



# EVERY DROP OF CLEAN WATER

## IS ANOTHER STORY TOLD

“As a result of unsafe drinking water, I was admitted to the health centre three times with typhoid fever. Each treatment was about \$100 CAD. This was the money my husband and I had saved to buy a bull to help pair our oxen for farming. But ever since Ryan's Well Foundation and Divine Waters constructed a clean water source in this village, I have never suffered from typhoid fever. My husband and I have started saving again to buy a bull!”

*- Joan Opio, Abyemwonyi Village, Uganda*

This year was certainly an unpredictable one! While it started out normally, by the end of March, 2020, our office was closed, and we wondered how the global pandemic would affect us and our work. However, despite some setbacks and delays, all project work planned for the 2019-2020 fiscal year was completed, and our partners have been spectacular in safely adapting to a new way of doing things. Even though the situation remains uncertain, we will continue to hold ourselves accountable, and to the same high standards we always do. At Ryan's Well Foundation, we do things a little differently than many other charities. We thrive on a small but mighty staff of only three to five people, depending on the time of year. Keeping such a small office ensures that, not only is it collaborative and close-knit, but that, with such low administrative costs, an average of 83% of funds donated goes directly towards our BUILD, EDUCATE, and MOTIVATE programs. We attempt to be as transparent as possible, by publicly posting our financial audit each year on our website, providing you with more confidence, should you decide to give your valuable donation to Ryan's Well Foundation. We also know that developing communities require more than funds to flourish. Yes, we build water and sanitation projects. But we, and our incredible partners in each country, do so much more than that. We help give beneficiaries the tools to become self-sufficient, so that they can maintain their water source and sanitation projects long after we are gone (while, of course, we continue to check in to make sure that everything is operational). Our on-the-ground partners train mechanics in each community, so that the communities themselves are able

to make repairs to their new water sources. Each benefitting community also forms a water committee – comprised of at least 50% women – who make key decisions about the maintenance of the projects, and a local caretaker is hired for each project. We want to help empower communities, and give them the tools to prosper independently of external aid. On our yearly monitoring trips, we hear so many stories from beneficiaries whose lives have been changed by access to clean water and sanitation. For example, Stella no longer has to travel long distances to collect water for over 100 people in her community. Sam no longer has to sneak into his neighbour's latrine to relieve himself, and Joan is no longer sick with typhoid fever from unclean water and, since she doesn't have to pay those hospital bills anymore, she and her husband can now save money to buy the bull they require to run their farm. We are so honoured that we have the privilege of hearing these stories, and that we can share so many happy anecdotes.

But, of course, we wouldn't be able to convey these stories if we did not have the incredibly generous support of our donors, both large and small. It is thanks to you that these stories have the chance to be told. It is thanks to you that lives are changed and saved. It is thanks to you that we are able to keep a six-year-old's dream of ensuring that the entire world will one day have access to clean, fresh water, alive and well. The world may be a little topsy-turvy these days, but one thing will not change: our dedication to providing the world with clean water, sanitation, and hygiene – one project (and story) at a time.

*Ryan*

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SHARE MORE STORIES



# OUR PARTNERS' PERSPECTIVE!

You may know a lot about us, but do you ever wonder what happens after we transfer your generous donations? Well, here's your inside look at how our local partners conduct work on their end!

**STEP 1:** After the Ryan's Well Foundation receives your donations, the funds are transferred to our local partners using the leading international payment platform, Western Union. Once securely deposited into our established partner's account, the work can begin!



DONA encasing a deep well in Ghana after accessing water.



Keely and Timothy from RWIDF evaluating a site, Feb. 2020

**STEP 2:** While the exact number changes from year to year, approximately 70% of the donations we receive goes directly towards the construction of safe water sources and sanitation services. This includes purchasing materials and delivering them to the site, hiring labour workers, the actual installation of the water or sanitation source, and construction of any accompanying handwashing jars or stations.

**STEP 3:** Clean water can only do so much if sanitation and hygiene practices are not also implemented. This is why another large portion of the project budget goes toward WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) training, to ensure that communities are prepared to manage and maintain their sources, and learn important lessons to improve overall health and well-being (such as washing your hands before a meal). By providing WASH training, we ensure that the communities we help will pass these practices on, meaning they'll have clean water, sanitation, and health for generations to come!

**STEP 4:** In addition to our yearly monitoring trips, our on-the-ground partners facilitate ongoing monitoring of the projects during construction work and WASH training sessions, to ensure project activities are implemented as proposed. Our partners also conduct final impact evaluations to identify new lessons learned, and areas to improve upon in the following year. This in-person collaboration is essential for all teams to improve their work efficiency, both in the office and in the field, in the following fiscal year.



Keely and members from ProTseltal test tank filters.



Keely and Jane with Allen and Hellen, Board Chair and founding member of RWIDF, respectively.

"IT'S AMAZING HOW OUR ORGANIZATION HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH LIVES EVEN IN THE REMOTEST AREAS OF SOUTH-WESTERN UGANDA. I CAN'T THANK OUR RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION DONORS ENOUGH; THEIR UNENDING LOVE HAS ENABLED US TO CHANGE COMMUNITIES, AND UPHOLD THE STANDARDS OF LIVING ALL OVER UGANDA."

ALLEN KAMUGISHA, BOARD CHAIRPERSON FOR RWIDF



Ryan with the DONA team in Ghana.

**STEP 5:** Finally, a portion of your donated funds goes towards the long-term sustainability of these water and sanitation sources, to help empower local communities to be self-sufficient. For example, many of our projects include pump mechanic training sessions, to equip local leaders with the skills required to maintain local water and sanitation sources themselves. We also train communities on who to contact when something breaks. This is essential for these communities to continue developing independently from external aid.



The Divine Waters Uganda team.

"We are so glad that RWIDF, through the Ryan's Well Foundation, has come to our village to address a problem that has been with us for a long time. Diseases like typhoid never leave our village due to dirty water, which has greatly contributed to poor hygiene standards."  
Byamugisha Ephraim, Chairman of Masya village



# PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks to our incredibly hardworking and dedicated partners and, of course, our generous donors, we were able to complete all planned project work during our 2019-2020 year! This means 62 water projects, eight latrines, and WASH training for three countries – Uganda, Ghana, and Mexico – providing clean water, hygiene, and sanitation to over 51,262 people! In Mexico, an indigenous community received training to build (and, subsequently, did build) 31 rainwater harvesting tanks, leading to an increased feeling of ownership over the water sources, and the ability to maintain them in the future. Northern Uganda received 10 deep wells, Western Uganda received 13 safe water sources, and the benevolent and committed students and teachers who participated in the School Challenge funded the construction of rainwater harvesting tanks for two primary schools, eight latrines, and WASH training at eight schools total. Access to clean water and sanitation means fewer cases of disease, and fewer wasted hours collecting water. Communities are better able to go to school, become financially independent, and live long, healthy, fulfilling lives. We couldn't do the work that we do without the generosity, selflessness, and dedication of so many. Thank you to our on-the-ground partners, and all of our donors, both big and small.



**"We have been proud supporters of Ryan's Well for over 10 years. Ryan's Well is an efficiently-managed, ultra-responsible charitable foundation able to stretch contributions to improve and better the lives of countless people in developing nations. The infrastructure of Ryan's Well projects are the cornerstone of each community that they have been gifted to, and will continue to help those communities well into the future. Supporting Ryan's Well is simply the right thing to do."**

- Jodi Thurmeier, Panatella Dental

# HELPING GHANA HEALTH CENTRES

Water is used for so much more than drinking. In Ghana, rural health centres require a hook-up to a safe water source in order to treat women who are pregnant or in labour. Without access to proper health care, these women are left at risk of miscarriage and other health complications. While Ghana's government provides the equipment necessary to maintain a health centre (such as beds and medical supplies), it is the responsibility of the staff and surrounding community to connect the health centre to a safe water source. However, many of these villages have little in terms of supplementary income, and cannot afford these very expensive connections. But, thanks to our donors, Ryan's Well Foundation was able to connect four more health centres in Ghana to a safe water source this year. Thank you, and here's to more healthy babies and mothers in the years to come!



# FINLEY'S SPOTLIGHT

Despite unprecedented times due to COVID-19 globally, Finley, a young boy from Canada, embarked on a water walk to raise funds for those across the world who don't have access to clean water. Finley completed his goal by walking 350 kilometres in support of kids who have to walk long distances to get access to clean water. Through his efforts, Finley surpassed his \$3,000 fundraising goal, raising over \$4,627 CAD (and counting) in support of Ryan's Well Foundation! A huge thank you to Finley for all of his hard work, and for being an inspiration to us all – demonstrating that an 11-year old can make such an incredible difference. We are so proud of you, Finley!



# THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Since 2001, our monthly donors have contributed over \$560,000! This consistent generosity has funded many of our projects, and WASH and maintenance training. It has vastly improved (and continues to improve) the lives of thousands of men, women, and children. We cannot thank our current Monthly Donors enough for their continuing commitment to enable us to make a difference. We always welcome new donors to help us in our journey to make the world, as Ryan said so long ago, "a little more fair." Ryan's Well has also been honoured to receive several generous gifts from donors who wished to leave the lasting legacy of clean and safe water to those without this basic necessity. If this is something that you would like to have as part of your estate planning, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, please visit our website, or contact us at [info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca) or 1.613.258.6832.

Please take the time to give. Detach the donation slip below and mail in the enclosed envelope.  
Your generous contribution will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.  
For the MONTHLY donation option, please see other side.

Yes, I would like to give a **ONE-TIME ONLY** gift of clean water and sanitation!

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$20 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please find enclosed my cheque payable to "Ryan's Well Foundation."

☐ Please bill my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV #: \_\_\_\_

Card #: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a Canadian tax receipt?\* ☐ Yes ☐ No

\*Issued for donations of \$10 or more

Or, you can make a secure online donation at  
[www.ryanswell.ca/donate](http://www.ryanswell.ca/donate)

☐ I would like to receive Ryan's Well e-mail updates.

The Ryan's Well Foundation appreciates your gift and respects your privacy. We do not sell or trade our donor information. If, at any time, you wish to be removed from these periodic contacts, please contact us at 1-613-258-6832 or [info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca)

Thank you!

Registered Canadian Charity 88858 7110 RR0001

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# RONALD'S WELL

During our February, 2020, monitoring trip, we had the privilege of meeting Ronald, Chairman for Nyarubira village in Western Uganda. Ronald cares for his village of 146 people, including one-year-old Mattious, and is also the caretaker for Nyarubira's newly-installed protected spring. We were so impressed with Ronald, and could see the care he has put into properly managing their community spring. Our on-the-ground partners train communities to clean their storage tanks every six months; however, Ronald cleans Nyarubira's tank every month! This demonstrates the sense of ownership that Ronald feels, and suggests to us that this project will be well-maintained for generations to come. Having leaders in the community with these skills and knowledge is critical to the sustainability of our projects, because these lessons will be passed on to the next generation of leaders. Who knows - maybe baby Mattious will be Ronald's next apprentice!



## EDUCATION AND WATER

"Last February, I visited Kigarigari Primary School in Uganda with Ryan's Well. It has NO clean water, which means children as young as five fetch water from a stream, 1km away. I hope the generosity of donors will make it possible to build a well for the 327 students - and give them a better chance at education and a better life."

- Jane Baird,  
Former Executive  
Director at Ryan's  
Well Foundation



## COVID-19'S WIDESPREAD EFFECTS

Thankfully, our Project Coordinator, Keely, returned safely to Canada in mid-February, 2020, from the final monitoring trip for the fiscal year. This allowed us to start project planning for the 2021 fiscal, while the RWF team remained safe, and worked remotely from our homes during the first few weeks of the global lock-down. All of our on-the-ground partners are safe and healthy. However, we collectively decided to defer the start of our early 2021 projects in order to keep our partners and their families safe. In the interim, our partners distributed COVID-19 and WASH posters to rural communities, providing the proper information to those who need it most. We helped develop five posters for our four current partners, and modified the pictures and language accordingly. Thanks to transparent communication, and after purchasing the necessary health supplies (such as masks) for conducting work in the field, both teams were able to complete their evaluations by June, 2020. Although we're off to a delayed start, we are on schedule to provide another 50,000+ people with safe water and WASH education this year! This is largely thanks to our generous donors, such as yourselves, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued support, especially through these difficult and uncertain times.



## SCHOOL CHALLENGE IN A DIFFERENT TIME

Ryan's Well offers an educational program called the School Challenge. This is a fundraiser where students from all over the world can participate in supporting a specific project. By joining, students receive project updates, reports, and pictures from the field. We realize that COVID-19 has changed the dynamics of classrooms, as well as the ability to hold fundraisers. We have put together a list of ways to help on our website ([www.ryanswell.ca](http://www.ryanswell.ca)), including ideas for fundraising from home, different ways to conserve water, and other fun ideas to help raise awareness! We have always been amazed at the passion and creativity of students in their fundraising, and we are sure we will see even more incredible ideas in the future! Please check out our website this fall, where we will post any School Challenge updates, as well as information on how to join. We would also like to thank the many schools that have participated in past challenges. Your commitment has changed many lives - people you will never meet, but who will be forever grateful to you!

Please take the time to give. Detach the donation slip below and mail in the enclosed envelope.  
Your generous contribution will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.  
For the **ONE-TIME ONLY** donation option, please see other side.

Yes, I would like to give a **MONTHLY** gift of clean water and sanitation!

☐ \$100/Month

☐ \$75/Month

☐ \$50/Month

☐ \$20/Month

☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_/Month

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please find enclosed my VOID cheque payable to "Ryan's Well Foundation."

☐ Please bill my credit card: ☐ ☐ Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV #\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Three-digit code on back of card

Card #: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have selected payments by Preauthorized Debit, you may revoke your authorization at any time, subject to providing notice to Ryan's Well by e-mail ([info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca)) or by mail. You have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD agreement.

Or, you can make a secure online donation at  
[www.ryanswell.ca/donate](http://www.ryanswell.ca/donate)

☐ I would like to receive Ryan's Well e-mail updates.

Your monthly donation will be processed each month on the day of your first donation. You may adjust the amount of your gift any time by contacting us at [info@ryanswell.ca](mailto:info@ryanswell.ca) or at 1-613-258-6832. Canadian residents will receive a Canadian tax receipt for your annual contribution at the end of the year.

Thank you!

Registered Canadian Charity 88858 7110 RR0001

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