- The Michael Young Family Foundation (Toronto, ON)
- United Way (various Ontario groups)
- Wee Waifs Worldwide Trust (Vancouver)
- WWKD org (Puyallup, WA)

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin drinking from a red plastic cup. The child's face is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting. The image is overlaid with decorative purple dashed lines and a white circle in the top left corner.

# Churches and civic groups, schools

- Bethlehem Christian Reformed Church (Thunder Bay, ON)
- City of Barrie H20 for Life Golf Tournament (ON)
- Community Church (Richmond Hill, ON)
- Christ's Church (Lion's Head, ON)
- Emo Christian Reformed Church (Emo, ON)
- Faith United Church (Courtice, ON)
- First Baptist Church (Petrolia, ON)
- First Christian Reformed Church of Kemptville (Kemptville, NS)
- First Christian Reformed Church (Thunder Bay, ON)
- Good Shepherd Church (Englehart, ON)
- Grace Christian Reformed Church (Scarborough, ON)
- Grace Community Church (Red Lake, ON)
- Haitian Christian Ministry (Bloomington, IL)
- Hope Christian Reformed Church (Thunder Bay, ON)
- Kortright Presbyterian Church (Guelph, ON)
- Ladner Christian Reformed Church (Delta, BC)
- Langley Immanuel Christian Reformed Church (Langley, BC)
- Little Current United Church (Little Current, ON)
- Loch Raven United Methodist Church (Baltimore, MD)
- Loch Raven United Methodist Church Women's Group (Baltimore, MD)
- Malagash United Church (Malagash, NS)
- Northwestern Ontario Water & Wastewater Association (ON)
- Redwood Park Church (Thunder Bay, ON)
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Thunder Bay, ON)
- The Church at Southpoint (Surrey, BC)
- Vineyard Christian Fellowship (Aldergrove, BC)
- Schools (Canada-wide)



# Corporations

- Amythest Well Drilling (Rosslyn, ON)
- Azimuth Environmental Consulting (Barrie, ON)
- BC Greenhouse Builders (Surrey, BC)
- Brenlaur Realty (Newmarket, ON)
- Dalorose Farms Ltd. (Bow Island, AB)
- Eastern Dairy Services Ltd. (Shubenacadie, NS)
- Expedia Cruiseshipcenters (Thunder Bay, ON)
- Geo-Environmental Drilling (Halton Hills, ON)
- Herb Lang Well Drilling Ltd. (Omeme, ON)
- Huge Impact Inc. (Toronto, ON)
- Ingredion Canada Corporation (Mississauga, ON)
- Insitu Contractors Inc. (Guelph, ON)
- Jaba Systems Inc. (Unionville, ON)
- Johnson's Greenhouse & Garden Centre (Peterborough, ON)
- OGIG Corporation (Newmarket, ON)
- Remsoft Inc. (Fredericton, NB)
- Solinst Canada Inc. (Georgetown, ON)
- S. Long Financial Corporation (Victoria, BC)

# Statement of Operations (audited)

## Revenue

	2020	2019
Donations		
Individual	\$746,462	\$576,712
Corporate	\$91,948	\$66,549
Foundations	\$203,878	\$187,476
Churches and schools	\$91,096	\$120,996
Gifts in kind	\$41,972	\$142,377
International	\$72,350	\$64,147
Foreign Exchange	\$151	-\$2,995
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,247,857</b>	<b>\$1,155,262</b>

## Expenditures

	2020	2019
Administrative expenses	\$35,074	\$28,181
Fundraising	\$30,420	\$34,018
Health & hygiene	\$38,806	\$15,001
Infrastructure improvements	\$149,083	\$319,699
Tank catchment systems	\$54,951	\$40,414
Pump repair program	\$23,065	\$25,614
Sanitation	\$65,316	\$1,824
Training and education	\$63,061	\$141,141
Well construction	\$620,297	\$466,824
Well rehabilitation	\$25,222	\$2,383
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,105,295</b>	<b>\$1,075,099</b>

	2020	2019
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$142,562	\$80,163
Net assets, beginning of the fiscal year	\$160,530	\$80,367
Net assets, end of the fiscal year	\$303,092	\$160,530

# Our board of directors

- Cheryl Hertan (Chairperson) – MBA, CTR, John Muir Health, California
- Harry Oussoren (Vice-Chair, Technical Advisor) – P. Eng., Insitu Contractors, Guelph, ON
- Jennifer Drost (Secretary) – Retired teacher, Thunder Bay, ON
- Jason Gehrels (Treasurer, Legacy Gift Advisor) – Financial Advisor, World Financial Group, Ottawa, ON
- Don Heerema (Financial Controller) – Chartered Account, Thunder Bay, ON
- Jim Gehrels (President, non-voting)\* – P. Geo., Thunder Bay, ON
- Les Wing (Senior Trainer) – Owner, Amethyst Well Drilling, Thunder Bay, ON
- Les Babcock (Haiti Coordinator) – Retired driller, Bow Island, AB
- Peter Brown (Member at Large) – Owner, Humanwave Radio, Winnipeg, MB

*\* Following Jim Gehrels' unexpected death on July 28, 2020, his wife Lynda Gehrels, a longtime Lifewater Canada volunteer with a very detailed knowledge of the organization, became president*



# Because water is life!

Each \$1 we receive enables us to provide safe, accessible water to a child or adult for one year!

We base that on each well costing an average \$6,000 CDN, each well lasting an average 15 years before major rehabilitation or repair is necessary, and each well serving an average 400 people during each year of its lifespan.

Lifewater Canada (Lifewater.ca) has been a registered non-profit charitable organization since 1997.

Legal name: Lifewater Canada

Corporation Number: 344140-7

Business Number: 885420737RR0001

Netherlands AnBi RSIN: 8239.79.660

## **Contact Us:**

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