

Avon students raise more than \$4,000 for Ugandan water project

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A “water walk” at Avon Primary School raised more than \$4,400 to provide drinking water for a community in Uganda.

The fundraising event for the non-profit humanitarian organization Ugandan Water Project took place in October, when the Primary School’s positive character trait of the month was “generosity.” It was this focus on generosity that inspired students Jack and Fred Erdle, Sam and Tyler Parks and Brian Lewis to approach Principal Rob Lupisella and ask about supporting the charity.

The Ugandan Water Project works with sponsors in the United States to provide safe accessible drinking water to people in the East African nation. Their rainwater collection systems are funded by donors wishing to develop an individual connection to rural communities in Uganda. Each 2,500 gallon rainwater collection tank provides a stable source of drinking water for about 400 people. A project can be installed in about 30 days. The total budget for each tank is \$3,500 for a system which has a lifespan of about 30 years.

The organization’s founder, James Harrington, met with Avon students in early October to share his story and passion for helping people in Africa.

The held a symbolic water walk on Oct. 24. The students carried a water jug along a 1-mile course to demonstrate support for Ugandan children who walk for miles each day to bring water to their families.

At the Primary School’s climatic October Student of the Month assembly, Harrington was on-hand to accept the student’s donation and express his gratitude to the Avon community. To add to the celebratory air, third-grade choristers, under the direction of music teacher Lorraine Kilburn, performed the South African hymn “Siyahamba,” which translates as we are marching or walking, with lyrics in both English and Zulu.



Luke Weaver's class

Fourth graders from Lucas Weaver’s classroom at Avon Primary School celebrate the completion of their water walk for the Ugandan Water Project.