

'Ugandan Water Walk' proves to be fluid fundraiser at BHS

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BATAVIA — A group of Batavia High School students walked their way to Uganda Friday afternoon.

Or at least they did the five-mile walk in spirit to help out needy Ugandan residents.

The Z-Club members have been raising money to buy a water tower system for the Ugandan Water Project. Friday's walk pushed them past their goal of \$3,500, the price of a water tower.

"The Z-Club Ugandan Water Walk was a huge success," club adviser Lucille DiSanto said. "We had dozens of people participate in the walk and we had hundreds of people sponsor our Z-Club."

James Harrington and Megan Busch, representatives of the water project, plan to visit Uganda this summer and help erect the Z-Club's tower. There will be a plaque there to recognize the Club's efforts and donation.

Busch visited the Club last November and talked about the project's importance to residents of Uganda. Many of them have no money and must deal with unsanitary water sources for their daily needs. A main water source is filled with various strains of bacteria including E. coli, malaria and cholera.

The Ugandan Water Project is a nonprofit humanitarian organization that works with sponsors in the United States to provide safe accessible drinking water to communities in Uganda, a landlocked country in east Africa.

A junior branch of Zonta Club, Z-Club decided to be part of the Ugandan-based project and be part of the solution. The club sold jewelry made by Ugandan people and had a chicken barbecue to help fund Busch's trip two years ago.

Club members also participated in a Holiday Festival last year to continue raising money for a water tank system. The club's goal was to raise \$3,500 for a rainwater collection tank. It collects 2,500 gallons of rainwater and filters it for a stable source of drinking water for about 400 people.

Z-Club members plan to celebrate with a party this week at school.

Walkers included Marissa Jacques, Marissa Carbonell, Hannah Bluhm, Maddie Moore, Ally Moore, Arbrianna Nelson-Barnes, Natalie Amico, Emily DiBacco, Emma Dibble, Ivana Marroquin, Jonathan Currier, Grace Judge, Kelli Dumuhosky, Alex O'Brien, Zachary O'Brien, Lisa Taylor, Kennedy Flannagan, Amelia Pestillo, Maggie Cecere and Chelsea Jensen.